
Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)

18th Session
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Almaty, Kazakhstan

Road safety issues and policy intervention in SPECA region

(Item 4.9 of the agenda)

Note by UNECE / UNESCAP

1. The issue of road safety received global attention in March 2010 with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/255, proclaiming the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety with a goal to stabilize and then reduce the forecast level of road traffic fatalities around the world by increasing road safety activities conducted at the national, regional and global levels.
2. The General Assembly, in its above-mentioned resolution on “Improving Road Safety” called for intensive work to reduce global road traffic fatalities by increasing activities at all levels. In cooperation with the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration group and other stakeholders, the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011–2020) was prepared to support the achievement of the overall goal.
3. In response, many SPECA countries have taken commendable initiatives to improve the road safety situation. They have undertaken various measures such as road safety audits, actions against drunk-driving and enforcement of legal provisions. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan have implemented programmes on hazardous location improvement and phasing out of older vehicles that were no longer roadworthy through regular vehicle inspections. Enforcement of the use of seatbelts in cars and helmets for motorcyclists has been made in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
4. Despite the global, regional and national initiatives, road safety remains to be a development issue of concern in most developing countries. There is a need for further improvement of road safety in many countries within the Asia-Pacific, including SPECA countries, and to receive a higher priority in national planning and policies. In addition, given

the importance of data for monitoring progress in road safety at the national, regional and global levels, road safety data collection and evaluation should become a core component of Member State's national road safety planning and policies, if it is not already.

Road safety activities by the UNESCAP

5. UNESCAP in collaboration with host national Ministries organized national workshops to several SPECA countries over the years 2009 to 2011. More specifically, four national workshops were held in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek, 6 November 2009), Uzbekistan (Tashkent, 25 November 2010), Tajikistan (Dushanbe, 29-30 November 2010), and Azerbaijan (Baku, 10-11 October 2011). The key objective of the workshops was to develop national road safety strategies and action plans with measurable road safety goals and targets. During the course of the missions for organising these workshops, advisory services were also provided for the improvement of road safety in general.

6. An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Progress in Road Safety Improvement in Asia and the Pacific was also organised in Bangkok in 2011 with a focus on road safety data issues including that of the data collection and monitoring of 36 regional indicators based on the UNESCAP road safety goals, targets and indicators for the Decade of Action. The EGM was attended by representatives from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and other UNESCAP member States.

7. In order to facilitate the timely and continuous exchange of road safety best practices and other useful information, UNESCAP launched in 2011 the Asia-Pacific Road Safety Network (APRSN), a web-based regional network of road safety stakeholders from all sectors (public, not-for-profit, and private).¹

8. More recently, a road safety exhibition was organised during the Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in March 2012, featuring road safety posters from around the region. UNESCAP secretariat is also planning to organize two regional meetings on Road Safety issues in 2013. The first one planned to be organized in collaboration with the Korea Transportation Safety Authority (KoTSA) is tentatively scheduled for May 2013 in Seoul. The second one would a regional seminar on progress in road safety at national and regional levels which is slated for October 2013 in Bangkok. In addition, UNESCAP in collaboration with

¹ <http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/roadsafety/OfficialLaunch/Remembrance-Day-20Nov11.asp>

other organizations is considering the development of a guidebook and other capacity-building materials on road safety issues.

Road safety activities by the UNECE

9. As the main coordinating entity in the area of road safety, the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety was discussed and adopted at the sixty-second session of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1). The Plan falls in line with the WP.1 roadmap previously adopted (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2008/5/Rev.1), which details strategic directions for the Working Party to improve global road safety and includes activities of the Programme of Work for the period of 2012–2016.

10. General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/260 requested UNECE and other UN regional commissions to organize activities during the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week to raise awareness about road safety issues. The second United Nations Global Road Safety Week will be on 6-12 May 2013. UNECE will commemorate the week in Geneva, Switzerland, with four key events and a photo exhibition. The events include a symposium on regional perspectives on drinking and driving, an interactive youth and young leaders session “Scouting for Global Road Safety”, a roundtable and photo exhibition dedicated to International Level Crossing Awareness Day, and a discussion forum on insurance and road safety. Participants from the public, NGO, private sectors and academia, are expected to attend.

The Project Working Group may wish to

- Continue its efforts to develop and implement national road safety strategies and action plans with goals and targets in line with the Decade of Action for Road Safety;

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