WHO hosted the Leadership council of the Global Network for Road Safety Legislators annual meeting in Geneva on 13-14 December 2018.

The meeting was opened by Dr Etienne Krug, Director of WHO’s Department for the Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disabilities, Violence and Injury Prevention and chaired by Mr Barry Sheerman, member of the UK parliament and Chair of the Global Network for Road Safety Legislators since 2016.

The 35 participants in the meeting included Members of Parliament representing 12 countries. Observers included, Lord George Roberson, Member of the House of Lords and Chairman of the FIA Foundation; Mr François Bausch, Luxemburg’s Minister of Mobility and Public Works; H.E. Mr Pierre-Louis Lorenz, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations Office in Geneva; Mr Matthew Baldwin, European Coordinator for Road Safety in the European Commission; and other representatives from the UN Special Envoy for Road Safety Secretariat, The World Bank, Towards Zero Foundation, and representatives of the UN missions of Philippines and Thailand in Geneva.

**Opening session**

In opening the meeting Dr Krug stressed the still high burden of road traffic fatalities globally reflected in the 2018 Global Status Report for Road Safety, its disproportionate impact on youth and adolescents, particularly in low and middle-income countries, and the need for leadership and action globally. Mr Barry Sheerman highlighted the need for partnerships across parliamentarians and parliaments and for a more regional focus on improving road safety by partnering with regional parliamentary organisations.
Remarks were given by Lord George Roberson and Mr François Bausch highlighting the lack of financial investment and attention that is commensurate with the burden of road traffic deaths when compared to other public health topics like malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. While recognising contributions from partners, speakers encouraged greater and innovative financial investments, and implementation of proven interventions that are adapted to country context, focusing on youth and adolescents and vulnerable road users and in regions bearing the greatest burden of road traffic deaths.

Mr David Ward, President and Chief Executive Officer, Towards Zero Foundation, provided an update of the activities of the Global Network in 2018, notably the participation of members of parliament as country delegates during the UN General Assembly debate on the 2018 Resolution on Improving Global Road Safety (A/RES/72/271) in New York, USA and the need for parliamentarians to engage with their national governments for high level, multisectoral delegation participation in the Third High Level Global Conference on Road Safety to be hosted by the Government of Sweden. Mr Ward highlighted the fact that the ambitious target of the SDG of halving road traffic deaths by 2020 will not be met and encouraged parliamentarians to continue calling for a new target for 2030 – already initiated by the Global Network delegation in New York (Appendix 1).

Regional updates

Since the launch of the Global Network in December 2016, two regional chapters have been formed, one in the African Region launched in July 2018 in Abuja and the other in the Eastern Mediterranean Region launched in September 2018 in Amman. Mr Rajabu Adadi, member of parliament in Tanzania and Chair of the African Regional Network for Road Safety Legislators gave an update on the regional launch and the need for capacity building, the importance of partnering with regional bodies to advocate and strengthen road safety laws, policies and implementation practices, and strong collaboration between English-speaking and French-speaking African countries. He also provided the example of the all-party friends of road safety parliamentary group formed in Tanzania as a mechanism for working across party lines to push for road safety in the country (Appendix 1). Dr Hala Abou-Ali, co-chair of the Eastern Mediterranean Forum for Road Safety Legislators provided an update of the forum’s launch and participation of members of parliament in drafting the Regional Strategic Action Framework on acceleration action on global road safety targets, focusing on youth and adolescents, as an example of parliamentarians’ engagement and dialogue with multiple sectors on setting the road safety agenda (Appendix 3).

Mr Matthew Baldwin discussed the EU regional perspective on road safety, highlighting the recent collective stagnation in road traffic fatalities (although there is progress in some individual countries), the EU Commission’s recommendation for implementation of a Safe System’s approach across the EU, the importance of targets to measure success and multisectoral collaboration (Appendix 4).

Global status and activities

Dr Tran, Coordinator of Unintentional Injury Prevention shared findings of the 2018 Global Status Report for Road Safety and global events and advocacy opportunities such as the Fifth UN Global Road Safety Week, and the Global Voluntary Targets for Road Safety for Road Safety Risk Factors and Service Delivery
Mechanisms. The goal of the Week, which will be held from 6-12 May 2019, is to generate a demand from the public for stronger leadership for road safety worldwide. (Appendix 5 and Appendix 6).

