Feedback on the Draft WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Regional Consultation on the Global Action Plan on Physical Activity for the Americas Region on 14-15 September.

Overall, we are strongly in favor of the clear link between physical activity and active environments, including safe opportunities for active transport, promoted in this action plan.

For further development of parameters for creating safe street environments, we recommend referring to our publication “Cities Safer by Design.”

In addition, we have some suggestions for minor revisions of the document text, which are summarized below:

Objective 2, Action 1

Paragraph 80: Suggest adding “…increase the presence and level of service…”

Paragraph 80: Suggest adding here or as an additional point “particularly, a safe and healthy journey to school should be provided.” This language would be consistent with the New Urban Agenda passed by the United Nations.

Paragraph 83: Suggest adding: “…mandate and implement urban design and land use policy…”

Paragraph 85: Suggest adding “…land use strategies and design interventions…”

Paragraph 89: Suggest revising for clarity

Paragraph 90: Suggest adding “…integrate walkability and public transport…”

Objective 2, Action 2

Paragraph 91: Suggest adding “safe systems” in addition to or instead of Vision Zero, as safe systems is the foundational concept behind Vision Zero policies, and is endorsed by the WHO and the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility.

Paragraph 91: Suggest specifying that the speed limits listed are the recommended maximums – lower speed limits can be acceptable too, and local authorities should be delegated to set these as necessary.

Paragraph 92: Suggest breaking this into two separate concepts and actions:
- Effective education and social marketing campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of road injury risk factors amongst road users
- Capacity building programs for city officials, road safety, transport, health and other practitioners related to road safety and active transport to increase understanding of the safe systems approach to road safety, and the links between increased safety and active transport

**Objective 3, Action 1**

Paragraph 108: Suggest that reference is made to the development and implementation of an Active Transport curriculum (in addition to the regular physical education curriculum) to teach children how to ride a bicycle, what the traffic regulations are, and how to navigate the streets safely while walking and biking. This could be integrated into paragraph 108, or included as an additional action point.