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Strategic questions of a modal and thematic nature:

Road safety

Activities of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety

Report for the Inland Transport Committee 2018: 1 May 2015 - 25 October 2017

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The severe impact of road traffic crashes on the well-being and the health of all people and the huge economic consequences for societies, particularly in low- and middle-income countries prompted the United Nations Secretary-General to appoint on 29 April 2015, Mr. Jean Todt as his Special Envoy for Road Safety.

This report from the Special Envoy contains the activities contributing to the four key priorities of his mandate, as implemented between 1 May 2015 and 25 October 2017.

The Committee is invited **to take note** of this report and **to express its support** for the continuation of the important work and momentum built so far by the Special Envoy to improve road safety.

I. Background

1. The severe impact of road traffic crashes on the well-being and the health of all people and the huge economic consequences for societies, particularly in low- and middle-income countries prompted the United Nations Secretary-General to appoint on 29 April

2015, Mr. Jean Todt as his Special Envoy for Road Safety; the mandate was further extended by the newly elected Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres.

2. In appreciation of the impact of road safety on the development agenda, specific goals on road safety were included in the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015. Target 3.6 calls for halving of the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes by 2020, and target 11.2 aims to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all by 2030.

3. United Nations resolution A/70/260, ‘Improving Global Road Safety’ was adopted on 15 April 2016: it further highlights the need to address road safety globally and the important role of the Special Envoy — the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), other United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations road safety legal instruments — in achieving the road safety targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes a provision to explore the establishment of a Road Safety Trust Fund, which the Secretary-General requested ECE to undertake in close collaboration with the Special Envoy and other stakeholders.

4. To date, the Special Envoy has met with 13 heads of states and 80 ministers in more than 58 countries, encouraging high-level political commitment to road safety, especially in the most affected areas.

5. This report of the Special Envoy contains the activities as they contribute to the four key priorities of his mandate implemented between 1 May 2015 and 25 October 2017.

II. Summary and highlights of activities implemented by the Special Envoy

A. Promoting global partnerships to support the design and implementation of strategies and activities to improve road safety

6. This goal has been high on the agenda of the Special Envoy, and in concrete terms addressed by the Special Envoy by more than 100 meetings, consultations, and participation in various awareness-raising initiatives, such as the following:

1. Multi-Stakeholders Consultation

7. The Special Envoy and representatives of civil society met during a multi-stakeholders consultation, organized by the ECE secretariat in October 2015, to exchange views and ideas on the action plan of the Special Envoy. The meeting was an opportunity to clarify objectives, develop working methods and provide an open and transparent forum for multi-stakeholder engagement. A summary outcome document of key conclusions is available on the Special Envoy’s webpage.¹

2. First United Nations Coordination Meeting on Road Safety

8. To raise awareness within the United Nations itself, the Special Envoy met with the heads of United Nations agencies and departments. Additionally, the Special Envoy convened a meeting with representatives from 14 United Nations agencies and departments to highlight the importance of road safety in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

¹ <https://www.unece.org/united-nations-special-envoy-for-road-safety/un-sgs-special-envoy-for-road-safety.html>

on 5 April 2016. The meeting was an opportunity to share current and future road safety efforts, priorities within each United Nations agency and to explore potential opportunities for collaboration. Areas of intersection included awareness-raising initiatives, strengthening of internal United Nations road safety policies and engagement towards a United Nations Road Safety Fund. A second United Nations Coordination Meeting on Road Safety took place on 3 November 2017.

3. United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund

9. Following the adoption of resolution A/70/260 by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2016, ECE was requested by the United Nations Secretary-General to lead the process to explore the establishment of the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund. With the Special Envoy's support and guidance, two short-term consultants were hired in 2016 to conduct research on the necessary amount of funding and financing framework for the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund. A draft proposal of the Road Safety Trust Fund was developed and the consultation process for the proposal was launched during the Global Sustainable Transport Conference in Ashgabat in November 2016. A recent version with the latest feedback was presented by the Special Envoy to the ECE Inland Transport Committee's seventy-ninth session on 23 February 2017. ECE closed the consultation process in August 2017, after which the last comments were addressed in a final consultation paper, and a proposal was forwarded to the United Nations Secretary-General in September 2017.

B. Advocating with governments, civil society and the private sector for the promotion of road safety, particularly in countries with a high rate of road fatalities and injuries

1. Advocacy with governments and other stakeholders for increased attention on road safety

10. Among the meetings held by the Special Envoy includes a long list of his high-level government officials in mostly low- and middle-income countries with poor road safety records. In all, the Special Envoy has held meetings with government officials and relevant stakeholders in 58 countries since the beginning of his term. The Special Envoy visited 14 countries in Asia/Central Asia/Euro-Asia, nine countries in Africa, one country in the Middle-East, 17 countries in Europe and North America, and 17 countries in Latin American and the Caribbean. These discussions focused on the status of the road safety situation in each country and encouraged accession to and implementation of the United Nations road safety conventions. The Special Envoy continues to keep the United Nations road safety conventions and the importance of strong governance on the agenda of his bilateral meetings and includes relevant messages in his speeches at conferences.

