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MEMORANDUM

To: Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet Ref.: UNECE/2015/OES/375
Date: 23 October 2015
From: Christian Friis Bach *CFB*
cc:
Subject: Inauguration of the High Level Panel on Road Safety ✓

In 2010, more than 100 countries co-sponsored a landmark General Assembly resolution on a Decade of Action for Road Safety. The Resolution set the ambitious goal to stabilize and then reduce global traffic fatalities by 2020. Although awareness and advocacy has strengthened over the past five years, current data suggests that developing countries, especially in the middle-income group, will fail to attain the 2020 goal set by the Decade of Action.

In April 2015, Jean Todt was appointed as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety. In this capacity, and in accordance with his action plan, he has already conducted numerous awareness-raising and advocacy meetings with highest government representatives, UN resident coordinators and representatives of UN agencies, funds and programmes in many countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

In his capacity as President of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), Mr. Jean Todt launched the idea to establish a FIA High Level Panel for Road Safety. The goal is to raise much-needed resources for a proposed new UN Fund for Road Safety and to strengthen awareness for road safety in response to the global road safety crisis. This idea has attracted several eminent figures from private and public sectors. The Panel will comprise senior decision-makers in policy, business, transportation, public health and philanthropy. Each member is expected to lead an effort to build global support for coordinated action in support of the UN Decade of Action, serve as a champion for road safety and generate new momentum to initiate global change.

The establishment of the High Level Panel can be seen as a personal commitment by eminent persons who are concerned about the status of the global road safety. It would lend momentum to the issue at this critical juncture, where a strong political impulse is needed to achieve the agreed goals.

The inauguration of the High Level Panel would be an opportune moment for the Secretary-General once more to draw the world's attention to the road safety challenge and highlight the forthcoming 2nd Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety to take place in Brazil on 18 and 19 November 2015.

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By supporting this initiative, the Secretary-General would also make it clear that he expects Panel members to promote the Global Plan of Action for Road Safety, as well as the establishment of a UN Fund for Road Safety, actively and in a transparent manner.

I recommend that the Secretary-General participates in the launch of the FIA High Level Panel for Road Safety on 11 November 2015 in New York.