



World Health
Organization

3rd Virtual Meeting of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration

30 June 2020
(2 hours)

PROVISIONAL REPORT

The third virtual meeting of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration (UNRSC) was held on 30 June 2020 and convened over 100 participants. The meeting was organized as a follow up to the first and second virtual meetings held respectively on 16 April and 28 May. The agenda items were as follows:

- Debrief on status of negotiation of UNGA resolution on road safety
- Debrief on adjustments made in UNRSC operating modes by end of the year
- Update on progress made in planning for WDoR and Road Safety Week
- Discussion on amplifying Covid 19 related activities by UNRSC members
- Membership requests from AAAM, Panos Mylonas and Total Foundation

Welcome and introduction

The meeting was briefly opened by the Chair, Dr Etienne Krug, who welcomed participants and presented an overview of the items to be discussed at the meeting.

Debrief on status of negotiation of UNGA resolution on road safety

Dr Krug from WHO provided a brief update on the status of the UNGA resolution. He indicated that virtual negotiations on the draft resolution were still ongoing and involved additional member states. He further indicated that at least 3 additional rounds of negotiation were to be expected and that after the negotiation a silent procedure will take place (period of 2 weeks to raise objections). Finally, he invited participants to reach as appropriate with their missions to continue moving the resolution ahead.

Ms Fotini Ionnadou from the European Commission reiterated the European Commission's support to the Resolution in its most ambitious form. She indicated that member states agreed on several provisions of the resolution. Challenges remaining related to the timing and cost of a possible high-level conference on road safety in the context of COVID 19.

Debrief on adjustments made in UNRSC operating modes by end of the year

Dr Krug debriefed participants on the discussions undertaken since the last UNRSC virtual meeting regarding UNRSC operating modes and strategic directions.

Noting the support for short and frequent UNRSC virtual meetings, he indicated that the two hours virtual meetings will continue to take place after the summer recess and at least till the end of the year. Provisional dates proposed for next virtual UNRSC meetings were 24 September and 22 October, another date is to be communicated for a meeting in November.

Raising the importance of expanding strategically UNRSC membership, Dr Krug referred to a greater involvement of involve Member States (especially from those regions currently underrepresented) and relevant private sector entities (in the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration). He invited participants to propose any key actors to include.

Recalling the structure of the seven existing project groups, Dr Krug invited participants to rethink the structure for project groups to best support the Stockholm Declaration and the upcoming UNGA resolution on road safety. He indicated that ongoing discussions with project groups chairs were being undertaken and that the Plan for the Second Decade, once developed, could inform the appropriate structure for project groups.

Finally, noting that the Decade of Action was coming to an end in 2020, he referred to the need to start reflecting on appropriate strategies for the next decade. In this regard, Dr Krug indicated that while the negotiations around the resolution (including provisions on the development of a Plan for a second decade of action for road safety) were still ongoing, preliminary work could be conducted to identify from existing resources that could help inform the contents for the Plan for the Second Decade. In this regard, he referred to a variety of resources collectively developed by several UNRSC members including the Stockholm Declaration, the Plan for the (first) Decade of Action on road safety, the Save LIVES technical package, the global road safety performance target, as well as the ECE Recommendations for enhancing National Road Safety Systems. He furthermore indicated that should the timeline allow it, a new plan could be launched next May at the road safety week to help revive the momentum generated by the Stockholm Conference. Finally, Dr Krug stressed the need for the government of Sweden to be greatly involved in the process guiding the development of the Plan for the Second Decade.

Participants raised the need to open the consultation on the contents of the Plan to a broader community, especially ensuring the inclusion of people from different countries, regions and situations. They expressed the relevance of including regional data observatories in the consultation process, considering that the regional data observatories represent a large group of member states including from the African and Asian regions. However, the delays associated with large consultations were also raised considering the urgency for action as well as the risk of having messages diluted by the inclusion of too many individual perspectives.

Noting that one of the findings of the evaluation of the Decade of Action on Road Safety (2011-2020) was the need to further prioritize key actions, several participants also raised the importance of keeping the messages of the next plan simple and clear.

A participant proposed to develop a short document to layout the framework for discussion and consultation and utilize UNRSC members network to facilitate this process.

