

Latin American and Caribbean Road Safety Stakeholders Forum

September 12-14, 2006
San José, Costa Rica

The Global Road Safety Forum, a partnership of organizations committed to road safety, is pleased to announce the first Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Road Safety Stakeholders Forum. This forum responds to the United Nations' mandate to promote regional collaboration for controlling the rapidly growing epidemic of road traffic injuries.

Road Traffic Injuries are a Tremendous Burden for All Countries, Especially Latin America and the Caribbean

Road crashes kill over 1.2 million people each year globally and 20-50 million are seriously injured or disabled, with more than 85% of these deaths and injuries occurring in low- and middle-income countries. Still, most people are unaware that road traffic injuries (RTIs) are a leading cause of death and disability.

Crashes are much more likely to be fatal in developing countries where vulnerable road users are often unprotected, poor road construction may be inherently unsafe, and dangerous road behaviors may be common. In 2000, the Latin American region had an average per-capita road traffic fatality rate of 26.1 deaths/100,000 population, **the highest in the world**¹. Projections indicate that by 2020, the crash death rate in the region will still remain the highest.

Most crash victims are the primary source of household income and when injured or killed, their families are left without economic support. In addition, those who survive often need immediate hospital care and many are left permanently disabled, becoming a burden to family and society. As a result, RTIs impose substantial economic costs on developing nations, often exceeding the total development assistance they receive each year.

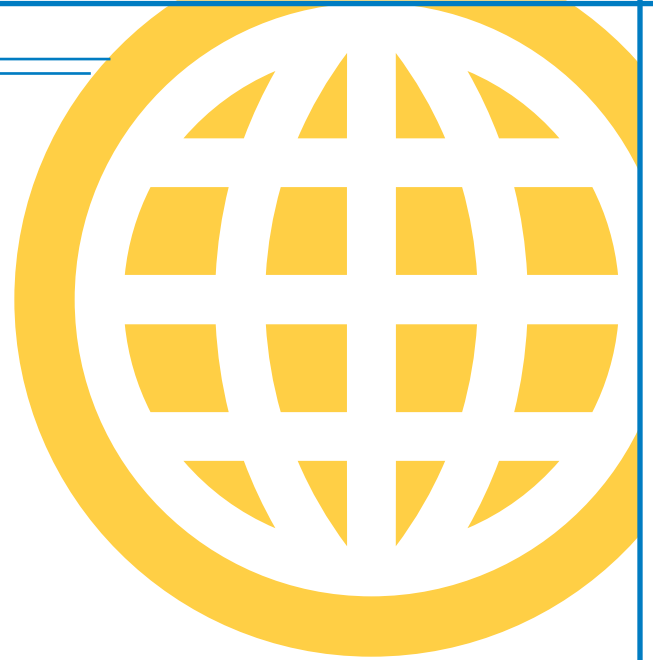
The Latin American and Caribbean Stakeholders Forum is an Opportunity to Come Together to Take Action

The LAC Stakeholders Forum will bring together key players from all relevant parts of government (including transportation, health, law enforcement, education, finance, and urban planning), civil society (including advocacy organizations, the press, academia, foundations, automobile clubs, and professional organizations), and the private sector (including road builders, automobile manufacturers, motor vehicle product manufacturers, and commercial road users). The meeting will help to organize ongoing national, regional, and global collaborative efforts to implement the recommendations of the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention* in this region, including strengthening national road safety agencies, improving surveillance and data collection, strengthening communication, building political will and committing resources for road safety, implementing good practices, strengthening law enforcement, and promoting knowledge sharing and international cooperation

Specific goals for the meeting are to:

- Organize a regional, multi-sectoral approach to road safety in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Integrate the relevant areas of government, civil society, and the private sector
- Accelerate national plans and road safety programs throughout the region
- Develop a regional knowledge sharing network

¹ *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention, 2004*



Meeting participants will work together on ways to:

- Build political will for reducing deaths and disability from road traffic injuries and plan for a meeting of Health and Transport Ministers in the near future
- Set national and regional targets for road safety
- Develop a regional road safety information system for surveillance and monitoring
- Design a communications campaign to help mobilize demand for road safety and strengthen political will
- Share lessons learned and build road safety relationships across the region

Registration Information

There is no cost to attend the conference. Registration includes admission to a welcome reception, keynote lunches and dinners, a cultural presentation, all general sessions, the awards ceremony dinner with Prince Michael of Kent, and a full day of training sessions. Please anticipate approximately \$100 USD daily for lodging expense at the hotel where the conference will be held. Please e-mail us at roadsafety@taskforce.org to register or to indicate your interest in attending. In your reply, please send your name, e-mail address, mail address, phone number, organization, and position in your organization.

Please register as early as possible as space is limited. For further information contact Margaret or Jessica.

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Sponsoring Institutions:

COSEVI (National Road Safety Council of Costa Rica)

ECLAC/CEPAL (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean)

The FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society

The Inter-American Development Bank

PAHO (Pan American Health Organization)

The World Bank

The Global Road Safety Forum

