Road Safety was central to this year’s International Transport Forum’s 3-day Summit in Leipzig, Germany, the world’s largest gathering of transport ministers, heads of international organizations, policymakers, and public and private sectors officials. This year, the Summit focused specifically on transport “Safety and Security.”

The GRSF and its host organization, the World Bank, played a leading role in the events detailed below.

**FIRST ROAD SAFETY OBSERVATORY IN AFRICA**

During the first day of the Summit, the World Bank, the Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA), and the International Transport Forum (ITF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) towards establishing the first regional Road Safety Observatory in Africa.

The Observatory will support African countries’ efforts to reduce road traffic fatalities by coalescing their activities to systematically collect, analyze, and share reliable road crash data. José Luis Irigoyen, World Bank Senior Director for Transport and Digital Development, stated, “The World Bank is proud to be a part of this initiative. We are confident that the new Observatory will increase the visibility of the road safety challenge in Africa, enable governments to advance regional collaboration, and leverage synergies among African nations to improve road safety conditions, as the Road Safety Obser-
This initiative relied heavily on the support of the Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP) and key partners including the World Health Organization (WHO), the GRSF, UNECA, the Islamic Development Bank, and Safer Africa among others, who have carried out workshops to assess the interest of African countries in joining the Observatory. The latest workshop took place in February in Dakar where seven African countries (Benin, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania), signed a resolution confirming their interest and support. Press Release


In an event organized by the GRSF, the World Resources Institute (WRI), and the Towards Zero Foundation, road safety experts from various international organizations convened to discuss the challenges and lessons learned from the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020).

Panelists such as David Ward of the Towards Zero Foundation stressed the need for a new road safety target after 2020 to scale up progress worldwide, but especially in developing countries who need the funding that could be generated from a new target. Mr. Ward applauded the EU for setting a new target of halving road deaths and injuries by 2030 and pushed the international community to do the same.

The speakers also highlighted opportunities to overcome road safety barriers and leverage successful interventions such as the Safe System Approach, including using a holistic approach that shifts responsibility away from road users to the road designers and city planners in the fight to save lives. There was also a call to re-frame road safety policy approaches to better influence transportation officials, to consistently link mobility and safety as twin pillars that do not sacrifice efficiency.

The event was opened by Jean Todt (FIA/UN), Jose Luis Irigoyen (World Bank), and Olga Sehnalova (European Parliament), and moderated by Soames Job, Head of GRSF.

GRSF AND THE MDBS’ ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP SHARED BOOTH

In a joint effort to highlight their work and provide a place to host multi-lateral meetings, the GRSF and the MDBs Road Safety Working Group co-hosted an interactive booth and disbursed their latest publications.
Funding Update

UK AID PLEDGE OF £5.3 MILLION TO GRSF

Prior to the ITF event, the GRSF shared the exciting news that it will continue to receive donor funding from the UK government through DFID, which will be renewing its commitment to the GRSF with bi-lateral funding of £5.3 million British pounds over the next three years. The funds will be used to scale up research for road safety in developing countries (particularly low-income and IDA) through the Facility’s call for proposals program and on-going research initiatives.

This successful partnership between DFID and the Facility has resulted in numerous grants since 2013 focusing on issues such vehicle safety, data collection, infrastructure assessments and audits for road design, enforcement, post-crash care and other areas. Facility funds are allocated via the World Bank and to external partners such as WHO, GRSP, iRAP, Multi-lateral Development Banks (MDBs), the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety and others.

“The strong support of UK Aid enhances the work of the World Bank, the GRSF, and our partners to improve road safety in developing countries. UK Aid continues to play a key role in shaping the Facility through both funding and leadership at the Board,” said José Luis Irigoyen, World Bank Senior Director for Transport and Digital Development.

Liz Jones, UK Aid Senior Transport Adviser and outgoing Chair of the GRSF Board, also noted, “We are pleased to be continuing our work with GRSF at this important time when the global community has just two years left to meet the SDG target 3.6 on Road Safety. DFID’s research funding to GRSF builds evidence to inform policy and programmatic decisions in order to get the greatest reduction in road crashes and associated deaths, injuries and disabilities.”

The Head of GRSF, Soames Job, added: “DFID’s continuing financial support for GRSF is making a real difference to road safety in low income countries, with each dollar of GRSF Grants leveraging over $40 in expenditure to deliver road safety.”

To learn more about GRSF, please visit: www.worldbank.org/grsf
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