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Experts meeting on the road safety situation in Central Africa:

Status of implementation of the African Decade of Action for Road Safety Plan in Africa

Concept note

November 2015



1. Background and justification

In its report on the situation of global road safety published in 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) indicated that road accidents accounted for 1,200,000 deaths each year and 20 to 50 million cases of non-fatal injuries. According to the same report, more than 90 per cent of road accident-related deaths occurred in low-income or middle-income countries that accounted for only 48 per cent of the global vehicle fleet. The WHO predicted that by 2030, road accidents will move up from the ninth to the fifth cause of death. The poor state of roads and of vehicles and inappropriate behaviours by road users are the main causes of accidents.

In March 2010, the United Nations general Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/64/2551, proclaiming the 2010-2020 decade as the Decade of Action for Road Safety whose objective is to stabilize and reduce the number of deaths attributable to road accidents in the world and thus save five million lives during the said decade. Besides, the Resolution urged the WHO and United Nations regional commissions, in association with other partners of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration Group as well as other stakeholders, to design a global plan for the Decade to support the measures to be taken to attain set objectives. It also urged them to coordinate the regular monitoring of progress made in achieving defined objectives in the plan of action and to draft situation reports on road safety in the world.

Pursuant to the Resolution, a Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety was developed to serve as the basis for national and local plans of action, while at the same time providing the framework for coordination of activities at regional and global levels.

In Africa also, a continent-wide plan of action was developed during an experts meeting organized in November 2011 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union.

In 2013, the WHO published its report on road safety in the world according to which road accidents rank in the 8th position of the global causes of death by injury and constitute the main cause of death among young people aged 15 to 29 years.

The 2015 edition of the WHO report indicates that the annual number of deaths attributable to road accidents is stable at about 1,250,000. It is to be noted that nearly half of road accident victims are vulnerable road users, namely pedestrians (22 per cent), cyclists (4 per cent) and motorcyclists (23 per cent).

Africa has the highest mortality rate attributable to road accidents with 26.6 deaths for every 100,000 people as against 17.0 in South-east Asia, 15.9 in the Americas and 9.3 in Europe. Pedestrians and cyclists account for 43 per cent of road accident deaths as compared to the global 26 per cent.

In several Central African countries, the mortality rate attributable to road accidents is higher than the continental average. Such is the case of the DRC with 33.2 deaths for every 100,000 people, the CAR (32.4), Rwanda (32.1), Sao Tome & Principe



(31.1), Cameroon (27.6) and Angola (26.9). Other countries rank slightly below the continental average. These include Congo with 26.4 deaths, Chad with 24.1 deaths and Gabon with 22.9 deaths.

It is against this background and halfway through the Decade of Action for Road safety that the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) via its Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa is organizing a meeting of experts on the situation of road safety in Central Africa. The activity forms part of the 2014-2015 work programme of the ECA/SRO-CA to contribute to mid-term review of the status of implementation in Central Africa of the African Decade of Action for Road safety Plan.

2. Objective of the meeting

The objective of the meeting is to:

- i) Examine the general situation of road safety in central Africa
- ii) Take stock of the implementation of the African Decade of Action Plan for Road Safety in Central African States;
- iii) Identify the plan's implementation difficulties; and
- iv) Propose concrete measures to speed up implementation.

3. Expected results

The expected results of the meeting are as follows:

- validation of the ECA/SRO-CA study on the situation of road safety in Central Africa;
- Recommendations on how to speed up implementation of the African Decade of Action Plan for Road Safety in Central Africa.

4. Organization and format of meeting

The meeting shall last two days. The deliberations shall take the form of plenary sessions on the study conducted by the ECA/SRO-CA and of break-out sessions to deepen reflection on the actions to be taken to speed up implementation of the plan of action.

5. PARTICIPATION

Participants in the meeting shall be road safety experts from ministries in charge of land transport in ECCAS Member States and representatives of ECCAS, CEMAC, WHO, the World Bank as well as civil society stakeholders working in the area of civil safety.



6. DATE AND VENUE OF THE MEETING

The meeting shall hold in Douala in the Republic of Cameroon on 30 November and 1 December 2015.

7. WORKING LANGUAGE

Deliberations shall be conducted in French.

8. CONTACTS

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