



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
23 May 2012

Sixty-sixth session  
Agenda item 12

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 April 2012

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/66/L.43 and Add.1)]

### 66/260. Improving global road safety

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003, 58/9 of 5 November 2003, 58/289 of 14 April 2004, 60/5 of 26 October 2005, 62/244 of 31 March 2008 and 64/255 of 2 March 2010 on improving global road safety,

*Having considered* the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on improving global road safety<sup>1</sup> and the recommendations contained therein,

*Recognizing* the global public health and development burden resulting from road traffic crashes,

*Noting* that this major public health problem has a broad range of social and economic consequences which, if unaddressed, may affect the sustainable development of countries and hinder progress towards the Millennium Development Goals,

*Recognizing* the role of the first Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 November 2009, which culminated in a declaration inviting the General Assembly to declare a decade of action for road safety,<sup>2</sup>

*Noting with satisfaction* that targeted steps to reduce road traffic injuries undertaken by the United Nations since 2003 have yielded positive results,

*Commending* the World Health Organization for its role in implementing the mandate conferred upon it by the General Assembly to work in close cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions to coordinate road safety issues within the United Nations system, as well as to provide support for the implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety, and commending also the progress of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration as a consultative mechanism to coordinate the road safety activities implemented by its members and

<sup>1</sup> A/66/389.

<sup>2</sup> A/64/540, annex.



to provide Governments and civil society with good-practice guidelines to support action to tackle the major road safety risk factors and support their implementation,

*Welcoming* the joint efforts of the World Health Organization and the United Nations regional commissions to work in cooperation with other partners to develop the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020<sup>3</sup> under the mandate conferred by the General Assembly in resolution 64/255,

*Recognizing* the work of the United Nations regional commissions in increasing road safety activities and advocating increased political commitment to road safety, in elaborating global road safety-related legal instruments, including international conventions and agreements, technical standards, resolutions and recommendations, and working towards setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets,

*Commending* Member States that have acceded to the United Nations international legal instruments on road safety and that have adopted comprehensive legislation on major risk factors, including the non-use of safety belts and child restraints, the non-use of helmets, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, inappropriate and excessive speed, and texting and inappropriate use of cell phones while driving,

*Recognizing* Member States and civil society in their continued commitment to road safety by observing the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims,

*Commending* the road safety advocacy campaigns and poster-signing events of the Economic Commission for Europe, including the global road safety communication campaign of the Commission and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and FIBA Europe, during the 2009 EuroBasket Championship in Poland, the 2010 FIBA World Championship in Turkey and the 2011 EuroBasket in Lithuania; the Economic Commission for Europe, the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the Hellenic Road Safety Institute “Panos Mylonas”, the Scouting Ireland and Scouts of Greece global road safety campaign at the World Scout Jamboree in Kristianstad Municipality, Sweden, in 2011; the unveiling of a memorial sculpture dedicated to the Decade of Action for Road Safety, at the “Christos Polentas” Park on Crete, Greece, on 20 November 2011, the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, erected by the Association for Support and Solidarity to Families of Victims of Road Traffic Accidents of Crete; and the road safety poster “We drive by the rules”, signed by ambassadors and heads of national delegations attending the sixty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, in 2011,

*Commending also* the road safety initiatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including the road safety poster “We drive by the rules”, signed by the ambassadors and heads of national delegations attending its sixty-seventh session, in 2011; the launch of the Asia Pacific Road Safety Network, a web-based regional network of stakeholders designed to facilitate the timely and continuous exchange of road safety best practices and other useful information, on 20 November 2011, the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims; the organization of national workshops on road safety in Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the Philippines, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in 2010 and 2011 in collaboration with host Ministries; and the

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<sup>3</sup> Available from [www.who.int/roadsafety/decade\\_of\\_action/plan/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/roadsafety/decade_of_action/plan/en/index.html).

convening of a regional expert group meeting on road safety in 2010 and 2011, which included the development of the regional road safety goals, targets and indicators, with an overall objective of a 50 per cent reduction in fatalities and serious injuries on the roads of Asia and the Pacific, in line with the Decade of Action for Road Safety,

*Commending further* the efforts of the Economic Commission for Africa in strengthening the road safety initiative in Africa, including the adoption, during the second African Road Safety Conference, held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 November 2011, of the African Action Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety as a guiding document that addressed the continent's specificities and targeted a reduction in road traffic crashes by 50 per cent by 2020; the Plan was later endorsed by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport at its second session, held in Luanda from 21 to 25 November 2011,

*Commending* the efforts of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to include the issue of road safety under comprehensive, regionally coordinated transport policies, such as the efforts to establish the Mesoamerican Road Safety Plan and the inclusion in the final declaration of the thirteenth summit of the Tuxtla Mechanism for Dialogue and Coordination of road safety as a priority area, the declaration of the tenth Ibero-American meeting of officials responsible for traffic and road safety, and other efforts to improve road safety in the Latin American and Caribbean region through studies and dissemination of best practices among national Governments, the private sector and multilateral regional institutions,

*Commending also* the efforts of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia leading to initiatives including the launch of the Decade of Action for Road Safety, in Beirut on 17 May 2011, the road safety poster "We drive by the rules", translated into Arabic and signed by the heads of delegations attending the launch of the Decade, and the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport, from 17 to 19 May 2011, which called upon member countries to work and coordinate with the secretariat of the Commission in their efforts to implement the Decade, and to draw up a timetable for the implementation of the Moscow Declaration of 20 November 2009,<sup>2</sup>