Ms Priti Gautam Programme Management Officer in the Secretariat for the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety shared information about the UN Road Safety Trust Fund, governance, and opportunities for funding. More information about the Trust Fund is available at https://www.unece.org/unrstf/home.html.

Governance and future activities of the network

To ensure transparency and compliance with relevant WHO policies, the governance of the Global Network is set up during this meeting. Ms Evelyn Murphy, WHO Technical Officer moderated the discussion of the Global Network’s terms of reference and the formation a leadership council. Key points of these discussions included:

- open participation of any interested current members of parliament in the Global network;
- the importance of leadership council members to be current members of parliament at the time they take on the leadership role – with flexibility in the terms of reference to allow the individual’s parliament and the Global Network’s leadership to address changes when the individual is no longer a current member of parliament;
- representation of all regions within the Global Network’s leadership;
- that the leadership council be composed of chairs and co-chairs of current regional networks – where no regional network has been formed, members of parliament present selected a member representing a country in the region;
- to continue engaging with and encourage participation of former members of parliament in the Global Network as honorary ambassadors of the global network;
- commitment of the regional representatives of the Leadership council to strengthen existing regional networks and push for the formation of regional networks where there is currently a void in cooperation with WHO headquarters and its regional offices;
- promoting all-party friends of road safety groups in parliaments;
- hosting events and activities during the fifth UN Global Road Safety Week in their countries and in regions; and
- the need for members of parliament to push for inclusion of parliamentarians as part of their country delegates to the Third High Level Global Conference on Road Safety in Sweden – also to be included as key agenda item in 2019 Leadership Council meeting.
The following members of parliament were selected to be on the Leadership Council of the Global Network for Road Safety Legislators for a period of one year.

- African region: Mr Rajabu Adadi (Tanzania) and Mr Lucien Houngnibou (Benin).
- American region: Mr Hugo Leal (Brazil) and a second representative to be identified by Mr Leal.
- European region: Mr Barry Sheerman (UK) and Mr Carlo Back (Luxembourg)
- Eastern Mediterranean Region: Dr Sikandar Mandhro (Pakistan) and Dr Hala Abou-Ali (Egypt)
- Southeast Asia region: Mr Surachai Liengbunlertchai (Thailand) and Dr Ganesh Mandal (Nepal)
- Western Pacific region: Mr Cesar Sarmiento (Philippines). Mr O’Brien and/or Sen Gallacher were proposed to be confirmed upon acceptance.

The Leadership Council will continue to be chaired by Mr Barry Sheerman (UK). He will be supported by two vice-chairs, Dr Hala Abou-Ali (Egypt) and Mr Rajabu Adadi (Tanzania). Draft terms of reference of the Leadership Council is attached (Appendix 7).

Members of parliament provided an update of activities in their countries in 2018, including:

- Ms Naira Karapetyan (former MP, Armenia), highlighted the importance of swift and consistent enforcement.
- Mr Hugo Leal (MP Brazil) shared details of the National Plan of Action for the Reduction of Deaths and Injuries established by Law (PNATRANS) and the proposal to the new Brazilian government for the creation of a national road safety secretariat to coordinate and lead PNATRANS (Appendix 8);
- Mr François Bausch (Minister, Luxemburg) presented the road safety situation in the country, outcomes of implementation of National Action Plan on Road Safety 2014-2018 and the government’s Vision Zero strategy for 2018-2023 (Appendix 9).
- Dr Ganesh Mandal (Nepal) gave an overview of the status of road safety in the country and the priority areas in the country’s strategic action plan and stressed the high-level commitment from the Ministry Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, the lead agency working in collaboration with multiple sectors (Appendix 10);
- Mr Cesar Sarmiento (Philippines) highlighted the recent adoption of mandatory child restraint use law in parliament (Appendix 11);
- Mr Chanat Ratana-Ubol and Mr Nikorn Chamnong (Thailand) highlighted multisector collaboration and the importance of strong political will have played in pushing for legislative changes (Appendix 12 and Appendix 13, respectively).

The meeting was closed by Dr Krug and Mr Sheerman.

---

1 Armenia, Benin, Brazil, Egypt, Tanzania, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Thailand, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.