Honorable ministers, distinguished delegates, representatives of civil society, academic institutions, philanthropic foundations, and the private sector, ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed an honor that the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety has been held in the Region of the Americas. This meeting, themed ´Time for Results´ comes at a pivotal time in our history. The Sustainable Development Goals were adopted 2 short months ago and include road safety within 2 goals. Goal 3.6 calls on Member States to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes by 2020, and Goal 11.2 calls for the provision of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all by 2030. These are very major commitments that Countries have agreed to.

Over the past two days 2246 representatives of civil society, academia, the private sector and governments representing 116 countries, have met here in Brasilia with the common goal of intensifying our efforts to reduce the burden of injury, disability and mortality due to traffic injuries.

Our efforts have led to the Brasilia Declaration which has:
• recommended actions to promote safer roads and the use of sustainable modes of transportation;
• recommended actions to protect vulnerable road users (and we are aware that pedestrians and motorcyclists are at particular risk of traffic injuries and death);
• recommended actions to develop and promote safer vehicles;
• recommended actions to increase awareness and build capacity of road users;
• recommended actions to improve post-cash response and rehabilitation services (and much of the disparity in outcomes of traffic accidents between high and low- and middle-income countries is due to inadequate emergency care services) and
• recommended actions to strengthen cooperation and coordination towards global safety.

This Declaration represents yet another major development in road safety. We must however, acknowledge the caution shared by Zoleka Mandela, who is reminded every day of the daughter who is no longer with her as a result of the actions of a drunk driver. She reminded us that there is a human face behind the statistics. Zoleka charged us not to allow this meeting to become ‘an empty talking shop’. It is therefore our challenge to act. We have reached a turning point in our approach to road safety and sustainable mobility, which are now firmly mainstreamed into the health agenda.

How can we act; we know what to do, and we must ensure the full implementation of proven interventions. We must no longer accept that motor vehicular users are not required to always wear seat belts and that infants are not secured by restraints; We must not allow vehicles to exceed speed limits or indeed that appropriate speed limits are not set or enforced; nor should we tolerate drinking and driving. Laws must be fully
implemented and enforced. And we should also no longer tolerate driving and cell phone use. Additionally we must say no to unsafe cars, and insist on the full implementation of helmet use for cyclists. We must also work collaboratively to build better cities and safe reliable mass transportation systems to promote health and well being of citizens. Roads are integral part of modern life which bring many benefits, but progress in transportation and road infrastructure must not come at the cost of injury or loss of life. There should be no road that is not a safe road.

We all have our roles to play: Governments have to implement laws and regulations, as well as infrastructure and oversight agencies to ensure enforcement to protect citizens, as well as to ensure accessible and sustainable transport systems for all. PAHO and WHO have the responsibility to establish standards and norms, educate and promote health, convene the various actors to share experiences and best practices, measure progress and report on achievement of targets, and work closely with governments to ensure advances. Civil society has the responsibility to advocate on behalf of society, and to ensure that citizens’ needs and expectations are prioritized and met. We all have to work collaboratively to advance the goals that we have set, and to ensure that we meet the targets. The time to act is now.

In closing PAHO and WHO thank the Government of Brazil for organizing and hosting this event and especially for its leadership role in framing the Brasilia Declaration.

Thank you.