

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

We, the Ministers of transport of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific attending the Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 11 November 2006,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003 and 58/9 of 5 November 2003 on the global road safety crisis, and 58/289 of 14 April 2004 and 60/5 of 26 October 2005 on improving global road safety,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/289, invited the World Health Organization, working in close cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, to act as a coordinator on road safety issues within the United Nations system,

Taking note of the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*, which estimated that 1.2 million people are killed in road accidents and as many as 50 million are injured worldwide annually,

Also noting that the Report projected that, without a new commitment to prevention, these figures could increase by about 65 per cent over the next 20 years, making road traffic injuries one of the top three causes of the global burden of disease,

Concerned that about half of all road traffic fatalities and injuries worldwide occur in the Asian and Pacific region, most of which are vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, children and motorcyclists,

Observing the rapid growth of road transport infrastructure development and motorization in the region, which implies concomitant growth in road traffic fatalities and injuries,

Deeply concerned about the human suffering, social implications and heavy burden on the poor of road accidents as well as their impact on national economic development, with the costs being estimated to be in the range of 1 to 3 per cent of a country's annual gross national product,

Cognizant of the significant progress already achieved in this respect,

Recognizing that the Parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network shall give full consideration to the issues of road safety while developing the network,

Also recognizing that road safety is a public policy issue of major concern that requires a strong political commitment and effective interventions if road traffic fatalities, injuries and related human suffering are to be reduced significantly,

Resolve to save 600,000 lives and to prevent a commensurate number of serious injuries on the roads of Asia and the Pacific over the period 2007 to 2015,

Invite the members and associate members of the Commission, in this regard, to implement the recommendations contained in the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*, in line with General Assembly resolution 60/5 of 26 October 2005 on improving global road safety,

Also invite the members and associate members of the Commission to address road safety in the following areas:

- (a) Making road safety a policy priority;
- (b) Making roads safer for vulnerable road users, including children, senior citizens, pedestrians, non-motorized vehicle users, motorcyclists, and persons with disabilities;
- (c) Making roads safer and reducing the severity of accidents (building “forgiving roads”);
- (d) Making vehicles safer and encourage responsible vehicle advertising;
- (e) Improving national and regional road safety systems, management and enforcement;
- (f) Improving cooperation and fostering partnerships;
- (g) Developing the Asian Highway as a model of road safety;
- (h) Providing effective education on road safety awareness to the public, young people and drivers.

Request the Executive Secretary:

- (a) To accord priority to mobilizing resources from domestic and international sources for the implementation of the present Declaration;
- (b) To strengthen existing road safety initiatives affirmed at the regional and international levels and to take new ones, in particular to improve road safety along the Asian Highway network;
- (c) To work closely with the World Health Organization, the other regional commissions, and other relevant international and multilateral organizations in the implementation of the present Declaration and to continue to promote cooperation in a synergistic manner with the various intergovernmental, non-governmental and subregional organizations that are playing an increasingly important role in improving road safety and, in particular, the private sector;
- (d) To develop, in consultation with the members and associate members of the Commission, a set of goals, targets and indicators, to be achieved by 2015, in order to assess and evaluate road safety progress;
- (e) To promote networking among the national and subregional organizations that support the implementation of the present Declaration.