



Ms. Olga Algayerova
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Palais Des Nations
Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

15 August 2017

Dear Ms. Algayerova

RE: PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN ROAD SAFETY FUND

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the proposal for the establishment of a United Nations (UN) Road Safety Fund. On behalf of the Towards Zero Foundation (TZF), I am pleased to submit the following comments.

The TZF is fully supportive of the establishment of a UN Road Safety Fund to generate further support in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for road safety and “to move towards a world free from road traffic fatalities and serious injuries” (refer to General Assembly resolution 70/260 ‘Improving global road safety’). The vast majority of road deaths and serious injuries are predictable and preventable, and yet road safety is seriously underfunded. Investment on the scale of \$770 million per annum is urgently needed to scale up capacity building in effective road injury prevention. With road safety now recognised in the SDGs, there is no excuse for bilateral and multilateral donors, or major philanthropies to neglect the unacceptable level of death and serious injuries occurring every day on the world’s roads.

The TZF subscribes to the Safe System approach to road safety and believes that human life and health are paramount and no amount of trauma on the road is acceptable. The Safe System approach recognises that humans are both fallible and vulnerable and the road transport system should be designed in such a way to accommodate and mitigate any mistakes made to ensure death and serious injuries do not result.

The Safe System approach is widely accepted as the holistic way forward to reaching zero deaths and serious injuries. The TZF is pleased that the proposal recognises the importance of such a holistic approach. We would like the UNECE to go further and formally endorse the Safe System as the guiding principle for the future UN Road Safety Fund. This would be consistent with the OECD/International Transport Forum’s recommendations in the recent report ‘Zero Road Deaths and Serious Injuries: Leading a Paradigm Shift to a Safe System’. By adopting Safe System principles, the UNECE will help to ensure the effectiveness of the future grant making initiatives of the UN Road Safety Fund.



Over the years, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have played a particularly important role in helping advance road safety developments globally, and contributed to road trauma reductions in a number of different fields. In countries, NGOs are effective advocates and innovators that can help raise and promote awareness of road safety, as well as affect policy changes to achieve great road safety outcomes. The TZF encourages the UN Road Safety Fund to ensure that significant funding through this channel will also be made available to NGOs that can help champion road safety and further contribute to reducing death and serious injury on the roads.

The TZF welcomes the establishment of the fund and would be happy to help support the initiative in any way we can. We wish you every success and look forward to working with you to achieve the road safety goals together.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Truong", is positioned above the printed name.

Jessica Truong
Executive Director