

International Road Federation



CONFERENCE DECLARATION

adopted at the IRF Symposium

'Providing Infrastructure that improves Road Safety'

Bucharest, Romania, 11 May 2011

Istanbul, Turkey

14-16 May 2007

Conference Declaration and Action Plan

The United Nations proclaimed 2011-2020 the Decade of Action for Road Safety. The guiding principles underlying the Global Plan for the Decade of Action are those included in the 'Safe System' approach. This approach aims to develop a road transport system that is better able to accommodate human error and take into consideration the vulnerability of the human body.

The International Road Federation hosted a symposium on 'Providing Infrastructure that improves Road Safety' on 10-11 May 2011 in Bucharest, Romania. Delegates from 40 countries gathered to share experience, best practice and recommendations to contribute to a world free of high risk roads.

The speakers of the IRF Symposium stressed the importance of applying methods and approaches to provide safer infrastructure for all, thereby supporting the safe systems approach.

The symposium delegates called for measures to ensure road users, vehicles and the road network/environment/infrastructure are addressed in an integrated manner through a wide range of interventions.

The Symposium focussed on five main themes:

- a) Forgiving Roads – one of the 5 pillars
- b) Managing Infrastructure Performance
- c) The Role of Equipment in Safety
- d) Regional Experience
- e) Financing Infrastructure Road Safety

The deliberations and discussion demonstrated a high level of commitment from those in attendance to deliver key actions.

The symposium delegates formulated recommendations:

- 1) That the IRF, members, agencies and symposium delegates make a concerted effort to work collectively **to support the UN Decade of Action** with a particular focus on the safe systems approach to forgiving road infrastructure.
- 2) That the inherent safety and protective quality of road networks be increased through improved **safety-conscious master planning**, design, construction, operations and preventative maintenance.
- 3) That governments and agencies be encouraged to take ownership of road safety and to **eliminate high risk sites** by the end of the decade of action in 2020, and that black spots and

hazardous road locations be identified and treated through retro-fitting of roads and infrastructure.

- 4) That **road safety audits and assessments** become mandatory in all countries to ensure the best outcomes are delivered throughout the planning, implementation and operation stage of any program or project.
- 5) That governments and industry seriously consider the **application of the latest state-of-the-art technology** (i.e. mobilizing ITS for accident prevention, correct use of the most appropriate materials and road safety devices,) in the development, management and operation of road networks. These technologies must be endorsed by the application of high performance based specifications.
- 6) That the IRF and stakeholders **promote partnerships** between governments, industry, financiers, education providers and communities to ensure safe infrastructure principles are understood and applied. **Continued capacity building**, exchange of best practice and application of harmonized standards must be promoted.
- 7) That the IRF and stakeholders account for the **needs of all transport modes and roads users** through sustainable planning and design of safe new infrastructure that takes into account all road user types with a particular emphasis on vulnerable road users.
- 8) That road infrastructure is well maintained with **adequate budgets** to meet the mobility and safety requirements of all road users.

The symposium delegates welcomed the increased awareness for road safety that the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety generates.

The delegates agreed that the IRF symposium was deemed a success with important progress made on actions and measures to support the safe systems approach as one of the key guiding principles of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety.

It is trusted that this Action Plan will enable IRF members, governments, institutions, agencies and non-governmental organisations to significantly improve road safety and reduce fatalities and serious injuries in support of the Decade of Action for Road Safety.



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