

ARSO 1st General Assembly

June 27 & 28 2019, Durban, South Africa

1. Background

Context and Objectives

Africa faces a rapidly increasing road crash tragedy, completely disproportionate to the level of motorization and road network density. It is the cause unbearable human and economic losses to the region. Africa, as a region has the highest rate of road traffic fatalities. In a region where 50 % of the population is below the age of 16 years, road crashes also place a heavy burden on the continent's younger generation. Much needs to be done to address this problem and African countries are committed to address this challenge by signing off on the Global Decade of Action for Road Safety and also developing the African Action Plan and African Road Safety Charter One of the primary steps towards addressing the issue would be a reliable and accurate data which are a fundamental prerequisite to understand the magnitude of road safety problems in Africa and convince stakeholders to take certain actions. They are also needed to identify problems, risk factors and priority areas in order to formulate strategies, set targets and monitor performance. Because road crashes are a complex process, preventive policies addressing them should be comprehensive, coordinated and orderly using a consistent set of methods and appropriate technical and organizational means. This calls for a road safety system which is capable of continuous improvement and ensures that any opportunity to improve road safety is identified and followed through. The experience of other regions makes it clear that the public needs to be informed and motivated to follow through on the specific measures which is also a task of road safety observatories. Evidenced-based approaches lie at the heart of the most successful road safety polices—backed up by crashes and other road safety data. Therefore, the Observatory will support African countries' efforts to reduce road transport fatalities by uniting their activities to systematically collect, analyse, and share reliable road crash data. Moreover, it will serve as a platform for lead agencies, and decision-makers to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and scale up effective road safety policies, programmes and measures across the region. It is a key road safety management tool, which will allow for more serious work in addressing all these key issues in the Continent. Hence, the growing concerns over road safety data has resulted in the Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP), the World Bank, the Global Road Safety Facility (GRSF), the UK Aid, the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and the International Transport

Forum (ITF) to organizing the first General Assembly, hosted by the South African Ministry of Transport(RTMC), to work with African governments to formally establish the Observatory as the network of heads of road safety agencies, departments and data coordinators as a basis for working to monitor Africa’s road safety performance. It is also noteworthy that the ARSO was launched during the First African Road Safety Forum held in Marrakech (Morocco) from 13 to 15 November 2018 following/preceded by several past events and deliberations such as the Lomé Declaration (2017), Dakar and Abuja(2018), and Cairo STC-TTIET action plan(2019).The observatory will therefore facilitate the exchange of knowledge between road safety experts and governments in Africa, as well as help in implementing effective polices across the region. The ultimate goal of ARSO would be to coordinate road safety strategies, initiatives, and information at the Continental level based on the generation of timely, objective and reliable information that effectively contributes to reducing road traffic collisions in its member States. This meeting report summarizes and synthesizes the main proceedings and outcomes of the2019 first GA and has been prepared by the ARSO technical team in consultation with the steering committee members and key partners

2. Format:

The agenda of the meeting held June 26–28 in Durban, South Africa, was structured around two events. The first set of activities, held on June 26th, consisted only of the Steering Committee which was held before the ARSO General Assembly. The objective was to finalize proposed implementation of the plan for endorsement by the General Assembly. The next two days, June 27 and 28, were devoted to review and eventually endorse the Secretariat progress report and to adopt the implementation next plan until 2021.

3. Participation:

The GA was well attended by all relevant stakeholders. Over 100 participants representing nearly 39 African government ministries of infrastructure/transport, national road safety authorities, lead agencies and councils, African sub-regional and regional organizations, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs/CSOs), academic and research institutions, and the private sector were attending the two-day General Assembly on African Road Safety Observatory in Durban, South Africa. Moreover, delegates and partners expressed their appreciation for the high level of participation and for the successful team coordination among the organizers, the ARSO secretariat team and TSC.

4. Agenda

| MC: Department of Transport (RTMC): Kevin Kara-Vala and SSATP: Tawia Addo-Ashong | | |
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| Venue: Durban, South Africa (Hotel Fairmont Zimbali Resort) | | |
| 1 Day: 27 June, 2019 | | |
| Timeline | Activities | Participate/Lead Facilitator |
| 08:00 - 09:30 AM | Registration of All Participants | SSATP/RTMC/ARSO Steering Committee |
| 09:30 – 10:30 AM | Welcome speeches | Opening Remarks by representatives of SSATP: Tawia Addo-Ashong; Special Envoy for Road Safety; ECA; AfDB; GRSF; ARSO Steering Committee (Chairman); Road Safety Victim: Ms. Zoleka Mandela; WHO; World Bank Group - Practice Manager & AUC; |
| | Official Opening | Ms. Refilwe Mongale (RTMC): Ministry of Transport – South Africa |
| | Objectives and expected outcomes of 1 st GA: <i>Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme</i> | Meeting Procedure led by Steering Committee: Mr. Benacer Boulaajoul (Morocco) |
| | Group Photo | All |
| 10:30- 11:00 | Tea/Coffee break | |
| Session 1 | Setting the Scene | Moderator: Mr. Georges Anagonou (Benin) |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | Implementation Status of the African Road Safety Action Plan and the African Road Safety Charter - the importance of road safety commitments | Africa Union Commission: Mr. Placide A. Badji (AUC) |
| 11:20 – 12:45 | United Nations Road Safety Conventions - African Contracting Party Status | UN-Economic Commission for Europe: Mr. Robert Nowak (ECE) |
| 12:45-13:00 | UN Road Safety Trust Fund - Operationalization and Opportunities | Secretariat of the UN Road Safety Trust Fund: Mr. Robert Nowak (UNRSTF) |
| 13:00 -14:00 | Lunch Break | |
| Session 2 | African Road Safety 2020⁺ | Moderator: Mr. Sydney Ibeanusi (Nigeria) |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | Panel Discussion: Performance of African countries in Implementing Road Safety Initiatives: Road safety in Africa – current/future trends and the benefit of the Observatory; | SSATP – Noor M./UNECA -Robert L./AfDB – Girma B./AUC- David K. /RECs/NGOs – Kenya /Private Sectors/ Multilateral agencies (GRSF) /MS - FRSC/ WHO - Doris M. |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Tea/Coffee break | |
| Session 3 | Observatory: Programme of Work | Moderator: Mr. Sydney Ibeanusi (Nigeria) |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Plenary: Work Plan | Transitional Steering Committee Members |
| 16:30-17:00 | General Discussion: Stakeholders’ perspectives – Countries, institutions and RECs representatives: - Experience in the area of road | All |

