REPORT

ESCWA/WHO/GRSP JOINT WORKSHOP
FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR
THE FIRST UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK
CAIRO, 20-21 DECEMBER 2006

Summary

The Joint Workshop for Capacity-Building of the National Focal Points for the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week was organized by the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP). The objective was to enhance the knowledge and skills on the use and adaptation of a toolkit, namely, a guide developed by the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration (UNRSC) to help plan events during the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week, and present a manual for the establishment of national multi-sectoral committees on road safety. In addition, discussions were held on the coordination of activities with a view to adopting a single activity to be the focus in all member countries during the Week.

Specifically, discussions focused on the following: (a) reviewing ESCWA activities on road safety; (b) reviewing road safety activities organized by other participating agencies; (c) presenting a toolkit for the Global Road Safety Week; (d) presenting a manual on establishing national multi-sectoral committees on road safety; (e) and exchanging views among ESCWA member countries on their experiences establishing those committees and the proposed activities for the Global Road Safety Week.

Recommendations were reached with regard to the preparation for the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week and the establishment of national multi-sectoral committees on road safety.
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I. RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY THE WORKSHOP

1. The Workshop proposed the following recommendations, which were adopted in Cairo on 20 and 21 December 2006:

(a) Execute the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week, scheduled to be held from 23 to 29 April 2007;
   (i) Use toolkit, posters and other WHO publicity material;
   (ii) Select a focus area, for example children or young drivers;
   (iii) Raise awareness by observing a one-minute silence;
   (iv) Consider use of GRSP to launch an activity.

(b) Involve dignitaries and high-profile personalities to promote events leading up to and during the Week, as well as the FIA-F Report from the third meeting of UNRSC, held in London on 14 and 15 November 2005 and hosted by the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society, to convince decision makers;

(c) Invite a young delegate from each ESCWA member country to the World Youth Assembly, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 23 April 2007;

(d) Emphasize and promote activities to be taking place during the Week to the press and other media;

(e) Organize cooperation; start on a national level, then expand internationally;

(f) Use ESCWA and WHO as central office for exchange;

(g) Apply and report ESCWA road safety management (RSM) principles;

(h) Analyze the situation in each ESCWA member country and compare the results with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) checklist;

   (i) Make a plan, including timelines and tasks, and execute the plan;

(j) Use examples from the region:
   (i) Riyadh Development Authority Road Safety Plan;
   (ii) Jordan Traffic Institute and database;
   (iii) Bahrain International Circuit.

(k) Apply WHO manuals;

(l) Execute United Nations resolutions on road safety;

(m) Involve the private sector and society, invite cooperation and set up joint activities;

(n) Convene additional conferences and encourage cooperation;

(o) Involve the health sector in injury prevention;

(p) Exchange road safety plans, as well as success stories and good practices;

(q) Analyze role and working methods of the national multi-sectoral committees on road safety;

(r) Organize panel discussions with officials from the national committees on road safety;

(s) Organize data benchmarking in the region under the patronage of ESCWA;

(t) Organize regional workshops and training sessions on specific topics.
II. ADOPTED ACTIVITIES

2. A round-table discussion with regard to the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week was conducted, which resulted in a list of recommendations and main conclusions being presented. In addition, a series of proposed activities for the Week were explored and further debated. A second round-table discussion on road safety management (RSM) was also conducted, and selected video films shown.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

3. The Joint Workshop for the Capacity-Building of the National Focal Points for the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week (Cairo, 20-21 December 2006) was organized by ESCWA, WHO and GRSP. A list of documents of the Workshop is attached in annex II.

4. The Workshop was attended by ESCWA and WHO focal points for the Week and officials of ESCWA member countries responsible for road safety policy making. Other participants included representatives from health and emergency services and civil society organizations dealing with road safety. A list of participants is attached in annex I.

5. The Workshop was opened jointly by Mr. Syed Jaffar Hussain, WHO regional advisor; Mr. Bassam Anani, ESCWA first economic affairs officer; and Mr. Peter M.W. Elsenaar, GRSP senior advisor.

6. Mr. Bassam Anani, first economic affairs officer at ESCWA, briefed the meeting on the recent ESCWA publication *Assessment of Road Safety in Selected ESCWA Member Countries*; activities undertaken in the ESCWA region following the Workshop on the Implementation of Good Practices in Road Traffic Safety held in Muscat on 28 and 29 November 2005; and the results of a questionnaire sent to ESCWA member countries on legislation on usage of seat belts and child restraints.

