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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Eighty-sixth session**

Geneva, 20-23 February 2024

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Inland Transport Committee Road Safety Forum****Inland Transport Committee Road Safety Forum –  
High-level Side Event****Note by the secretariat**

1. Despite strong and consistent efforts by United Nations Member States, the international community was not able to achieve by 2020 the target of the Sustainable Development Goals on road safety as evidenced by increasing, rather than decreasing, road fatalities and injuries globally. In response, the General Assembly adopted on 31 August 2020, resolution 74/299 on Improving global road safety. The resolution inaugurated the second Decade of Action for Road Safety, setting new ambitious goals, supported by the launch in 2021 of a new Global Plan of Action as a guiding document to support the implementation of its objectives. Both milestones recognize the unique and critical role of ECE and the Inland Transport Committee (ITC).

2. The ITC Road Safety Forum's objective is to provide a structured platform that will bring together key worldwide stakeholders for a regular and strategic discussion on progress achieved, remaining challenges and the way forward for the success of the second Decade of Action and the implementation of its Global Plan of Action (ECE/TRANS/2023/36). This year's Road Safety Forum will capitalize on the key directions of the High-level Road Safety Forum Side Event in the areas of Road Safety Management and Road Safety Expertise (ECE/TRANS/2024/7). This event, comprised of two panel discussions, will be organized in conjunction with the High-level Segment of the eighty-six plenary session of ITC.

3. Based on the ITC Recommendations on Enhancing National Road Safety Systems (ECE/TRANS/2020/9), Road Safety Management, or the bridging pillar, action may focus on target setting, vertical (safe user, safe vehicles, safe road and effective post-crash response) and horizontal (legislation, enforcement, education, technology, and international regulatory approach) management as well as monitoring. Further action under this pillar can focus on coordination with other efforts linked to ensuring high-quality living conditions and mobility of the population covered through land use planning policies and mobility policies. While the work across the vertical pillars and horizontal areas will be done by specific bodies, coordination of their work through road safety management may be enhanced by setting up the lead agency/agencies for road safety or designating a ministry to coordinate road safety, or it may be ensured by the national government.

4. The first panel will discuss success stories and best practice examples towards strengthening capabilities among less successful countries with focus on low- and middle-income countries to achieve their goals under the second Decade of Action.

5. The second panel will address the crucial demand for high-quality experts in all pillars of national road safety systems, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The panel session will invite ECE Working Party members to participate in the United Nations Road Safety Fund's efforts to connect experts who are capable of sharing expertise through hands-on assistance in low- and middle-income countries, creating a collaborative bridge between the ECE region and the Global South.

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