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| | safety observatory & its' programme of work (PoW); | |
| 17:00-17:30 | Wrap-up & Closing: Summary of agreed actions & Outcomes of day-1 | ARSO Secretariat/Moderator/Rapporteurs (Ms. Maria Segui Gomez -FiA) |
| 19:00-21:00 | Gala Dinner | All – RTMC (Gov't of South Africa) |
| 2 Day: 28 June, 2019 | | |
| Timeline | Activities | Participants/Lead Facilitator |
| Session 4 | Observatory: Implementation Process | All |
| 08:30 – 09:15 | Plenary: Case Study: Role of road safety knowledge and data to improve road safety and the Observatory – Tudji Huguette (Benin) and Ms. Motselisi Juma & Mr. Lucky Mabasa (South Africa) | Moderator: Mr. Girma BEZABEH (AfDB) |
| 09:30-11:15 | Plenary: <u>4. Topics to be covered include:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Road Safety Policy, Target, Investment Strategies and Actions; ➤ Intervention Selection and Prioritization; ➤ Minimum data-set of Road Safety Indicators (Pieter V.); ➤ Standardized definitions and methodologies of ARSO; ➤ Behavioral Data (Ms. Katrien Torfs - VIAS); ➤ Vital Registration (Ms. Doris Mafat- WHO) ➤ DRIVER Apps (Mr. Soames Job-GRSF/WB); ➤ South African National Traffic Information System- Hazardous Roads Methodology (Mr. Deon Roux- RTMC) ➤ ARSO Methodology, Approach, Membership (Interim Task Force); and, Integrating Data (Combining Crash Data, Road Data, and intervention selection & prioritisation). ➤ General Discussion | All- Head of Lead Agencies/ RECs/Key road safety actors/Data Coordinators/Technical staffs from Police, Health/Traffic Officers. Moderator: Mr. Eugène DAKITSE-BENISSAN (ALCO) |
| 11:15-11:30 | Tea/Coffee break | |
| Session 5 | Governance of the Observatory | All |

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| 11:30-12:30 | <p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background and Objective of the Observatory; - Formation of the Interim Governing Body; - Countries Response; - Endorse the Committee Next Steps and Secretariat Progress Report (PoW). | <p>Moderator: Mr. Kevin Kara-Vala (RTMC-South Africa)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Tawia Addo-Ashong (SSATP- RS Pillar Leader); - ARSO Secretariat; - AUC. |
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch Break | |
| Session 6 | Next Steps | All |
| 14:00-15:00 | <p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed work plan for the Interim Task Force/ Steering Committee -Implementation Plan until 2021; - Creating ad-hoc Working Groups; - Develop on Guidelines on Minimum set of data; - Country RS Audits (Toolkit); - Improving VR data; - Communication Plan – Newsletter...etc.; - Cooperation with Safer-Africa; - Sweden 2020 Ministerial Conference on RS. | <p>Moderator: Mr. Divine Mbamome (Cameroon)</p> |
| Session 7 | Statutory and Administrative Decisions of ARSO's TSC | Moderator: Mr. Benancer Boulaajoul (Morocco) |
| 15:00-16:00 | <p>Plenary: Approval of the conclusions and recommendations proposed by 1st GA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choosing the Venue for the 2020 Assembly; - Vote of thanks by M.S Representative; - Consideration the Draft GA Report (Communique); - Any other items. | <p>ARSO Participating Countries, ARSO Secretariat, Rapporteurs, Host Country and AUC-SSATP-UNECA-AfDB (Focal Pt.)</p> |

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| 16:00-16:30 | Closing Ceremony | Moderator: Tawia Addo-Ashong (SSATP) Closing Speeches: Représentatives from AUC/WB/UN/AfDB/FiA/WHO/ITF/GRSF/UKAid/R TMC |
| 16:30 – onwards | Tea/Coffee break | All |

5. Resolution

The meeting resolved that:

- The SSATP be commended for its leadership;
- Endorse the Charter by lobbying your Minister to sign;
- Promote improvements on fatality data collection to avoid the need for modelling;
- Adopt best practices on data collection and policy implementation