



GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

STATEMENT BY

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON IMPROVING GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY

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**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK**

President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid,
Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen, good day.

The nation of Jamaica is pleased to participate in the United Nations general assembly's high-level meeting on improving global road safety to treat with the plague of road crashes and fatalities; and we welcome the sincere efforts of this august body. Globally, road traffic crashes cause nearly 1.3 million preventable deaths and an estimated 50 million injuries each year – making it the leading killer of children and young people worldwide.

Jamaica has not been spared the destructive effects of road crashes, as we have observed a steady increase in fatality rates since 2012. Fatalities have increased on average by 10%, from 2012 to 2019. In 2021, 487 persons were killed on the nation's road network, representing a 12% increase when compared to 433 deaths in 2020. It has been generally accepted that developing nations, despite having fewer vehicles than developed countries, have a larger portion of fatalities globally. The socio-economic impact on developing states is devastating.

Jamaica's Prime Minister, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, in October 2022, as the keynote speaker at the launch of the second decade of action announced the adoption of the safe systems approach which remains core of the second decade of action 2021-2030, sending a clear signal of Jamaica's commitment to the UN goal to '*halve road fatalities by 2030*'. We affirm our commitment to the second decade of action to prioritize and formulate policy to serve as a blueprint for the development of national and local plans and targets.

The UN estimates that 13 million deaths and 500 million injuries during the next decade will hinder sustainable development, particularly in low and middle-income countries. To help reverse the tide of road crash death and injury cooperation between multi-lateral agencies, developed and developing countries, public-private partnership and on NGOs will be required to achieve the goal of reducing road fatalities and injuries by 50%.

The work of the UN Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) to support this endeavour is critical. The UNRSF leverages fiscal and technical cooperation to fund strategic road safety interventions to improve the road infrastructure, transport management, public education and post-crash care.

Jamaica is optimistic about the outcomes of the UN high level meeting and first pledging conference and welcomes opportunities to forge partnerships aimed at the shared mission of reducing road fatalities globally. We know we can achieve the vision of zero lives lost to road crashes, as long as we all work together.