Update on progress made in planning for WDoR and Road Safety Week

Laura Sminkey, from WHO, provided a debrief on progress made by the group of volunteers to support the planning of the World Day of Remembrance (WDoR). She indicated that the group convened on 25 June and reached agreement on three aspects:

- A tagline for the World Day of Remembrance: *Remember. Support. Act*
- A concept note for a global commemoration event proposed to take place on 13 November i.e. 2 days ahead of the World Day of Remembrance
- Creative brief for the Road Safety Week

Participants were invited to provide feedback to the concept note for a global commemoration including to propose speakers for the event. New Zealand was suggested as a possible speaker.

Floor Lieshout, from YOURS, debriefed on progress made since the last UNRSC meeting in planning the road safety week. He informed participants that a creative brief had been developed whose objective was to convey the urgent need for road safety action. Participants were invited to provide feedback to the creative brief either orally or in written.

The discussion on the road safety week touched on the timing for the week – considering that many tasks are involved in planning for the the week, it was generally agreed that May was an appropriate time to hold it. With regards to the contents of the creative brief, a proposal was made to shift the focus from a call for a plan to an actual launch of a long-term strategic plan – whether it is issued as the Global Plan for the second decade referred to in the Resolution or a 10 years road map reflecting the Stockholm Declaration. The discussion also touched on the possible contents for the long-term strategic plan; in this regard, participants suggested to utilize, update and relaunch contents from existing guidance in a simplified way underlining clearly “best buys” and “best practices”. It was also suggested to further highlight the modal shift calling for more walking, cycling and public transport and involve relevant actors in those fields. Additionally, a point was made on the need to identify priorities and key messages to support focus actions.

To keep the momentum ongoing between the WDoR in November and the Road safety week in May, it was suggested to hold an event on the anniversary date of the Stockholm Conference (i.e. February 2020). Such event could take the form of a virtual seminar.

Discussion on amplifying Covid 19 related activities by UNRSC members

Dr Krug invited participants to share their activities to support road safety in the context of the COVID 19 situation and discuss how the UNRSC platform can be utilized to amplify those activities.

He indicated that WHO was preparing a guidance on transport planning in the context of post COVID 19 lockdown which will soon be released. The following members also reported COVID 19 related activities:

- MAPFRE Foundation – a webinar (16 June) on the need for public transport in the current context, conveying the director of the national road safety observatory, a high-level representative from the public transport company, employers (from both small and large companies)
- European Commission - conclusions by developed by the EU’s High-Level Group for Road Safety (circulated by email to UNRSC members)
- Inter-American Development Bank – in collaboration with the education division, development of an operational prototype to support countries in ensuring the safety of schools (considering both the infection risk and the road injury risk)

The discussion also touched on how the reduced exposure (lower volumes of traffic) during the COVID 19 lockdown impacted the number of crashes and deaths during this period. Through examples (from Sweden, Spain, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Brazil, India, Thailand) shared by several participants, it was observed that in many countries the reduction of traffic deaths was not proportionate to the reduction in exposure. Specifically, it was noted that in several instances, the percentage reduction in fatalities had been less than the percentage reduction in traffic volume. It was also indicated that some categories of road users (mostly pedestrians and riders of motorized 2/3 wheelers) were even at higher risk during the lockdown period. Speeding was referred to as the main reason for these observed trends.

Dr Krug invited participants to share data (including sources) with WHO to further document the trends observed during lockdown and the risk factors identified.

Membership requests from AAAM, Panos Mylonas and Total Foundation

The Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (AAAM), Panos Mylonas and Total Foundation formally presented their UNRSC membership request and were welcomed as new members into the UNRSC.

Closing and next steps

The Chair thanked participants and indicated that the next meeting will take place virtually on 24 September.

The following next steps were identified:

- All members were invited to continue efforts to mobilize Member States towards the adoption of the UNGA resolution,
- All members were invited to comment on the concept note for the Global commemoration event adjunct to the World Day of Remembrance
- All members were invited to provide feedback to the creative brief developed for the road safety week
- All members were invited to share data on traffic and injury trends observed during COVID 19 lockdown and post lockdown phases