Input to WHO Global Conference on Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs):
Pursuing policy coherence to achieve SDG target 3.4
Submission by the Global Initiative for Child Health and Mobility and the FIA Foundation

We welcome the content of the draft Outcome Document for the WHO Global Conference on NCDs. We urge Member States to include focus on a safe, clean and sustainable mobility as interconnected priorities essential in achieving health gains to reduce premature deaths from NCDs. This is particularly critical for children and adolescents vulnerable to air pollution and road traffic injury who, along with the wider population, should be ensured a safe and low-emission environment to enable walking, cycling, and exercise.

We strongly recommend the language in red, below, to be added to the paragraphs below.

13. We will better measure and respond to the critical differences in specific risk factors and determinants affecting morbidity and mortality from NCDs for children, adolescents, women and men across the life course, and pursue and promote gender-based approaches for the prevention and control of NCDs to address these critical differences. We call on WHO to prepare a technical report that examines how countries can pursue and promote gender-based approaches, and a further report on child and adolescent focused approaches for the prevention and control of NCDs.

18. We acknowledge that influencing public policies in sectors beyond health is essential in achieving health gains to reduce premature deaths from NCDs. In addition, we recognize the interconnectedness between the prevention and control of NCDs and the achievement of the SDGs beyond 3.4, including targets related to poverty, substance abuse, nutrition, death related environmental exposure, safe and clean mobility, sustainable cities and others. Furthermore, we acknowledge connections also with the New Urban Agenda particularly on priorities such as the commitment to a safe and healthy journey to school for every child. Coordinated upstream action across sectors, including agriculture, environment, industry, trade and finance, education, and urban planning will help to create a healthy, enabling environment that promotes policy coherence and supports healthy behaviours and lifestyles. It is the role of the health sector to advocate for these actions, present evidence-based information, support health impact assessments and provide policy reviews and analyses on how decisions impact health, including implementation research. We therefore commit to strong leadership and to ensure collaboration among sectors to implement policies to achieve shared goals.

27. We acknowledge the importance of road safety and environmental risk factors and the inter linkage of SDG targets 3.4, 3.6 and 3.9. We will promote actions that are mutually reinforcing and support achievement of these targets, such as reducing vehicle fuel emissions to improve air quality, facilitating safe and active mobility including walking and cycling, and providing children with a safe and healthy journey to school.