

**THIS IS MY STREET: SAFE & HEALTHY STREETS FOR CHILDREN,  
YOUTH & CLIMATE**

**Scandic Continental Hotel, Stockholm, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, Chairman, FIA Foundation**

I am delighted to welcome you all, on behalf of the FIA Foundation and our Child Health Initiative partners.

A warm welcome too to our opening panel:

Representing the Swedish Government, our host for the week, it is an honour to be joined by Sweden's State Secretary for Infrastructure, Matthias Landgren.

My good friend Jean Todt, FIA President and the UN Secretary General's indefatigable Special Envoy for Road Safety.

Another good friend, Dr Etienne Krug, WHO Director of Social Determinants of Health, and possibly the longest standing and most distinguished veteran of this global road safety movement.

Our global ambassador for child health, eloquent and courageous advocate, Zoleka Mandela;

And I would also like to thank Kevin Watkins, CEO of Save the Children UK, for being here. Kevin has for many years been a strong ally from within the development community.

Many of us in the room participated in the first Global Ministerial conference in Moscow just over ten years ago.

In the intervening period, despite our best efforts, at least 2 million children and youth have died on the world's roads, and 100 million have been injured.

In a way these statistics are just too big. They blur the reality: that each one of these numbers represent a young life, their hopes and plans for a future.

So this week must be about specific action, for which governments and city authorities can be held accountable.

The UN Decade of Action for Road Safety is almost over. The UN Decade of Action for the SDGs has just begun.

We all worked hard to include a road safety target in the Global Goals.

Now, we must deliver on the opportunity that the SDGs present.

The Stockholm Declaration, prepared by the Swedish government after consultation with many actors and governments, is a compelling statement of intent.

We must all get behind the Declaration and work for its adoption at the United Nations.

But we also each need to do all we can to operationalise it.

And today I present our child-focused distillation of the Stockholm Declaration. A 2030 Manifesto for safe and healthy streets.

A policy prescription to protect children, youth and our climate.

Because if we can transform our urban streets into safe, low speed, liveable space, we give the gift of independence to our children and young people.

And if we make walking and cycling accessible and aspirational, we reduce short distance and inefficient car trips, protecting our climate.

The measures set out in this manifesto, that we call on all leaders here this week to adopt, are proven and affordable:

Footpaths;

protected cycleways;

speed protected crossings;

maximum thirty kilometre an hour speed limits where children and traffic mix.

These are foundational elements of the Safe System. They can help to deliver Vision Zero for Youth. We need them in place, everywhere, by 2030.

Many of you are working across the world, every day in your communities, to deliver this agenda.

But to reach the scale needed, we must have more resourcing and political commitment.

Jean's leadership in establishing the UN Road Safety Fund has given us a platform to demand catalytic funding support from donors, private and public.

I am proud that the FIA Foundation stepped up with the first, and so far largest, commitment to the UN Fund. Others must now play their part.

But we also need to look to the wider SDG agenda for alliances and funding support.

This motivates the Child Health Initiative's campaign for a Global Summit for Adolescents.

Road traffic, or to be more specific, vehicles driven by adults, are the leading global killer of children, teenagers and young adults from the age of five to 29.

Yet this epidemic, and many other modern epidemics that afflict teenagers and young people, are neglected by the international health community.

The funding available to adolescent issues is minuscule.

And the funding available to road traffic injury prevention is an infinitesimal fraction of that minuscule amount.

So we need to mobilise to combat this epidemic as part of a wider campaign for child and adolescent rights and health.

But with young leaders like Natasha Mwansa, who joins us today from Zambia, I am confident that we can win through.

We must persuade global health leaders, philanthropic leaders, institutional heads and Heads of State to make our cause their cause.

A Global Summit for Adolescents can help to bring us out of our silo and connect us to new allies and new sources of funding.

And the Heads of Government summit specifically on road safety proposed in the Stockholm Declaration can also play an important role in raising visibility for our cause.

So, as we begin this vital week, and this Decade of Action for the SDGs, there is much to be optimistic about.

I encourage you to support and endorse our manifesto, and to work and campaign together to make it happen.

These are our streets.

Let's make them safe for every child.