

Message to the conference



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I very much welcome the creation of the FIA Foundation as a registered charity, working on road safety, transport and the environment, and mobility. Road safety is one of those issues that confronts us all, and one of the biggest causes of accidents and deaths, particularly for children. It is even more evident in the wider world. For example, it has been estimated that over 75% of road casualties occur in developing and transition countries, even though they account for only 32% of motor vehicles.

Of course, no individual country can tackle global road safety on its own. We all need to act, without delay. That is why the World Health Organisation's five-year strategy for Road Traffic Injury Prevention is so important, with its emphasis on helping to build countries' capacity to improve road safety. I am delighted the WHO has also decided to devote World Health Day on April 7th next year to road safety. I hope the day will really help focus international attention, helping to put road safety high on the agenda of governments, the international community, development agencies, NGOs and the private sector.

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
The Prime Minister

11 February 2003