7. Mr. Syed Jaffar Hussain, regional advisor with WHO, gave an overview of the global road safety situation, including statistics on road fatalities and injuries. He presented proposed activities to be held during the Week, with emphasis on the World Youth Assembly for Road Safety in Geneva, Switzerland, on 23 April 2007. He encouraged WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) member countries to nominate youth representatives to that important assembly. Furthermore, he introduced the toolkit prepared by UNRSC to be used as a guide for the planning of events during the Week.

8. Toolkits, prepared both in the Arabic and English language, were distributed to the participants. Questions were raised by the participants, especially with regards to the acquisition of some promotional material indicated, including posters, video films, and media material.

9. Ms. Nelly Ghosseini, youth representative from Lebanon, gave a detailed presentation of the activities at the World Youth Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, on 23 and 24 October 2006. She also elaborated on the steps and activities undertaken in preparation for the Youth Declaration for Road Safety to be announced during the forthcoming World Youth Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, on 23 April 2007.

10. Mr. Soliman Kotob from the Automobile and Touring Club of Egypt presented the activities planned for the Week in that country.

11. Ms. Rita Cuypers, head of road safety at the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society, introduced the report and campaign *Make Roads Safe*, prepared by the FIA Commission for Global Road Safety, and listed the recommendations and objectives presented in the report. Ms. Cuypers emphasized the importance of the campaign, which has been initiated in several countries and is also planned for selected ESCWA member countries.

12. The focal points from participating ESCWA countries presented the current road safety situation in their respective countries and listed activities to be conducted during the Week. The Workshop requested the focal points to provide ESCWA and WHO/EMRO with an outline of the planned activities in their respective countries in order for programmes to be listed on the website prepared by WHO for the Global Road Safety
Week. It was emphasized that member countries should benefit from the experiences and planned activities of other countries in order to strengthen the outcome of the Week.

13. Extensive discussions were held regarding agreement on a single activity to be undertaken jointly by all participating countries during the Week. The activity should relate to the theme of the Week, namely, young drivers. It was pointed out that, due to varying road-safety problems in the countries concerned, agreement on one joint activity would be difficult. It was decided to let each member country determine an appropriate main activity to be undertaken during the Week based on the local situation and experience.

14. Helmet Safety Guide, a manual prepared by UNRSC, was distributed to the participants for their proposed use, especially in those countries where motorcycles and bicycles are common means of transport.

15. Mr. Ziad Akl from the Youth Association for Social Awareness (YASA) introduced the organization and presented the activities YASA carries out in the field of road safety. YASA is active in capacity-building and cooperates with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as with academic institutions and police departments. Mr. Akl made some recommendations regarding improving global cooperation in the field of road safety, as well as road accident data collection, driver licensing and education.

16. Mr. Peter Elsenaar, senior advisor at GRSP, introduced the realm of activities which GRSP undertakes in the field of road safety, as well as other global activities. The presentation focused on RSM and its broad application and effectiveness in addressing national road safety issues. Mr. Elsenaar introduced several examples of applications of RSM in various countries, including Ghana, India, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Poland. In the ESCWA region, he commended the case study of the city of Riyadh, and explained how RSM resulted in appreciable improvement in the road safety situation there. His conclusions regarding RSM focused on the need for dedicated road safety organizations and national road safety bodies to be established; accurate data collection techniques and analysis to be implemented; and active involvement by and funding from both the public and private sectors to be encouraged. In addition, Mr. Elsenaar discussed the various manuals under preparation by UNRSC and the Road Traffic Injury Prevention Training Manual prepared by WHO.

17. Case studies on national committees on road safety and RSM were presented by Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates. They focused on the experience gained from and the problems faced by the establishment of such committees. The case study of Riyadh Development Authority, was highlighted as a successful example of how a comprehensive road safety strategy can result in significantly reducing road accidents.

18. A round-table discussion took place concerning RSM and the preparations for the Week. A list of recommendations was drafted and presented to the participants for discussion and approval.

19. The participants debated the feasibility of establishing a regional partnership for road safety. However, because the participants were not in full agreement about the proposal, it was decided to postpone it until after further discussion at a later meeting.
Annex 1

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Annex II

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