



Concept note

Celebration of the 7th UN Road Safety Week – 2023: Rethinking Mobility

Building the Foundation for Road Safety in Africa: Strengthening Management Capacity to Achieve the Objectives of the Second UN Decade

**15th May 2023,
12:00pm – 15:00pm EAT, Online**

April 2023

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Background

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly mandates the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN regional commissions to plan and host periodic UN Global Road Safety Weeks. The 7th UN Global Road Safety Week will take place from 15-21 May 2023. The theme is sustainable transport, and specifically the need for governments to facilitate a shift to walking, cycling and using public transport. Road safety is both a prerequisite for this shift to happen and an outcome of it. The slogan is #RethinkMobility.

II. Context

The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 70/1 “*Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” on the 25 September 2015. Through this resolution, UN member States adopted 17 Goals as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This marked a turning point in the management of road safety in the world. Indeed, through Targets 11.2 and 3.6, the international community recognizes road safety as a fundamental development issue worldwide, to be addressed by governments and the development community.

In September 2020, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/74/299 “*Improving global road safety*”, proclaiming the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030. Road safety continued to be a global challenge after the end of the first UN Decade proclaimed in 2011, particularly in Africa where the risk of dying as a result of road accident is the highest in the world: 26.6 deaths per 100,000 people compared to Europe with 9.3 deaths per 100,000 people.

Taking note of the global strategic orientations for the decade 2021-2030, and of UN Resolution A/RES/74/299 “*Improving global road safety*”, the African Union adopted Africa’s “post-2020 Strategic Directions for road safety” with the objective of reducing the number of road fatalities and injuries by 50 per cent by 2030. It also seeks to promote the safe system approach in implementing the road safety agenda in Africa. These objectives seem ambitious given that many African countries lack the fundamentals for road safety as their management capacity remains weak. This compromises the implementation of interventions across road safety pillars. The absence of strong road safety management capacity results in fragmented and temporal interventions which may have localised impacts that are not in the scale required to achieve the objective to halve road deaths by 2030.

Similarly, Target 11.2 of SDGs aims, by 2030, to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improve road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons. To achieve this, governments and their partners need to rethink mobility. This includes investing in walking, cycling and using public transport, which can promote equity and health for people and the planet. Currently, according to UN-Habitat’s dataset on SDG 11.2, the share of the African urban population that has access to public transport remains low at 32.7%, as compared to the global average of 65.9%.

As part of celebrations of the 7th UN Road safety week, ECA in collaboration with partners, is organizing an event, with a high-level and technical component, to discuss the importance of management to road safety including through the promotion of multimodal transport.

III. Objectives

The main objective of the event is to celebrate the 7th UN Road Safety Week. The specific objectives are to discuss:

- i- The implications of sustainable transport (shift to walking, cycling and using public transport) for Africa – taking a deep dive into the challenges and opportunities for the continent;
- ii- The status of road safety management in Africa and the implications for achieving the objective of the Second UN Decade of Action for Road Safety to halve road deaths by 2030; and
- iii- The second edition of the annual Kofi Annan Road Safety Award.

IV. Outcomes

The outcomes of the meeting are as follows:

- Better understanding of the challenges and opportunities to implement sustainable transport in Africa, from a road safety perspective;
- Improved understanding of road safety management challenges in Africa and the implications for halving road deaths on the continent by 2030;
- Increased awareness of good practices in road safety management in Africa; and
- Increased awareness of the Kofi Annan Road Safety Award.

V. Participants

The following entities will be invited to participate in the meeting:

- African Union Commission (AUC);
- Heads of Road Safety Agencies and National Data Coordinators of the African Road Safety Observatory (ARSO);
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Regional Economic Commissions (RECs);
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP);
- African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD);
- Specialized agencies (WARSO, CLRT, AFRICATIP, ARMFA, AFRICARAP, NCAP, etc.);
- World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB) and Islamic Development Bank (IDB);
- Corridor Management Institutions;
- International Road Federation (IRF)
- Civil Society Organizations; and
- Other Development Partners.

VI. Date

The meeting will be held online on 15 May 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., EAT.
ECA will provide interpretation and translation services (French/English and English/French).

Registration link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0uf-6hqzoqHd35YFIIYVQF5iGkUd-7sCid>

VII. Further Information

For further information, kindly reach out
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Draft programme

April 2023

Segment 1: High level
12:00pm – 12:45pm, EAT

Moderated by the ECA's Ag. Director for Private Sector Development and Finance Division			
Time	Activity	Role	Information
12:00 – 12:20	Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by Mr. Antonio Pedro, Acting Executive Secretary of ECA (5 min) • Remarks by Mr. Jean Todt, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety (5 min) • Remarks by H.E Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission (5 min) 	5mn x 3
12:20 – 12:45	Promoting Sustainable transport in the context of the Second UN Decade of Action for Road Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E Mr. Alemu Semie, Minister of Transport and Logistics of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia • H.E Mr. Mohammed Abdeljalil, Minister of Transport and Logistic of the Kingdom of Morocco • H.E. Mr. Ebrima Sillah, Minister of Transport, Works and Infrastructure of The Gambia • H.E Mr. Ngalle Bibehe Jean Ernest Massena, Minister of Transport of Cameroun • H.E Chief Ndlaluhlaza Ndwandwe, Minister of Public Works and Transport of the Kingdom of Eswatini 	5mn x 5

Segment 2: Technical Workshop (2 hours)
01:00pm – 03:00pm, EAT

<p>01:00-01:10 Opening Moderator: ECA</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remarks by the Director of Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union ➤ Remarks by the Acting Director of the Private Sector Development and Financing Division of ECA ➤ Remarks by Director of Infrastructure of the African Development Bank ➤ Adoption of the agenda and work program
<p>01:10 -02:10 Session 1: Road Safety Management in Africa: Challenges and Emerging Issues Moderator: Kevin Kara-Vala, Executive Manager, Road Traffic Management and Information; South Africa</p>
Getting the fundamentals right: Overview of road safety management in Africa (ECA) -10mn
Walking, cycling and public transport in African cities: challenges and opportunities (Cecilia Andersson, Lead, Urban Mobility, UN-Habitat) - 10mn
The Moroccan experience in Road Safety Management (Benacer Boulaajoul, Director National Road Safety Agency, Morocco) - 10mn
Establishment of the Lead Road Safety Agency in Senegal: challenges and prospects (Cheikh Oumar Gaye, Director General of the National Road Safety Agency, Senegal) - 10mn
Improving policy and action for safe mobility (Susanna Zammataro, Director General, IRF) -10mn
Discussions (10mn)
<p>02:10-02:50. Session 2: From fundamentals to action: Innovation in road safety management Moderator: Mandla P. Ntshalintshali, Director - Road Transportation Department, Eswatini</p>
Enforcing road safety: The case of Nigeria (Nigeria Road Safety Corps) – 10mn
Digitalisation of enforcement of road traffic laws – (Alfred Byiringiro, Principal Technical Advisor in charge of Transport – MININFRA, Rwanda) - 10mn
Good practices for setting up a viable vehicle inspection system – CITA (Eduard Fernandez; Executive Director) - 10mn
Discussions (10mn)
<p>02:50-03:00 Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUC • ECA