Thank you, Etienne,

Good afternoon colleagues,

I am very happy to be here with you again in Geneva.

A lot has happened since the last UN Road Safety Collaboration meeting in April:

- Of most significance, we had the successful adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution on Improving Global Road Safety. One of the strongest adopted yet, with much thanks to the work of everyone around the table here today.

  Importantly, the resolution gave the go-ahead to explore the establishment of a dedicated UN Road Safety Fund. A development which will hopefully help to attract much needed new resources for the cause.

  Between 2012 and 2014, it has been estimated that HIV/AIDS attracted 1,000 times more funds than road safety. And the comparison with other scourges like malaria and tuberculosis is in a similar order of magnitude. We can learn from their example. If they have managed to raise awareness and funding, I have no doubt that we can do the same.

  Christian and his team have been working hard to bring this proposal to life, and should be congratulated for all their work. For the first time, the draft paper they have put together provides a very clear indication of the
amount of funding required; the potential uses of the funding; key partners; and the governance framework.

There is hard work ahead to convince Member States and others to contribute to the Fund, and the support of everyone here today will be critical to success. The Global Sustainable Transport Conference, hosted by the UN Secretary-General in Turkmenistan next month, will be a first opportunity to present the proposal to Member States.

Christian will be able to tell you more shortly on this important development.

➢ An important part of my mandate as Special Envoy is to promote accession to the UN legal instruments. In meetings with governments over the last six months I have continually sought to encourage governments to put in place those common standards and laws that can protect their citizens from road traffic injuries and deaths.

➢ Although progress can be sometimes frustratingly slow, I do see real progress being made:

  o To take one example, in Ecuador, the Minister of Foreign Exports was proud to share with me a new regulation, passed just a few days before my visit, that aims to address the standards on the vehicles imported.

    I also visited the 911 surveillance, coordination and response center which had 100 percent coverage across the country, including the Galapagos with a national average response time of 14 min after a crash.

    I saw true partnership between the police, ministries of transport and health, and others as they worked day and night to provide the response their citizens need. Ecuador still has a long way to go, but is moving in the right direction.
Many of you were present for the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat 3, in Quito.

It was another win for our cause as road safety was highlighted in the New Urban Agenda as never before and that is again thanks to many of us here to today who made their voice heard during the negotiation process.

The New Urban Agenda sets forth a great vision for sustainable mobility and transport. One that includes road safety as a key consideration in urban planning and infrastructure design. It highlights the importance of awareness raising campaigns. It addresses vulnerable road users such as children, cyclists and pedestrians. It paints a future where every child, regardless of where they live, can have a safe journey to school, whether it is by foot, public transport, or as passengers in motor vehicles.

Road safety in the urban environment requires special consideration: it is essential to address the growing number of vehicles that will inhabit urban areas, to promote the development of mass transit, which must of course be safe, as well as to better integrate safety considerations into transport and land use planning.

Congratulations to all of you again for doing so much to further raise visibility on the issue.

We plan to do the same during the first-ever Global Sustainable Transport Conference which will be hosted by the UN Secretary-General in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan at the end of the month.

As Special Envoy, I have been invited to highlight road safety during the plenary and thematic sessions and will also host a Side Event with UNECE on the UN Road Safety Conventions, in which the WHO will also participate.

This conference again will provide an opportunity to ensure that road safety does not go unforgotten during these discussions. Road Safety must be part and parcel of sustainable transport and a basic condition for a sustainable world.
We will also be hosting a regional road safety workshop for Anglophone Africa next month in Nairobi in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the World Bank, the National Traffic Safety Authority of Kenya.

This will be an opportunity to promote UN Road Safety Conventions and also to address the topics of road safety data during which the WHO has been invited to speak, among other partners. We are expecting representation from 15 countries and this includes a few NGOs.

Thank you again for your all of your efforts to further our cause. I have seen great recognition of the issue among individuals, NGOs, companies, UN agencies and high-level individuals around the world, and know that we will see that support again on Sunday for the World Day of Remembrance for Traffic Victims.

I know we are making progress, and look forward to continuing to build a strong partnership as we move forward.

Thank you.