

## The 6<sup>th</sup> United Nations Global Road Safety Week, 17-23 April 2021

### Regional Workshop on Road Safety in the Arab countries

18 May 2021

Online

From 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Beirut time)

### Concept Note

#### **I. Background:**

UN General Assembly resolution [64/255](#) (2010) proclaimed the period 2011–2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety. The decade goal was to reduce global road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50 per cent from 2011 to 2020.

From the start of this first decade of action for road safety 2011-2020, ESCWA took the initiative to advocate for the safe systems approach in the region. Therefore, ESCWA has developed “[technical guidelines for the implementation of national road safety management systems](#)”, including the establishment of national lead agencies and the appropriate coordination mechanism, in addition to road safety observatories that are needed to ensure that interventions are formulated and implemented banking on reliable and comprehensive information addressing road safety in all its dimensions . These guidelines were adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the ESCWA Committee on Transport held in Cairo in 2015<sup>1</sup>.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> decade, road safety was at the heart of ESCWA's main recurring activities. ESCWA has reported on the status of road safety in its Member States as part of the agenda for several annual sessions of the Committee on Transport and Logistics (e.g. the [18<sup>th</sup>](#), [19<sup>th</sup>](#), [20<sup>th</sup>](#), [21<sup>st</sup>](#)).

Progress made during the 1<sup>st</sup> Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 has laid the foundation for accelerated action in the years ahead. Among achievements are inclusion of road safety on the

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/events/files/guidlines\\_for\\_the\\_establishment\\_of\\_national\\_systems\\_on\\_road\\_safety\\_arabic.pdf](https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/events/files/guidlines_for_the_establishment_of_national_systems_on_road_safety_arabic.pdf) (in Arabic)



global health and sustainable development agenda, broad dissemination of scientific guidance on what works, strengthening of partnerships and networks, and mobilization of resources.

UN General Assembly resolution [74/299](#) (2020) proclaimed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade of Action for Road Safety in continuation of the 1<sup>st</sup> decade. It extends the period to 2021-2030 with the ambitious target of preventing at least 50% of road traffic deaths and injuries by 2030.

Item-4 of UNGA resolution 74/299 (2020) *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 prepare a plan of action of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade as a guiding document to support the implementation of its objectives.”

In accordance with Item-4 of the resolution, WHO and the UN regional commissions, in cooperation with other partners in the UN Road Safety Collaboration, are currently developing a Plan of Action for the Decade for consideration by Member States and other stakeholders.

The Plan of Action will align with the [Stockholm Declaration](#), which emphasizes the importance of a holistic approach to road safety, and calls on continued improvements in the design of roads and vehicles; enhancement of laws and law enforcement on behavioural risks such as speeding, and drinking and driving; and provision of timely, life-saving emergency care for the injured. The Plan of Action will also reflect the Stockholm Declaration’s encouragement of policies to promote walking, cycling and using public transport as inherently healthy and environmentally sound modes of transport.

The United Nations General Assembly officially expressed its support for the organization of a global road safety week in resolution A/RES/60/5 on improving global road safety (in 2005). The latter invites the United Nations Regional Commissions and the World Health Organization (WHO) to jointly organize the 1<sup>st</sup> United Nations Global Road Safety Week to serve as a platform for global and regional, but mainly national and local, activities to raise awareness about road safety issues.<sup>2</sup>

To this effect, ESCWA organized a [Regional Workshop on Road Safety](#) in Beirut during 27-29 May 2015 as part of the activities planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Global Road Safety Week. The workshop tackled the following issues, in conformity with ESCWA mandates and commitments to improve road safety in the Arab region:

- a) Follow-up on Road Safety Management in the ESCWA member countries;

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<sup>2</sup> <https://unece.org/background-2>



- b) Safety of Children as the theme of the Third UN Global Road Safety Week;
- c) Social Learning on Road Safety;
- d) Lesson Learned and Good practices.

In the context of the 5<sup>th</sup> UN Global Road Safety Week 2019, ESCWA in collaboration with YASA organized a [workshop on Leadership for Safer Mobility in Cities](#) in Beirut on 23 May 2019. The workshop was chaired by the Minister of Public Works and Transport in Lebanon, Mr. Youssef Fenianos, with the participation of more than 60 representatives of NGOs working in the field of road safety and soft mobility in Lebanon. Participants emphasized the importance and the magnitude of the problem in the transport sector and road safety in Lebanon. They also expressed their aspirations for cooperation with ESCWA, and among themselves to improve road safety in Lebanon.

The theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Road Safety Week will be **Managing Speed**. The Week itself will focus on speed management, in particular 30 km/h zones in cities and other areas where pedestrians and cyclists mix with traffic, as key to a safe transport system which protects all who use the roads, prevents road traffic deaths and injuries, and facilitates the attainment of many of the Sustainable Development Goals. It will witness the release of the plan of action. This will be a great opportunity to mobilise the global population (Authorities, stakeholders, citizens) to raise their awareness on road safety issues.

Within the activities of the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Road safety Week, from 17 to 23 May 2021, ESCWA will organize a regional workshop on road safety in the Arab countries, on 18 May 2021. The workshop will be implemented as a follow up activity of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics. Its main objectives will be to:

- Update on the preparation of the Global Plan for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030.
- Update on the progress in the implementation of UNRSF projects
- Present success stories in implementing national systems for road safety management (Morocco, TBC).
- Present and discuss a concept note on the establishment of the Arab Integrated Road Safety Observatory (AIRSO).
- Exchange of information on experiences of Member States on the reduction of speeds to 30 km/h in some urban areas and their effects to improve road safety.

## **II. Audience:**

Participants of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of ESCWA Committee on Transport and Logistics.



**III. Venue:**  
18 May 2021 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Beirut time), remotely via Zoom.

**IV. Tentative Agenda**

Time	Item
11:00 - 11:20	<b>Opening Session:</b> - Welcome Speech, Mr. Mohamed El Moctar Mohamed El Hacene Cluster Leader, Shared Economic Prosperity, ESCWA - Video message from the UNSG's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Mr. Jean Todt. - Introduction to the workshop objectives and contents, Mr. Karim T. Khalil Secretary of the Commission, Office of the Executive Secretary, ESCWA.
11:20 - 11:30	Update on the preparation of the Global Plan for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030. Dr. Yarob Badr, Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics, ESCWA.
11:30 - 12:00	Update on the progress in the implementation of UNRSF projects. Moderator: Mr. Fouad Ghorra, ESCWA.
12:00 - 12:15	Present success story in implementing national systems for road safety management (Mr. Benacer Boulaajoul, NARSA, Morocco).
12:15 - 12:45	Present and discuss a concept note on the establishment of the Arab Integrated Road Safety Observatory (AIRSO). Ms. Zahira Abounoas, ESCWA.
12:45 - 13:15	Exchange of information on Member states' experiences on improving road safety through speed reduction to 30 km/h in some urban areas (TBC). Moderator: Dr. Yarob Badr. Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics, ESCWA.
13:15- 13:30	Concluding remarks

**V. Contact Persons:**

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