

**Statement to the 69<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly**

**Agenda item 12.7 Addressing the challenges of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020): outcome of the Second Global High-level Conference on Road Safety – Time for Results**

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the WHA on behalf of MMI and the PHM.

Road traffic accidents are the single greatest cause of mortality in working age men; yet this issue has been influenced by conflicts of interest on the global stage. Inappropriate industry engagement has pervaded all levels of discussion, from tyre manufacturers in the UNRSC, to the head of the automobile lobby group being appointed the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety. These actors have an ideological dissonance with WHO's public health principles, instead working to further their own perverse profit incentives.

What is promoted is a motorised perspective of road safety, where the built environment is designed to serve vehicles, not people. Discussion has deviated from the broader health effects of motor vehicles to one focused on safer road infrastructure and safer automobiles. This only addresses one aspect of the problem and does not consider the health co-benefits of a paradigm shift towards an overarching, non-motorised solution. The built environment must instead be reclaimed for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

The draft road map on air pollution specifies that intersectoral engagement is needed to tackle the issue, which kills 3.7 million each year. Road safety offers such an opportunity and WHO must show coherence between the two issues and call upon MS to regulate the heavily polluting automobile industry.

We call on member states to uphold their shared responsibilities and rewrite the narrative to take a broader perspective on the health and environmental benefits of a non-motorised approach. We also urge member states to share best practices on urban design and policy, which should act as a stepping stone towards full transition towards a non-motorised future.

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