

May 24, 2007

Dear Global Road Safety Stakeholder,

We want to thank you for your participation in the 2nd UN Stakeholders Forum on Global Road Safety. For us, the most striking message from the Forum was the urgent and important need to close the growing gap in road safety between the developed and the developing nations. While some impressive progress has been made, it is clear that if we cannot accelerate our response to the epidemic of road traffic deaths in low- and middle-income countries, we stand to lose one hundred million lives to road traffic injuries over the next 50 years. You certainly made it clear that you are committed and working hard to making sure this does not happen.

We were struck by your strong support for four key global initiatives that will help to close this gap: the UN Road Safety Collaboration, the Commission for Global Road Safety's *Make Roads Safe* Report, the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility, and a UN Ministerial Conference on global road safety in 2009 or 2010. The UN Road Safety Collaboration and its 'good practice' guidelines were viewed as a significant contribution, with the potential to be adapted to specific geographic regions and to be evaluated and improved over time. Additional guidelines were recommended for specific issues, including low cost infrastructure, pedestrian safety, and trauma care for road traffic injuries.

The Recommendations of the Commission for Global Road Safety's *Make Roads Safe* report were seen as a high priority by participants. You made it clear that you wanted to promote road safety as a mainstream development issue, with more high-level political engagement, increased participation of private sector stakeholders, and greater media awareness of critical road safety issues. You supported the call for improved safety design of road infrastructure projects and for further clarification of the proposed 10% rule. You also strongly backed the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility as a high priority for global stakeholder support, urged greater donor contributions to this new funding mechanism, and asked for more communication about its funding priorities, governance, and how it might relate to other regional development bank road safety programs.

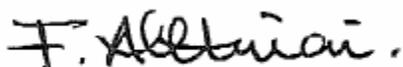
You also expressed very strong support for a UN Ministerial Conference on Road Safety and recommended careful preparation for the conference, a multi-sectoral focus that would include participation by a range of relevant ministries, including Transport, Health, Infrastructure, Law Enforcement, Finance, and Education. You made it clear that strengthening political will is essential to the success of this conference, and it was suggested that a Ministerial Conference could establish new benchmarks for best practice in road traffic injury prevention, encourage regional casualty reduction targets, and provide a new framework for international co-operation on global road safety.

While we heard your appreciation of current efforts, we also heard your concern that much needs to be done to assure that these global initiatives reach stakeholders at the local level in the developing countries. Specifically, we heard support for a three-pronged action plan: 1) Continue the current efforts of the UN Global Road Safety Collaboration to strengthen UN participation in promoting good practice in road traffic injury prevention; 2) Initiate a wider set of regional and national road safety stakeholders forums under the banner of the Global Road Safety Forum; 3) Encourage UN member states to support the proposed global Ministerial Conference in the forthcoming debate planned for the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly.

Your participation in the Stakeholders Forum helped us to continue building a community of global road safety stakeholders, and made it clear that we are also growing global leadership and political will in road safety. Our shared understanding will help us all work together to start saving those 100 million lives.

Because this crisis requires a long-term and sustained solution, we must develop a long-term, step-wise strategy. Your recommendations will help to structure the next road safety resolution that will be brought to the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly this coming September.

Thank you again, for your contributions and commitment to this important effort.



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Honorary Chair, 2nd UN Global Road Safety Stakeholders Forum



Mark Rosenberg, MD, MPP
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Forum presentations and background materials, including information on the Ministerial Conference, are now available on the website www.taskforce.org/grsf.asp. Please send any pictures you are willing to share to sklugglein@taskforce.org.

For more information on the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility strategic plan, please go to <http://www.worldbank.org/grsf>.

For more information on the UN Road Safety Collaboration, please go to <http://www.who.int/roadsafety/en/>.

For more information on the Commission for Global Road Safety and the Make Roads Safe Report, please go to <http://www.makeroadssafe.com/>.