
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Regional Meeting on Renewing Regional Road Safety Goals and Targets for Asia and the Pacific

28-29 July 2016
Seoul

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Meeting reiterated that road crashes were still a global epidemic resulting in substantial undesirable economic and social impacts. Its magnitude and gravity and consequent negative impacts on economy, public health and general welfare of the people, particularly the low-income group are substantive.
2. The Meeting noted that the road safety has been highlighted in 2 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Of which, Goal 3 contained target 3.6 “By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents” and Goal 11 contained target 11.2 “By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable and sustainable transport for all, improving 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.”
3. The Meeting concerned that road crashes are among the leading causes of death in Asia and the Pacific region. It noted that the known issues of road crash causes in this region include speeding, drink driving, non-compliance to helmet wearing, careless driving, violations of traffic rules, exposure of pedestrians, the quality of road infrastructure facilities, and vehicle standards. The proportion of vulnerable road users (VRUs) fatalities accounted for more than half of the region’s road traffic fatalities.
4. The Meeting took note of the presentations made by member countries with respect to various road safety activities being undertaken by respective countries. The Meeting also noted the progress in many countries of the region. It held the view that improvement of road safety situation was challenging but possible. It also noted that continued commitment and prioritized focus on road safety activities were required in member countries.
5. The Meeting noted with interests the experiences shared by some member countries in applying the global and regional road safety goals to their national road safety goals.
6. The Meeting noted that data availability remained one of the challenging issue. The Meeting stressed the importance of road safety data and their availability in planning and implementing road safety activities and assessing the progress in improving road safety at national, regional and global levels. In this regard, the Meeting is encouraged to provide the ESCAP secretariat with related road safety data through questionnaire and status report.

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7. The Meeting expressed its appreciation toward the capacity building activities provided by the secretariat as they were helpful in improving road safety in many member countries. It also noted that such activities could be made available by the secretariat and implementing partner such as the Korea Transportation Safety Authority on request of member countries including the black spots improvement project.
 8. The Meeting recognized the importance of the renewal of the Regional Road Safety Goals, Targets and Indicators to facilitate future assessment and policy suggestions for road safety improvement in line with the Decade of Action and SDGs.
 9. The Meeting recommended the Regional Road Safety Goals, Targets and Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2016-2020 to the Ministerial Conference on Transport, which would be held in Moscow in the last quarter of 2016, for its consideration and adoption through Regional Meeting on Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Transport at Bangkok on 10-11 August 2016.
 10. Most participants expressed general support to the initiative of the establishment of the intergovernmental international road organization to set standards, establish unified systems, provide regulatory frameworks and provide technical assistance on road-related issues to improve safety, security, efficiency and environmental performance of road transport sector. Some participants expressed the need for further internal consideration of this initiative. A number of participants recognized the need for such an organization to harmonize standards and regulations and enhance security. The participants suggested to undertake wider discussion on this initiative with participation of related organizations.
 11. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to ESCAP and the Korea Transportation Safety Authority for the timely organization of this important regional meeting to renew Regional Road Safety Goals, Targets and Indicators.
 12. The major conclusions and recommendations was adopted at Seoul on 29 July 2016.

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