

ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY

Global road safety conference in 2008

Note by the secretariat

The Commission on Global Road Safety (chaired by Lord Robertson, former NATO Secretary General) has proposed that a global Ministerial Conference be held under the auspices of the United Nations in 2008.

The original letter from Lord Robertson and a summary of the discussion on the subject by the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) are contained in document ECE/TRANS/2007/9.

Since the issuance of that document, further letters regarding the Ministerial Conference have been received from Lord Robertson and from Fuad Al Hinai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations in New York.

Those letters are reproduced in the present Informal document to help the ITC's discussion of this item. The attention of the Committee is drawn in particular to the annex to the letter of Lord Robertson which lists some of the possible objectives of the Conference.



Commission for Global Road Safety

Chairman: Rt. Hon. Lord Robertson of Port Ellen KT. GCMG

Mr Jose Capel Ferrer
Director
Transport Division
UN-ECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

21 December 2006

Dear Mr Capel Ferrer

Thank you for your letter of 15th November concerning the discussion in the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the Commission for Global Road Safety's proposal for a UN Ministerial on global road safety.

I am very grateful for the provisional support for the proposal from WP.1 and for the referral to the Inland Transport Committee meeting in February. I understand that WP.1 does not support the development of a new road safety Convention for low and middle income countries and I agree fully that the emphasis should be on encouraging countries to adopt the existing Vienna Conventions and the updated text of the Consolidated Resolution on Road Traffic into their traffic law.

I also agree with WP.1's view that the proposed UN Ministerial should be open to Ministers from health and interior ministries, as well as transport ministries. Road safety is a multi-sectoral, shared, responsibility and any UN Ministerial should reflect this, as the recommendations in the Commission for Global Road Safety's *Make Roads Safe* report and the WHO/World Bank *World report on road traffic injury prevention* both make clear.

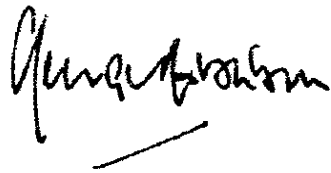
On the question of the purpose of the proposed Ministerial, it would clearly be for the United Nations institutions and countries involved to agree objectives and a detailed agenda. In the *Make Roads Safe* report, the Commission for Global Road Safety makes some suggestions of issues that the Ministerial could consider, and I attach this list as an annex for information and clarification.

Finally, on the question of a venue for the Ministerial, I recognise that this again is something that would need to be offered and agreed by organising countries and the relevant UN institutions.

Members: Mr Rosario Alessi (Italy) Mr Victor Kiryanov (Russia) Dr John Llewellyn (UK) Dr Mark Rosenberg (USA)
Professor Gérard Saillant (France) Mr Michael Schumacher (Germany) Ms Tayce Wakefield (Canada) Mr Shigeo Watanabe (Japan)

Notwithstanding these issues of detail, I believe that there are compelling reasons for the UN-ECE, which has done so much to encourage international cooperation and adoption of best practice on road safety, to support the proposal for a UN Ministerial on global road safety and I thank you again for referring this question to the Inland Transport Committee on 6th February 2007.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rt. Hon. Lord Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a short horizontal line.

Rt. Hon. Lord Robertson of Port Ellen KT. GCMG



Commission for Global Road Safety

Chairman: Rt. Hon. Lord Robertson of Port Ellen KT. GCMG

Proposal of the Commission for Global Road Safety for a UN Ministerial Conference on global road safety

The Commission for Global Road Safety in their recent report '*Make Roads Safe*' has proposed a world level Ministerial meeting. The relevant extract from the report is as follows:

The Commission believes that the UN should consider convening a (first ever) global Ministerial level meeting on road safety. The Commission appreciates that, given the already crowded agenda of high level meetings, there needs to be both strong justification for, and solid outcomes from, a Ministerial Conference. However, the Commission is confident that this would be the case. The Conference agenda could:

- Review the work of the UN Collaboration, the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility, the Action Plan, and the implementation of the World Report and the related UN Resolutions.
- Assess progress at a regional level, by considering relevant action plans and reviewing targets (such as those of the UN Regional Commission's ASEAN, APEC, the AU, and the EU) and the progress made towards achieving them;
- Agree on common definitions for key road safety related data reporting systems, and identify good practice in knowledge transfer on key risk factors and the development of multi-sectoral national road safety strategies.
- Examine the progress of the UN World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations and the 1949/1968 UN Road Traffic Conventions, and progress towards wider participation in these efforts.
- Identify road safety's contribution to the achievement of the MDGs and prepare proposals for the review of the transport dimension of sustainable development to be undertaken by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 2010.
- Provide an opportunity for low and middle income countries to confirm their commitment to action to implement the World Report and adopt national road safety strategies and targets.

This last point is important, as it is vital that developing countries take ownership of the issue of road safety and develop their own strategies and sources of financial support for road traffic injury prevention. It would be particularly beneficial were the proposed Conference to bring together delegations of Ministers from each region of the world, and involve a mix of those responsible for transport, health, and law enforcement.

The Commission recommends that a Ministerial Conference on Global Road Safety be held in 2008 under the auspices of the UN, which could bring together Transport and Infrastructure, Health, and Interior Ministers.



The Permanent Representative of Oman
to the United Nations
New York



السفير العُماني الدائم لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer
Director
Transport Division
UN-ECE
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

January 18, 2007

Dear Mr. Capel Ferrer:

I understand that the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe will be discussing the proposal of the Commission for Global Road Safety for a global UN Ministerial meeting on road safety.

As you may be aware, the United Nations General Assembly will discuss a new Resolution on the global road safety crisis for agreement during its 62nd session this autumn. Support from The Inland Transport Committee for this proposal for a UN Ministerial meeting would provide an immensely helpful signal for these important discussions.

I recognize that there are a number of issues that would need to be clarified before such a Ministerial meeting could go ahead, not least the question of a host country and the proposed agenda. But securing a global meeting would be such an important step forward for our efforts to tackle road traffic injury that I do hope the Inland Transport Committee will be able to give its support, in principle, to the proposal.

With much appreciation for your consideration and support,

Fuad Al Hinai

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations