



# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY  
Provisional agenda item 12.7

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## Road safety and health: update

### Report by the Secretariat

1. Road safety was the theme of this year's World Health Day (7 April 2004). To mark the occasion, some 500 events were organized in more than 110 countries by governments, United Nations bodies and private sector groups. The global launch of the *World report on road traffic injury prevention*, jointly produced by WHO and the World Bank,<sup>1</sup> was organized by the Government of France and WHO, and was accompanied by regional launches in India, Kenya, Oman and the United States of America and many national launches. Other events included a new road safety initiative in China, a road safety festival in Lebanon, the signing of a collaborative agreement between the ministries of health and transport in Peru, the inauguration of remembrance gardens for victims in South Africa, the initiation of the "Year of Road Safety" in Thailand and the launch of a major international research programme on injury prevention by the National Institutes of Health in the United States of America.

2. On 14 April 2004, the United Nations General Assembly, at its first plenary session on the subject, adopted a resolution<sup>2</sup> on improving global road safety, taking note of the recommendations contained in the *World report on road traffic injury prevention* and inviting WHO, working in close cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, to act as a coordinator on road safety issues within the United Nations system. The Assembly also underlined the need for further strengthening international cooperation taking into account the needs of developing countries.

3. The Director-General considers that it would be desirable for WHO to accept the invitation issued in resolution 58/289. As a coordinator, WHO's role would include:

- organizing as appropriate meetings of relevant global and regional bodies of the United Nations system;
- setting up joint United Nations activities aimed at implementing the recommendations in the *World report on road traffic injury prevention*;
- disseminating information on progress made towards those objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Peden M et al. (eds). *World report on road traffic injury prevention*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 58/289.

## **ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

4. The Health Assembly is invited to take note of the above activities and to consider adding the following additional preambular and operative paragraphs to the resolution recommended in resolution EB113.R3 (with appropriate renumbering of subsequent paragraphs):

“Noting with appreciation the adoption of resolution 58/289 by the United Nations General Assembly inviting WHO to act as a coordinator on road safety issues within the United Nations system, drawing upon expertise from the United Nations regional commissions,

ACCEPTS the invitation by the United Nations General Assembly for WHO to act as a coordinator on road safety issues within the United Nations system, working in close collaboration with the United Nations regional commissions;”.

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