Background: Following adoption of several World Health Assembly and UN General Assembly resolutions on violence and injury prevention, WHO has supported Ministry of Health focal points for more than a decade by developing tools and resources, providing technical support and facilitating the sharing of information and best practices. In this regard, WHO has organized several global and regional meetings of Ministry of Health focal points. The four previous global meetings (South Africa 2006, Mexico 2008, United Kingdom 2010 and Finland 2016) have been held in connection with editions of the series of World Conferences on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion to also encourage the participation of Ministry of Health focal points in these World Conferences.

Since then, a number of SDGs have been adopted with specific targets related to violence prevention and road traffic injury prevention. These include:

- SDG target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- SDG target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- SDG target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- SDG target 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- SDG target 3.6: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes

Furthermore, WHO’s 13th General Programme of Work 2019-2023 is keyed to the SDGs and includes targets linked to violence prevention and road safety. Additionally, the 2016 World Health Assembly adopted resolutions on “Global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health sector within a multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children” and “Addressing the challenges of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011–2020): outcome of the second Global High-level Conference on Road Safety – Time for Results”. In November 2017, Member States also reached consensus on a comprehensive set of global road safety targets, with related indicators currently under development.

Goal: The goal of the 5th Global Meeting of Ministry of Health Focal Points for Violence and Injury Prevention is to catalyze national and regional action to achieve the violence and injury prevention targets reflected in the SDGs and the WHO General Programme of Work 2019-2023.

Objectives: The objectives are to:

- develop an agenda for achieving the violence and injury prevention targets reflected in the SDGs and the WHO General Programme of Work 2019-2023
- clarify the role of Ministry of Health focal points in violence and injury prevention
- determine how Ministry of Health focal points and WHO will work together to prevent violence and injuries
- familiarize the Ministry of Health focal points with the latest WHO technical guidance and other products and tools for violence and injury prevention
- build national capacities through participation in the meeting and Safety 2018*

Participants: Formally identified Ministry of Health focal points for violence and injury prevention from all Member States will be invited to attend, along with WHO colleagues from all levels of the Organization. In addition Heads of WHO Collaborating Centres and representatives of NGOs in Official Relations whose organizations address violence and injury prevention will also be invited. It is anticipated that there will be around 150 participants, the majority from low- and middle-income countries.

Organization: The meeting will be hosted jointly by WHO and the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand. WHO headquarters colleagues working on violence and injury prevention will organize the meeting, in close collaboration with their WHO regional office counterparts.

Agenda: The agenda will likely involve the following:
- presentation and working group discussions on opportunities for advancing violence and injury prevention within WHO’s General Programme of Work 2019-2023
- working group discussions on implementing WHO technical packages in low- and middle-income countries
- presentation and discussion on the role of Ministries of Health in preventing violence and injuries
- updates on future global and regional violence and injury prevention activities
- regional meetings of Ministry of Health focal points (one half day)

All sessions will be jointly chaired and facilitated by Ministry of Health focal points and WHO colleagues. Country experiences and/or case studies will be provided by both Ministry of Health focal points and WHO colleagues. Interpretation will be provided in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Costs: All Ministry of Health focal points from high-income countries and some Ministry of Health focal points from middle-income countries will cover their own costs for participation in this meeting and Safety 2018. With funding from WHO headquarters, WHO regional offices will support the travel and per diem costs for Ministry of Health focal points from other select low- and middle-income countries for this meeting and the duration of Safety 2018. Registration fees for Safety 2018 will be waived for Ministry of Health focal points from low- and middle-income countries. In addition some Ministry of Health focal points may have received scholarships to attend Safety 2018.

*Safety 2018, the 13th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, will be held on 5-7 November 2018 also in Bangkok, Thailand.