

DRAFT
Resolution of the Second Latin America and Caribbean Road Safety Stakeholders Forum
January 11, 2007
Río Grande, Puerto Rico

Injuries caused by road traffic collisions are a serious problem and constitute in our region a growing epidemic and grave threat that often times goes unnoticed. Road traffic injuries in Latin America and the Caribbean claim more than 122,000 lives each year and represent a significant social and economic cost for the region. Furthermore, these collisions cause a high number of injuries, orphans, and disabilities, which predominately affect low and middle income countries¹. In 2000, the Latin American and Caribbean region (LAC) had the highest per capita mortality rate in the world (26 deaths/100,000 people) and this rate is projected to increase significantly by year 2020 (31 deaths/100,000 people). If nothing is done to change this, our region's per capita fatality rate will be 6 times the current rates observed in countries with the best road safety practices (United Kingdom, Sweden, and the Netherlands).

The Transitional Commission for Road Safety in Latin America and the Caribbean is a mechanism that promotes collaboration and participation among countries (governments), civil society, and the private sector (and multilateral institutions) to prevent road traffic injuries and fatalities caused by road traffic collisions in the region. The countries of our region would benefit greatly if we united our resources in a coordinated effort to address this epidemic. It is imperative that this mechanism provides an opportunity for stakeholders to share knowledge and best practices, to establish common objectives and to strengthen national road safety capacity in each country so that we can build political will and mobilize a faster and more effective response.

We, the participants in this Second Stakeholders Forum by consensus declare our appreciation for the leadership provided by the President of Costa Rica, Óscar Arias Sánchez, and his Minister of Transport, Karla González, in leading the effort to stop the epidemic of road traffic injuries in our region. We ask them to continue leading the Transitional Commission for Road Safety in Latin America and the Caribbean which will evolve into a permanent organization, the Regional Committee for Road Safety in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Therefore, we recommend the following:

1. That President Óscar Arias Sánchez communicate to all of the heads of state in the region that:
 - He introduced the issue of road safety at the Ibero-American Heads of State and Government meeting in Santiago, Chile, and as a result SEGIB (The General Secretariat for Ibero-America), in its Program of Action was charged with "contacting government officials and to accurately diagnose the road safety situation in Ibero-America and then report to a Ministerial meeting for Ibero-America in 2008 that will be called to consider this issue."ⁱ
 - Their support is indispensable for placing road safety on their country's agenda as a priority topic and creating the necessary mechanisms to address it.
 - He hopes that they will implement the recommendations of the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention* published by the World Bank and World Health Organization in 2004.
 - The Transitional Commission is working to create the Regional Committee, a mechanism dedicated to working with the government and national stakeholders to strengthen their country's capacity to provide road safety..
 - The Transitional Commission and Regional Committee will require their support to help reduce the toll of road traffic injuries in the region.
2. The region should prepare for the first-ever United Nations Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety that will probably be held in Moscow in the second half of the year 2009.
3. The region should continue to mobilize action against the violence of road crashes in Latin America and the Caribbean and use the Declaration of San Jose to gain government support and political will.

ⁱXVII Cumbre Iberoamericana de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, "Programa de Acción", 8, 9 y 10 de noviembre de 2007.

¹ *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*, the World Bank and the World Health Organization, 2004.