2. United Nations General Assembly Resolution

11. Following the high-level conference on road safety in November 2015, the Special Envoy with ECE provided feedback during the consultation process of drafting a resolution, which aimed to propel road safety efforts towards the targets set by the Decade of Action for Road Safety and the Sustainable Development Goals. This included language on a potential road safety trust fund (see para. 9 above) and on the importance of Member State accession to United Nations road safety conventions. On 15 April 2016, the Special Envoy gave remarks in support of the United Nations resolution A/70/260, 'Improving Global Road Safety' that was adopted during the General Assembly meeting.

3. Humanitarian of the Year Award from the United Nations Association of New York

12. The Special Envoy and Ms. Michelle Yeoh have jointly accepted the 2016 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the United Nations Association of New York in recognition of their work in promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and their commitment to stabilizing and reducing road traffic fatalities around the world.

C. Participation in global and regional conferences, and meetings on road safety**1. Second High-Level Global Conference on Road Safety**

13. The Special Envoy contributed at the Second High-Level Global Conference on Road Safety in Brasilia on 18 and 19 November 2015. The Conference brought together approximately 70 ministerial-level government delegations. A declaration was adopted which aims to reaffirm the path set for the United Nations Decade of Action 2011-2020. ECE and the Special Envoy jointly hosted a booth in the exhibition area, which promoted visibility, including of the United Nations road safety conventions. The Special Envoy was engaged in the ceremonial opening, and was a speaker in the opening statements and in a number of panels at the conference and its side events, including the session on United Nations road safety conventions jointly organized by ECE and the French Government. At the occasion of the Global Conference, the Special Envoy met the President of Brazil and the Minister of Cities. The Government of Brazil confirmed its deliberation to join the 1958 Agreement on vehicle regulations.

2. Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda

14. The New Urban Agenda sets forth a great vision for sustainable mobility and transport: one that includes road safety as a key consideration in urban planning and infrastructure design. It highlights the importance of awareness-raising campaigns. It addresses vulnerable road users such as children, cyclists and pedestrians. It paints a future where every child, regardless of where they live, can have a safe journey to school. During Habitat III, the Special Envoy spoke at the special session on transport and mobility, and a number of other road safety side events, including one jointly organized by ECE and ECLAC. The Special Envoy is exploring synergies and joint projects with other United Nations agencies to promote road safety in urban transport and mobility.

3. Global Sustainable Transport Conference in Ashgabat

15. This Global Sustainable Transport Conference provided an opportunity to ensure that road safety is not forgotten during discussions of broader developmental issues. Road safety must be part and parcel of sustainable transport and a basic condition for a sustainable world. The Special Envoy highlighted road safety during the opening plenary on 26 November 2016, in the thematic session entitled 'Global Vision Zero: Reaching a new era in road safety', and at the side event entitled, 'UN Road Safety Conventions' and during the opening plenary of the transport business summit. In the closing statement of the conference, paragraph 24 of the statement was dedicated to road safety (see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/11987Ashgabatstatement.pdf>).

4. Additional Events

16. The Special Envoy has participated in a number of planned meetings and conferences in efforts to highlight road safety, including events where road safety may not have been previously covered:

- World Economic Forum and in October 2017 during the India World Economic Summit;
- ECE Inland Transport Committee of 2016, where the policy segment was dedicated to ‘Innovations for Sustainable Inland Transport with Special Attention to Information and Communication Technologies’;
- Working Parties of the Inland Transport Committee: World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, and Road Safety Forum;
- World Health Organization: High-level stakeholders meeting to develop strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
- ITU-ECE: Future Networked Car event on the occasion of the Geneva Motor Show;
- United Nations Road Safety Collaboration Meetings;
- Meeting with His Holiness, Pope Francis, to promote the global importance of road safety;
- Signing of Vision Zero Road Safety pledge with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- Contribution to the development of a road safety resolution adopted by leaders and ministers at the sixteenth Francophone Summit held in Madagascar;
- Engagement with United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to advance road safety agenda within the human rights framework;
- Supported an event at the Turin City Council that recognised the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, together with the Mayor of Turin;
- Contribution to the United Nations Inter-Agency Management Network Working Group on Road Safety to promote stronger road safety practices within United Nations operations;
- Participated at the seventieth anniversary session of the Inland Transport Committee in 2017: gave an overview of his mandate and activities, presented the Road Safety Trust Fund proposal, and highlighted the importance of United Nations road safety conventions;
- Chaired a High-Level Jury of the Road Safety Film Festival in Geneva and awarded the Grand Prix Prize for the best film depicting the risks of drink-driving;
- Intervened at the High-Level Ministerial Conference on Road Safety of the European Union in March 2017, to advocate for more progress in the region. Participating European Union ministers signed the Valletta Declaration for Road Safety, that aims to halve the number of road deaths by 2020 (from the 2010 baseline) and further halve the number of serious injuries by 2030 (from the 2020 baseline).

