

Head Office

3rd Floor, Forum II, Braam Park
33 Hoofd Street
Braamfontein, 2017
P O Box 31577
Braamfontein 2017
Tel : +27 (0)11 403 5603/4
Fax : +27 (0)11 403 7736
Fax/Email : 086 576 7952
E-mail : administrator@sarf.org.za
Web : www.sarf.org.za
Company Reg. 1993 007629/08
VAT No. 467 012 1898

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

MOSCOW DECLARATION

1. INTRODUCTION

On 19-20 November 2009 the Government of the Russian Federation hosted the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety. Requested by the UN General Assembly, the event represented a historic opportunity to make progress on tackling road safety as a leading cause of death and disability. As many as 1500 participants including ministers; representatives of UN agencies, civil society organizations and private companies attended the meeting which was opened by President Dmitry Medvedev. Participants called for action to address the large and growing global impact of road traffic crashes; reviewed progress on implementation of the World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention; and shared information and good practices on road safety.

The meeting culminated with the adoption of the Moscow Declaration which invites the UN General Assembly to declare a Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. In Resolution 62/244 adopted on 31st March 2008, the General Assembly not only endorsed the Moscow Ministerial but also agreed to debate road safety again during its forthcoming sixty-fourth session. The Assembly, therefore, has a clear mandate to consider the outcome of the Moscow Ministerial and adopt a new resolution that could endorse the Decade of Action and the 50% fatality reduction target. The Decade of Action for Road Safety would then have the same status as similar 'decades of action' on issues such as malaria.

2. THE MOSCOW DECLARATION

The Moscow Declaration, which is attached to this memo, clearly provides a very good background of the extent of the road safety challenges and the concern that more than 90% of road traffic deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries and that in these countries the most vulnerable are pedestrians, cyclists, users of motorized two- and three-wheelers and passengers on unsafe public transport. It acknowledges efforts by various stakeholders to promote implementation of best practices.

The Declaration also emphasizes that without appropriate action the problem will worsen and in the future, by the year 2020 road traffic deaths will become one of the leading causes of death particularly for low- and middle-income countries. The resolutions of particular interest for the SARF include:

- Make particular efforts to develop and implement policies and infrastructure solutions to protect all road users in particular those who are most vulnerable such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and users of unsafe public transport, as well as children, the elderly and people living with disabilities;

- Encourage collaborative action by fostering cooperation between relevant entities of public administrations, organizations of the United Nations system, private and public sectors, and with civil society;
- Encourage organizations to contribute actively to improving work-related road safety through adopting the use of best practices; and
- Improve national data collection and comparability at the international level, including by adopting the standard definition of a road death as any person killed immediately or dying within 30 days as a result of a road traffic crash and standard definitions of injury; and facilitating international cooperation to develop reliable and harmonized data systems.

The South African Road Federation want to make an urgent appeal to all its members to take the resolutions seriously and make special efforts to ensure that road infrastructure designs are safe irrespective of the requirements of the client bodies.