



GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

STATEMENT BY

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MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND MINING**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON IMPROVING GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY

**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PANEL 1:
INCORPORATING ROAD SAFETY INTO SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT: POLITICAL WILL AND A-WHOLE-OF-
GOVERNMENT APPROACH**

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**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK**

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen, good day.

Developing countries, such as Jamaica, are constantly faced with competing priorities, including the challenge of raising road safety to a place of prominence. Our development hinges on the need to increase economic growth, reduce crime, improve healthcare and strengthen the education sector. All these are significantly impacted by road culture and behaviour.

Prioritization of "road safety as part of sustainable development" is therefore integral to meeting these priorities. If countries want to promote sustainable development, leaders must recognize the damaging impact of road fatalities and injuries on gross domestic product, the destabilizing effect of death and injury on the family, and the tremendous burden on health care resources. Governments must therefore effectively link road safety issues to high-priority matters by galvanizing local community support for improving road safety, as promulgated in the Global plan for Road Safety 2021-2030.

The UN posits that "good governance is key" to reducing road traffic deaths and injuries. The multi-sectorial impact of road crashes includes security, justice, local government, education, health, environment, transport, private sector and NGOs. Governments must revise legislative framework to empower regulatory agencies and establish a lead agency to address road safety issues. This lead

agency must be empowered to build consensus and align shared priorities, coordinate sector involvement in safety programmes and drive the development of a national road safety action plan.

Adequate funding is critical to the success of the work of the lead agency. This plan must be based on the Global Plan for Road Safety and establish short, medium and long-term objectives to:

- Expand access to public transport and sustainable urban design;
- Ensure safe roads;
- Standardize safe vehicle requirements;
- Effect post-crash care response and;
- Improve road user education and training.

Jamaica is moving in the right direction, as we have had a lead agency since 1993 and there are plans to strengthen its ability to execute its mandate. Governments must invest in data research to support evidence-based strategic planning.

It is incumbent on governments, national and local road safety stakeholders across all sectors, to develop and identify road safety issues based on accurate and reliable data and provide an integrated and strategic approach to reduce road traffic fatalities and injuries by 50% in keeping with the sustainable development goals.