

COMUNIQUE



Mr. Benacer Boulaajoul

ARSO Transitional Steering Committee – Chairman

1st GA, June 27 & 28 2019, Durban, South Africa

Background:

- The AGM focused on the thematic areas that constitute the six pillars/ TTF Work Plan;
- It brought together heads of African Road Safety Agencies and road safety data coordinators to accomplish the following:
 - *Formally establish the Observatory as the network of heads of road safety agencies and departments as a basis for working to monitor Africa's road safety performance;*
 - *Formally establish the network of African road safety data coordinators;*
 - *Agree on a work plan for the next two years;*
 - *Agree on targets to be met by all African countries by the next meeting including setting fast track actions to sign the African Road Safety Charter and the most essential UN conventions on Road Safety; and,*
 - *Lay the foundation for Africa's response to the end of the UN Decade for Road Safety and their presence at the Stockholm Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in February 2020 (Africa's Position).*

Participation:

- The AGM was well attended by all relevant stakeholders;
- Over 39 member States delegates;
 - Including from Ministries of Transport, Lead Agencies, Health and Police Commission of the member States;
- Private sectors, NGOs, CSOs;
- RECs, and Development Partners;
- Making the event the most attended thus far since inception in Lomé (> 100 participants in total).

The key conclusions and associated resolutions from this AGM are as follows: Outcome (1/6)

- *Member States should ratify the African Road Safety Charter which will provide justification for the establishment of the African Road Safety Observatory (ARSO);*

ARSO Action: In collaboration with AUC, and UNECA, SSATP will work on the appropriate methodology for the effective establishment of the ARSO in line with the requirements of the African Road Safety Charter.

Outcome:

(2/6)

- The vital records system faces many challenges, including its decentralized nature, a lack of standardization of terms and procedures, and slow transitions to electronic systems. There are several efforts underway to improve data quality, including the development of training for road traffic and hospital staffs on completing vital records (WHO/SSATP/FIA). It is crucial that lead agencies understand their important roles in making this system work efficiently;*

ARSO action: To assist member countries to prioritize the development of their CRVS system for better data on deaths from road traffic crash. Thus, ARSO would benefit from it & would guide our policy-makers. Continue collaboration with WHO on this matter.

Outcome:

(3/6)

- *Realizing the importance of the comprehensive crash data in the management of road safety, Government of Africa should have accorded high priority in the improvement of existing crash data collection and storage system by adopting MDS (SSATP/FiA), DRIVER Platform (GRSF), and CRVS system (WHO);*

ARSO action: SSATP/ARSO Secretariat to develop and facilitate a training workshops in line with the WHO Manual, the ARSO agreed upon crash-related minimum variables & GRSF Tool.

Outcome:

(4/6)

- *Low percentage of accession by African countries to the legal instruments of the United Nations Conventions relating to road safety reflects in part the lack of rapport between discussions of the UN conventions at the global level and the debates conducted in Africa based on regional needs. The UN most essential road safety conventions related well with the AU Road Safety Charter.*

ARSO action: promote workshops to assess feasibility and implementation of Conventions among African countries

Outcome:

(5/6)

- *Road safety in the 21st century requires more than crash data analyses. There is a need to collect performance indicators:*

ARSO action: promote attitudinal and behavioral data collection in all African countries according to international standards

Outcome:

(6/6)

- African governments should spearhead initiatives related to CoE by AfDB. Project funds will be used for capacity building programmes to serve African countries.*

ARSO action: Establishing capacity building programs

Resolutions:

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 so as to avoid the need for modelling;*
- *Adopt best practices on data collection and policy implementation.*

Conclusion:

- *The Meeting commended the World Bank Group (SSATP & GRSF), AUC, AfDB, UN agencies, FiA, ITF Donors and Development Partners for their continued support for establishment of the Observatory;*
- *The meeting commended the Government and People of South Africa for hosting the first 2019 Annual General Meeting!!*

Thank you / Merci / Ngiyabonga

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