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**Commission for Global Road Safety**  
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**Talking Points**

- I would like to thank Lord Robertson, the Commission for Global Road Safety, and the FIA Foundation for inviting the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to participate in this event. The launch of the Decade of Action for Road Safety report marks an important new milestone in the effort to raise the world's awareness to road traffic injuries and fatalities.
- The report clearly lays out the projected fatalities and the economic and social costs that will take place if no action is taken over the coming years. We salute this effort to focus the global community on reducing traffic crashes and fatalities worldwide.
- With the recent outbreak of the H1N1 flu virus, we have seen how the world community is capable of mobilizing and responding to emerging new health risks. This report can help develop a sense of urgency to address another emerging health risk – one that could ultimately take many more lives.
- What's even more compelling is that we already have a vaccine for this problem. We know how to reverse its spread, and greatly reduce its impact. Over the past 30 years, road traffic fatalities have drastically declined in many industrialized countries through deliberate concerted efforts. Now it is the time to share this vaccine worldwide.
- Everyone here today understands the scope of the problem. The challenge before us, of course, is in galvanizing the world community to both recognize the urgent need to address road traffic fatalities on the international level and to put our proven vaccine into motion.
- This report will help to create the framework for such an international movement as well as outline key elements of a comprehensive approach to road traffic safety. It will support the upcoming Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Russia later this year, and will help build momentum for a resolution calling for a decade of action next year in the United Nations.
- The five-pillar Action Plan in the report provides a strategic way for effectively reducing traffic fatalities by encouraging countries to use a safe roadway, safe driver and safe vehicle approach.

- We support the concept of the Decade of Action for Road Safety and indeed the United States is actively involved in a number of the recommended areas in the report. For example, the U.S. took the lead on creating a harmonized global technical regulation on electronic stability control to improve vehicle safety.
- In partnership with the U.S. Department of State and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we take part in an ongoing effort to share our know-how and expertise in traffic safety with low and middle-income countries through the U.S. Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.
- We are also working on the international level with organizations such as the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, Make Roads Safe, the UNECE Working Parties and others to share our joint knowledge and expertise in staunching the toll of so many preventable and tragic injuries and fatalities.
- But for any of these efforts to succeed, whether at the local, national or international level, there must be a solid foundation and methodology for the collection of traffic crash data. The U.S. is actively involved in efforts to share this critical knowledge as well.
- NHTSA is organizing an international workshop in July to support the launch of a new good practice manual later this year on the collection and analysis of road traffic crash data. The workshop will be a joint effort between NHTSA, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and the Global Road Safety Partnership. It will take place in conjunction with an international Traffic Records Forum in the U.S.
- It is incumbent upon all of us to do our part in reducing the global toll of road crashes and fatalities. We've seen how world can respond when it is mobilized to take action. This call for a Decade of Action for Road Safety will help us to rally the world community to create a safer environment for all of us.