



IOANNINA DECLARATION

We, the delegations of the BSEC States, as well as the representatives of international and regional government and nongovernmental organizations and private sector met in Ioannina, Greece, from 18-19 November 2010 to attend the “UNECE-BSEC Conference on Improving Road Safety in the BSEC Region”,

Acknowledging the leadership of the Government of the Hellenic Republic in organizing this Conference in the framework of its Chairmanship-in-office of BSEC, as well as the initiative of the Chamber of Ioannina and the Hellenic Chambers Transport Association to host it, and that of the UNECE and BSEC secretariats to prepare it,

Aware that road traffic injuries are a major social, economic, development and public health problem and a leading cause of death and injury around the world responsible for the death of over 1.3 million people a year, and for injury and disability of 50 millions causing in addition to human suffering overwhelming economic costs estimated at 2% of world GDP,

Conscious that in spite of recent improvements, the number of human casualties of road crashes remains at unacceptable levels in BSEC region claiming the lives of about 62,000 people every year,

Underlining that the risks of road injuries are known and can be prevented and that these risks include excessive speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, failure to use seat-belts and helmets, poorly designed or insufficiently maintained road infrastructure, and the use of vehicles that are substandard, poorly maintained or lack safety devices,

Encouraged by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/255, of 2 March 2010, proclaiming the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety with a goal to reduce the level of road fatalities around the world by increasing activities at national, regional and global levels; requesting the United Nations regional commissions in cooperation with other partners in the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration and other stakeholders, to prepare a Plan of Action of the Decade and to coordinate regular monitoring of global progress meeting the targets identified in it; calling upon Member States to implement road safety activities, particularly in the areas of road safety management, road infrastructure, vehicle safety, road user behaviour and post-crash care; inviting all Member States to set their own road traffic casualty reduction targets while fostering a multisectorial collaboration that includes academia, the private sector, professional associations and non-governmental organizations,

Also encouraged by the “Sofia Declaration on Strengthening the Cooperation in the Field of Transport in the BSEC Region” of 15 April 2010, in which the Ministers of BSEC member States, acknowledging the significance of resolution 64/255 for the BSEC region, encouraged joint activities of BSEC and UNECE in addressing road safety,

Recognizing the work of UNECE and that of other regional commissions in increasing road safety and advocating enhanced political commitment; in elaborating global road safety-related legal instruments, including international conventions and agreements, technical regulations, resolutions and recommendations such as the international Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals, and in this context welcoming the conclusions and recommendations of the project “Improving global road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets”, implemented by the United Nations regional commissions to assist in setting and achieving road traffic casualty reduction targets,

Also recognizing the contribution of the UNECE conference on improving Road Traffic Safety in South Eastern Europe: Setting Regional and National Road Traffic Casualty Reduction Targets, held in Halkida, Greece in June, 2009,

Acknowledging the efforts made by the Member States of the European Union during the road safety action plan 2001-2010, in spite of the fact that initial target is not likely to be met by 2010, tangible results in improving road safety have been recorded, as well as the communication of the European Commission “Towards European road safety area: policy orientation on road safety 2011-2020” proposing to continue with the target

of halving the overall number of road deaths in the European Union by 2020,

Noting the important role of the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility as a funding mechanism to support capacity-building and provide technical support for road safety,

Taking note of the report of the Commission for Global Road Safety, “Make Roads Safe: A Decade of Action for Road Safety”, which links road safety with sustainable development and calls for a decade of action on road safety, and the “Make Roads Safe” campaign as a global tool for increasing awareness,

Commending the Government of the Russian Federation for hosting the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety: Time for Action, held in Moscow in November 2009, which culminated in a declaration inviting Member States to declare the decade 2011-2020 as the decade of action for road safety,

Recalling UN Secretary-General’s message on the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on 21 November 2010, calling on Member States, international agencies, civil society organizations, business and community leaders to ensure that the Decade leads to real improvements and that governments release their national plans for the Decade when it is launched globally on 11 May 2011,

1. *Reaffirm* the importance of addressing road safety in the BSEC region as a matter of urgency, and the need for further strengthening international and regional cooperation;
2. *Support* the work of the UNECE and its international Road Safety Forum in increasing road safety activities and regulatory work as well as in advocating greater political commitment to road safety, in creating a platform for exchange of best practices and development of road safety policies;
3. *Also support* the work of the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations and promote the adoption of the UNECE technical regulations for vehicles safety;
4. *Promote* accession to and effective implementation of the UNECE road and vehicle safety legal instruments;

5. *Resolve to foster* the implementation of road safety activities, particularly in the areas of road safety management, road infrastructure, vehicle safety, road user behaviour, and post-crash care based on the Plan of Action;

6. *Encourage* multisectoral collaboration that includes the academia, private sector, professional associations and non-governmental organizations, including the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, victims' organizations and youth organizations and the media;

7. *Also encourage* the improvement of road infrastructure by identifying and supporting efforts aimed at eliminating accident black spots introducing audit methods, improving traffic engineering urban safety management and speed-moderation techniques, and good practice guidelines for level-crossings;

8. *Commit* to paying greater attention to the needs of all road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users, through support for appropriate legislation and policy;

9. *Also commit* to advocating specific measures to improve road safety such as new methods and training for private and commercial drivers, police checks and road user awareness campaigns and continuous road safety education;

10. *Support* proper implementation and oversight of road safety regulations and best practices by better data collection, analysis and dissemination leading to greater understanding of the causes, circumstances and consequences of road accidents;

11. *Also support* the continuation and further strengthening of joint BSEC and UNECE activities in the area of road safety,

Invite all BSEC Member States to set their own national road traffic casualty reduction targets to be achieved by the end of the Decade, in line with the Plan of Action, and to monitor progress in meeting these targets;

Invite BSEC bodies to consider setting the BSEC regional casualty reduction target of halving the overall number of road deaths in the BSEC

region by 2020, starting in 2010, and setting appropriate implementation monitoring mechanisms;

Invite the international donor community to provide additional funding in support of regional and country road safety measures, especially in countries that are in most need.

Adopted in Ioannina, Greece, on 19 November 2010