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Sustainable Development Goals: Potential contribution by WP.1

Submitted by the United States

This document provides detailed description of the panel entitled: “Today’s challenges to Road Safety: Impaired Driving – what do the numbers show and how can we reduce fatalities today?”

Today's challenges to Road Safety: Impaired Driving – what do the numbers show and how can we reduce fatalities today?

1. Introduction/ Scope of current challenges facing regulators

Road traffic crashes continue to be one of the world's leading causes of death and burden of disease, responsible for 1.3 million annual deaths and [41.2] million years lost due to premature mortality and disabilities globally. Road traffic crashes are a major public health issue worldwide today. The future projections are of greater concern, since road traffic fatalities are estimated to increase to 2.4 million in 2030, primarily due to the economic growth attributed to low-and middle-income regions [1].

Moreover, in these countries the costs of transport crashes in terms of medical treatment and lost productivity correspond to a significant portion of the public budget. The association between alcohol and road traffic crashes is well documented, as are the main psychopharmacological effects of alcohol, legal and illicit drugs on human behavior. Alcohol impairs motor coordination and decision making and reduces reaction time in drivers, thus enhancing risk-taking behavior and the likelihood of crashes. Many other drugs, including some over-the-counter and prescription drugs and illegal drugs also impair driving. In many countries, the prevalence of various drugs other than alcohol in drivers is increasing. The effects of drug use on driving risk are less clear. Still, the numbers continue to rise at an alarming rate. As regulators, we need to understand and define the scope of the problem, focus on policy interventions and identify success stories on how we can learn from each other how best to address our current challenges.

There will be approximately 15 minutes for each presentation followed by 5-10 minutes for questions.

2. Sweden's campaign preventive efforts against alcohol and drug impaired driving

- **Hans Yngve Berg, Senior Administration Officer, Transportstyrelsen**

A presentation on Sweden's data driven response to increase road safety including counteracting alcohol impaired driving and how it is being adapted to address drug impaired driving. Sweden will also present their society's general policy about alcohol consumption and how this has benefited their road safety efforts regarding impaired driving. Information about outreach and consumer education campaigns with a look to how technology may hold some of the answers will also be given.

3. Drug impaired driving in the United States

- **Dr. DeReece Smither, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

A presentation on the complex issues associated with drug-impaired driving and the challenges collecting drug-impaired driving data. More data is needed to determine the full magnitude of the drug-impaired driving problem as presence of a drug does not necessarily equate to the person being impaired. NHTSA focus spans impairment related to driving skills; improving tools for law enforcement officers, detecting the presence of substances in drivers; educating policy-makers, prosecutors, the judiciary, and the public; and evaluating impaired driving legislation, sanctions, and programs.

4. **Italy: Impaired Driving in Italy: Drinking and Drugs**

- **Roberto Arditì, SINA**

A presentation on Italy's activities to prevent alcohol and drug impaired driving. Italy will present the scope of alcohol and drug impaired problem, particularly in young novice drivers and older drivers; including a presentation of recent consumer education strategies, preventive countermeasures and technology options.

5. **Canada: Tackling Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving in Canada (from Policies to Technologies)**

- **Ibrahima Sow, Executive Director, Road Safety and Vehicle Regulations**
- **Dr. Doug Beirness, Senior Research Associate, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA)**

Over the last several decades, there has been a significant downward trend in motor vehicle casualties. Fatalities have decreased by almost 68% while serious injuries have declined by 62%. Despite this progress, according to Canada's National Collision Database, one of the leading contributing factors in fatal collisions on highways in Canada is impairment (e.g. driving under the influence). The presentation will focus on Canada's approach to reducing alcohol and drug impaired driving, including impacts of the legalization of cannabis in 2018, the development of roadside oral fluid testing standards, the standardized field sobriety test to detect cannabis impairment and use of technology.

6. **Evidence based policies in Brazil to address alcohol and drug impaired driving**

- **Luiz Otávio Maciel Miranda, Traffic Department of State of Pará**

A presentation on Brazil's experience with a zero-tolerance driving under the influence law, policy considerations and decisions to increase its effectiveness and driving and rest times for professional drivers. Brazil will present data on alcohol and drug impaired driving and discuss various interventions that support the 2008 Dry Law.

7. **Discussion about best practices and lessons learned.**
