



Statement by Mr. Andrey Vasilyev

Deputy Executive Secretary

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

(UNECE)

Delivered at the

2011 World Scout Jamboree, “Joining Hands for Road Safety”

5 August 2011, Rinkaby, Kristianstad, Sweden

It is a great pleasure and honor for me, on behalf of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, to address this ceremonial global campaign “Joining Hands for Road Safety” under the 2011 World Scout Jamboree.

This event, as well as the active learning workshops that have been taking place in preceding days, is part of UNECE activities within the framework of the **UN Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020), proclaimed by the General Assembly resolution 64/255**. It is being implemented in partnership with the Hellenic Road Safety Institute “Panos Mylonas”, Scouting Ireland and Scouts of Greece, with the support of the Road Safety Authority of Ireland

I should like to express UNECE’s **gratitude to the World Organization for the Scout Movement and to our partners** for their cooperation and contribution in making this event so successful. I should also like to **thank you all for your active participation**.

As you may be aware, every year some 1.3 million people die as a result of road traffic crashes worldwide. **This is more than 3,500 deaths each day!** Road traffic injuries are the **leading causes of death for children and young people aged 5 - 29 years**. In addition, on average 20 to 50 million people sustain non-fatal injuries from road traffic crashes each year. These injuries are a significant cause of disabilities worldwide. **But these are not accidents. They are events that can be prevented through daily action and awareness raising.**

**Improving road safety worldwide is vital for society and a top priority for the United Nations.** The need for action to improve global road safety has been acknowledged by several resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, including the one proclaiming Decade of Action.

UNECE pioneered road safety activities in the United Nations system in the course of the last 60 years. As the only existing UN intergovernmental body on road safety, our work focuses on **improving road safety through developing and updating legal instruments that** have assisted member States all over the world to harmonize and enforce traffic rules and measures, produce safe and clean road vehicles, reduce the risk of accidents with dangerous goods and hazardous materials and ensure that only safe and well maintained vehicles and competent drivers are allowed to participate in traffic. Moreover, transport infrastructure agreements developed under UNECE auspices, have given Europe coherent pan-European and safer road transport networks.

The aim of this campaign, **“Scouting for Global Road Safety”**, is to **engage society, and especially the young people**, in this cause, and to encourage respect for the rules on the road. **It is in the hands of young people, including yourselves, as scouts and examples of good citizenship and behavior, to spread the message across the world and save lives.**

**I warmly encourage you all**, as the leaders of the future, representing millions of your generation that are using the roads and are exposed to road safety risks as any other road user, **to bring the road safety message to your countries, national scouting contingents, and individuals.**

It is time to act now and to ensure that **fatal traffic accidents should no longer be the price of our mobility**, will no more claim so many lives, ruining our personal and collective well-being.

**Road safety is the responsibility of each and all of us.** We should assume this responsibility for ourselves and for the others around us. We hope that this joint effort during this year's World Scout Jamboree **will contribute to the realization and implementation of this responsibility.**

We also hope that this **UNECE-WOSM partnership** on road safety **will not stop with the completion of this event, but would continue and further strengthen in future.**

-----