

Summary Report: First in-person meeting of the Global Network of Heads of National Road Safety Agencies

Stockholm, Sweden. June 28-29, 2023

The first in-person meeting of the Global Network of Heads of National Road Safety Agencies was held in Stockholm on 28-29 June 2023. 150 people participated, with representatives from 80 countries.

WHO provides a secretariat for the Network, which supports lead road safety agencies to establish and implement national road safety strategies that advance efforts to meet the goal of halving road crash deaths and injuries by 2030, as set out in the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030.

Held following the Vision Zero Conference on Road Safety hosted by the Swedish government, plenary sessions, panels and discussion groups were structured around the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030, and the role of national road safety agencies in realizing this vision.

Sessions included results-focused strategic planning, coordination with partners, the safe system approach and sustainable financing. Discussions were held covering the scope, purpose, and activities of the Network and implementing the Global Plan. Side events were held for all WHO regions.

Key Points and Recommendations

Participants saw strong value in the Network which can:

- Facilitate information exchange among road safety agencies, WHO and other international organizations and partners.
- Provide opportunities for regional exchange among countries with similar contexts or challenges.
- Undertake a mapping exercise of technical resources and initiatives that are designed to support road safety management, including models for the sharing of best practices and capacity building,
- Establish a common framework and identify mechanisms for the routine monitoring of progress (based on the indicators assessed in the Global Status Report for Road Safety 2023) in order to identify issues that prevent countries achieving the Global Plan targets.
- Provide a platform for gathering best practices on road safety data management across multiple sectors, including the police, health and transport.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution, but the Network, including regional and bilateral arrangements for the Heads of National Road Safety Agencies, was recognized as valuable platform for collaboration.

Peer-to-peer matching between countries was seen as an effective way to share knowledge and experience moving within the framework of the Network.



Participants highlighted the crucial role of coordination. Lead road safety agencies must work with a range of sectors. They must work together to leverage technology, and to apply data-driven approaches.

The safe system approach was recognized as vital, with road safety strategies that emphasize the modal shift, safe infrastructure, vehicle safety, safer behaviours and post-crash response - as described in the Global Plan - to advance progress in meeting the global road safety targets for 2030.

However, in order to be able to deliver improved road safety effective leadership and management functions needs to be in place. Good data is key. Accurate and standardized data are vital for effective road safety planning and implementation. Establishing strong institutions to manage and analyze this data is crucial. Evidence-based road safety strategies require data on crashes, casualties and safety performance indicators.

Sustainable financing is needed. Long-term investments will secure systematic and successful impact. Government funding through general taxation, fuel taxes and charges are major funding sources.

Road safety is complex and requires a whole-of-government approach, as well as the engagement of a range of stakeholders at all levels. None can take full responsibility for achieving the global 2030 target, but all have a role. To ensure road safety is discussed in wider policy and advocacy forums, including those around climate change and sustainable development, it may help to adopt the language of sustainable and equitable mobility, rather than speaking only of road safety.

Next Steps

The Network will meet again alongside the 4th Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Morocco in 2025. Until then, there will be opportunities for the agency heads to convene at regional road safety events including the Foro Internacional de Seguridad Vial Infantil (FISEVI) in El Salvador in April 2024 and the World Congress for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in India in September 2024.

The Fifth Global Status Report on Road Safety will be released in December 2023. The WHO secretariat will explore opportunities to organize a series of events for the Network to share information and analysis based on the global report.

There are several international capacity building initiatives which could be of value to the Network. WHO and its partners will explore the opportunities to organize a global and / or regional meetings with representatives from the Network and those who deliver capacity building activities. WHO will facilitate peer to peer learning between countries through in person and virtual modalities.

The capacity support will target the specific challenges identified by the agency heads at the Stockholm meeting and through other fora and sources, including a study conducted on road safety lead agencies by WHO, and a consultation by WHO with heads of 50 road safety lead agencies in December 2022 that revealed gaps in coordination effectiveness and efficiency related to key areas such as planning and delivering multisectoral national and local road safety strategies and action plans, establishing and maintaining comprehensive data systems, monitoring and evaluating road safety programmes, and managing inter-institutional relationships.