

## **UN Road Safety Fund Celebrates the 1<sup>st</sup> World Sustainable Transport Day, 26 November**

Remarks by Nneka Henry, Head of the UN Road Safety Fund Secretariat

Given that today is about how to build a more sustainable future, I would like to share how the partners of the UN Road Safety Fund are collaborating to ensure development dividends for both safer transport as well as greener transport. In so doing, allow me to highlight three programmes that UN Road Safety Fund partners are working on in partnership with governments:

### Reducing Speed

I would like to first mention research indicating that reducing speed by a few km/h can greatly reduce the risks of and severity of crashes. Evidence shows that every 1% increase in average speed results in 4% more fatal crashes. There are also some studies that show lower speed roads can also help reduce emissions, fuel consumption and noise. And, that driving a vehicle with an internal combustion engine at 120 km/h burns 20% more fuel than driving the same distance at 100 km/h.

Through the UN Road Safety Fund, our partners provide technical knowledge, legislative advice and training on how to use best practices and appropriate equipment to ensure speed management enforcement in Argentina, Brazil and the Philippines. Though our primary aim is to reduce fatal crashes, we also welcome these important environmental benefits.

### Active Mobility

Secondly, many of today's 1.3 million road fatalities are pedestrians and cyclists are due to a lack of safe road infrastructure. Investing in safe road design can help reduce these risks. Cities contribute 70% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and 21% of these is linked to urban motorized transport. Shifting to walking, cycling and use of more fuel-efficient public transport can support global efforts to decarbonize transport.

Because of increasing demand in African cities, UN-Habitat and other UN Road Safety Fund partners are working with municipalities, youth and community leaders to "Reclaim Streets for Pedestrians and Cyclists" in Nigeria, Mozambique, Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Guinea and several others in the pipeline. Our support includes the use of online gaming, street redesigns, as well as legislative advice on urban policy changes.

### Safer Cleaner Used Vehicles

As a final example, UN Road Safety Fund partners, UNEP and UNECE, have been rolling out support to governments in Africa, Asia and the Americas to adopt harmonized used vehicle importation regulations which improve the safety and emissions standards of imported used vehicles. Based on UN vehicle regulations and international emissions standards, our partners work to inform, influence and introduce harmonized change and technical capacity building linked to the relevant aspects of national regulatory systems across countries.

To conclude, I would like to mention three ingredients which would further these types of "multiple development dividend" road safety programmes:

1. Encourage city-to-city exchange on how to implement lower speed streets.
2. Engage with governments on domestic policy and budgetary considerations to finance road infrastructure that make it safe for active and more inclusive mobility.
3. Embrace private sector partnerships - corporations have some of the largest owned or contracted fleets. Through partnership we can better ensure safer vehicles and drivers on our streets.

Thank you.