



In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Message from
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WHO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION
to the
REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP MEETING FOR NATIONAL DATA COORDINATORS
OF THE SECOND GLOBAL STATUS REPORT ON ROAD SAFETY
IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Cairo, Egypt, 19-21 December 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Regional Follow-up Meeting for National Data Coordinators of the Second Global Status Report on Road Safety in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. First, allow me to congratulate you on the finalization of the first phase of the report – data collection, verification and endorsement of country questionnaires by your respective governments. This exercise has been an example of successful collaboration within WHO, between WHO and Member States, and between different concerned sectors within Member States.

The second global status report exercise provides fresh data on the road safety situation and the efforts to improve the situation in different countries. The data tell us that road traffic injuries are still a major cause of concern for public health in the Region. They also tell us that many efforts to address this are being undertaken in different Member States.

We also know that we possess good assets, considering the wealth of information and tools in place, including the global plan for the road safety decade of action 2011–2012, as

well as the regional framework on road traffic injury prevention. In addition, the resolution of the fifty-sixth Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (resolution no EM/RC56/R.7) on road safety provides a robust framework for action. This resolution provides a strong driving force for road safety efforts in our Member States while requiring also that a progress report on road safety is submitted to the Regional Committee every two years. The first progress report was submitted this year.

Analysing the preliminary results produced for the global status report and closely examining the lessons learnt can pave the way for the development of road safety plans of action. This is what this meeting hopes to achieve in order to move along a well-structured path towards improved road safety.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the Decade of Action for Road Safety, we are confident that many efforts will materialize in different countries over the next ten years. We have in our hands a structured and standardized way forward that enables the monitoring of progress on different aspects of road safety through the global status reports and the Regional Committee progress reports.

I count on your wisdom and efforts to make this initiative a success. For only through meaningful work at the country level, can anything worthwhile be achieved on the ground.

I wish you a successful meeting. May God bless you all.