D. Advocating the accession to, and more effective implementation of the United Nations road safety legal instruments

17. This objective has been addressed by meetings of the Special Envoy with governments, representatives of international organizations and United Nations system organizations, as well as civil society representatives in countries he visited in his capacity as the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety, as highlighted above. For this

purpose, for every mission, the Special Envoy's secretariat hosted by ECE prepared a briefing package with the road safety profile of the country, the main road safety legal instruments, specially designed and customized policy messages and other details relevant for the meetings of the Special Envoy with the officials.

1. Promotion of United Nations Road Safety Conventions

18. The Special Envoy produced brochures which summarize six of 58 United Nations transport-related legal instruments that specifically focused on improving road safety. The brochures provide an overview of the six core United Nations road safety conventions, the accession status of each Member State and the steps needed for accession. The Special Envoy also produced a short brochure highlighting the importance of road safety and the role of the United Nations legal instruments in achieving key targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. The brochures were distributed and used during meetings around the world. As a result of the Special Envoy's advocacy, Iraq acceded to the 1968 Convention Road Traffic and the secretariat at ECE has received a number of requests for technical assistance from Cameroon, Colombia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Uganda and Uruguay.

2. Capacity-building initiatives

19. The Special Envoy has and will host a series of capacity-building workshops for government officials and performance reviews to further achieve this objective, including:

- Road Safety Workshop — back-to-back with the Inland Transport Committee meeting in 2016: to contribute to these objectives, and on the occasion of the seventy-eighth session of the Inland Transport Committee, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety hosted at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, a road safety workshop, 'Best Practices and Key Partnerships for Road Safety'. The workshop was held in partnership with the Inland Transport Committee and the European Union-funded EuroMed Road, Rail and Urban Transport (EuroMed RRU) project, and hosted country representatives and government officials from Greece, Jordan, Kenya, Tunisia, Uganda and the European Union.
- Regional Road Safety Workshop for Anglophone Africa in Nairobi — held from 13 to 15 December 2016 in close collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the World Bank's Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme (SSATP) and the Kenyan National Transport Safety Authority. The workshop was attended by government officials from more than 20 African countries and NGO representatives. The regional workshop focused on road safety data management and the United Nations road safety conventions, which are highlighted as priorities in the African Road Safety Action Plan.
- A Regional Road Safety Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean took place on 13 and 14 March 2017 in Buenos Aires, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for the Latin America and the Caribbean, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Ministry of Transport of Argentina. Attended by more than 100 representatives representing 17 countries, the United Nations legal instruments covered particularly safer vehicles, road signs and signals, drivers licensing and road safety management.
- A Regional Helmet Workshop for South Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific took place on 7 April 2017 in Kuala Lumpur. The workshop was held in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS). Recognizing that motorcycle crashes are one of the major causes of road casualties in the region, the

workshop discussed ways to prevent these casualties through the mandatory use of a proper helmet (UN Regulation No. 22) and proper enforcement.

- Two Road Safety Performance Reviews are being carried out in Africa in collaboration with ECA and ECE. These will be in synergy with the United Nations Road Safety Performance Reviews currently being implemented in the framework of the UNDA-funded project led by ECE in collaboration with ECLAC and ESCAP. The Road Safety Performance Reviews pay special attention to the regulatory governance of road safety and they start with a needs assessment of the country. The Special Envoy's Road Safety Performance Reviews also include the WHO Emergency Care System Assessment, which helps to assess national or regional emergency care system, identify gaps and set priorities for system development.
- Two capacity-building activities were provided to Mongolia in June 2017 and to Uruguay in October 2017 in response to technical assistance requests received by the Special Envoy. In Mongolia, ECE provided technical assistance for vehicle regulations and for the transport of dangerous goods. Jointly provided by ECE and ECLAC, the subregional meeting in Uruguay covered vehicle regulations and was attended by officials from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay. In November 2017, ECE provided technical assistance to Nigeria on the 1968 Vienna Conventions following the technical assistance request received by the Special Envoy.

III. Conclusion

20. The Special Envoy has successfully raised the visibility of road safety and of the United Nations road safety legal instruments, and inspired stronger interest from governments to address road safety as evidenced by technical assistance requests received from Member States. Additionally, the work of the Special Envoy has fostered closer collaboration with Regional Commissions on the topic and has instilled urgency within United Nations agencies to address road safety in its internal operations. The Special Envoy is building stronger relationships with partners and Member States, and is moving forward with critical long-term initiatives such as exploring the potential establishment of a Road Safety Trust Fund, road safety performance reviews in developing countries, capacity-building for Member States with great needs, and raising the profile of road safety on the global development agenda.