*Acknowledging* a number of other important international efforts on road safety, including the declaration adopted at the Economic Commission for Europe-Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Conference on Improving Road Safety in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region, held in Ioannina, Greece, on 18 and 19 November 2010 and the holding of international conferences such as the World Road Congress, the annual summit of the International Transport Forum, and the Michelin Challenge Bibendum on sustainable road mobility, as well as the second Global Meeting of Non-governmental Organizations Advocating for Road Safety and Road Victims, in Washington, D.C., on 14 and 15 March 2011, and taking note of the important contributions of the Commission for Global Road Safety,

*Acknowledging also* the launch of the Multilateral Development Banks Road Safety Initiative on 19 April 2011, coordinated by the World Bank, and their collective effort to scale up road safety management capacity and infrastructure safety and improve safety performance measures, through the development of systematic and comprehensive road safety projects and the mobilization of resources for road safety in some low- and middle-income countries,

*Expressing its concern* at the continued increase in road traffic fatalities and injuries worldwide, in particular in low- and middle-income countries, bearing in mind that the fatality rate within the road system is considerably higher than the fatality rate within other transport systems, even in high-income countries,

*Recognizing* the efforts made by some low- and middle-income countries to implement best practices, to set ambitious targets and to monitor road traffic fatalities,

*Taking into account* the importance of strengthening capacity and continuing international cooperation to further support efforts to improve road safety, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, and providing, as appropriate, financial and technical support and knowledge to meet the goal of the Decade of Action for Road Safety,

*Recognizing* that a solution to the global road safety crisis can be achieved only through multisectoral collaboration and partnerships among all concerned in both the public and the private sectors, with the involvement of civil society,

*Commending* Member States that have participated in the World Health Organization *Global status report on road safety*, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 62/244, and its 2010 survey,

1. *Welcomes* official national and local launches of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020 in over one hundred countries around the world, regional launches for the Decade as well as other global events;

2. *Commends* Member States that have developed national plans that are in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020,<sup>3</sup> and encourages Member States that have not yet developed these plans to do so, paying special attention to the needs of all road users, in particular pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users, as well as issues related to sustainable mobility;

3. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to nominate, as appropriate, national focal points for the Decade of Action;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to implement road safety activities relating to each of the five pillars of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action, namely, road safety management, safer roads and mobility, safer vehicles, safer road users and post-crash response;

5. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement comprehensive national road safety legislation and regulations on the major risk factors and improve implementation through social marketing campaigns and consistent and sustained enforcement activities;

6. *Encourages* Member States to improve and strengthen road safety data collection and management systems through the standardization of definitions and reporting practices and investments in multisectoral road traffic crash surveillance and analysis;

7. *Encourages* the implementation of new car assessment programmes in all regions of the world in order to improve availability of consumer information about the safety performance of motor vehicles;

8. *Invites* Member States to improve, where appropriate, their road management systems and introduce road safety audits both for new construction projects as well as road safety assessment programmes of the existing networks;

9. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming contracting parties to and to implement the United Nations road safety-related legal instruments, as well as to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>4</sup> and further encourages States Parties to the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic,<sup>5</sup> the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic<sup>6</sup> and the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals,<sup>7</sup> and to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to continue to implement the provisions thereof;

10. *Encourages* Member States to improve and strengthen pre-hospital, trauma and rehabilitation care, through the adoption of a national Emergency Medical System telephone number, capacity-building and the provision of adequate and appropriate equipment;

11. *Invites* Governments to take a leading role in implementing the activities of the Decade of Action, while fostering a multisectoral collaboration of efforts that includes academia, the private sector, professional associations, non-governmental organizations and civil society, including national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, victims' organizations and youth organizations, and the media;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of addressing global road safety issues through international cooperation and by strengthening collaboration between Member States and civil society to build capacity and raise awareness in the field of road safety and to continue raising awareness through the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims;

13. *Requests* the World Health Organization and the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with other partners in the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration and other stakeholders, to continue the activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the objectives of the Decade of Action;

14. *Also requests* the World Health Organization and the United Nations regional commissions to organize activities during the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week, within their resources and with voluntary financial assistance from stakeholders, in collaboration with other members of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, to raise global, regional, national and local awareness about road safety issues, with particular attention to vulnerable road users;

15. *Encourages* Member States, civil society and the private sector to participate in the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week by hosting national and local events;

16. *Invites* Member States, international organizations, development banks and funding agencies, foundations, professional associations and private sector companies to consider providing adequate and additional funding to activities relating to the Decade of Action;

17. *Invites* all interested relevant stakeholders to explore new and innovative funding modalities to support and collaborate in national efforts to implement the

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 125, No. 1671.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1042, No. 15705.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1091, No. 16743.

Global Plan for the Decade of Action, particularly in low- and middle-income countries;

18. *Takes note*, in this context, of the important role of the Global Road Safety Facility, the Road Safety Fund established by the World Health Organization and the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society, the Bloomberg Philanthropies and other private and public funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action;

19. *Invites* Member States and the international community to take road safety into consideration in the future planning of the relevant important international agendas, such as efforts to achieve sustainable development;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled “Global road safety crisis”, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at that session on the progress made in improving global road safety.

*106th plenary meeting  
19 April 2012*