

## **Committee on Transport, Sixth session, 12 - 13 Nov 2020**

*Intervention –Sri Lanka*

### **Agenda Item 3: Cross-cutting issues in transport**

#### **c) Safe and inclusive transport and mobility**

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, Sri Lanka also recognizes that safe and inclusive transport and mobility have domino effect towards contributing to reduce poverty and to support inclusive social development. As revealed by the WHO, the death rate of the ESCAP region due to road crashes is same as that of the global average and it should be noted that each country in the region is contributing to this fatality rate.

The vehicle ownership in Sri Lanka is growing in every year and accordingly, Sri Lanka identified that improving road safety is vital to national health, well-being, and economic growth. Sri Lanka's efforts in improving road safety can be reviewed in terms of progress being made in terms of National Road Safety Action Plan comprises strategies, detailed actions, and key performance indicators for each stakeholder department, in line with the five pillars for action specified in the current United Nations Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020. Sri Lanka has now identified the gaps in the existing National Action Plan and is considering reforms to strengthen road safety management priorities.

Since it has been identified that fatalities due to road accidents are caused by the low safety features of the vehicles, the National Road Safety Council of Sri Lanka is planning to establish a mechanism to validate manufacture's safety certificates as well as fitness of vehicles to run in Sri Lankan environment, by implementing a system-wide mechanism to evaluate and certify the safety level of the imported vehicles.

Sri Lanka has considerable potential to improve its road safety performance over the coming decade and also there are compelling reasons to move forward to achieve SDG 3.6 target of 50 % reduction in national road crash fatalities.

For these initiatives, the Government of Sri Lanka appreciates the consultative guidance, and technical assistance receiving from the Transport Division of the UNESCAP in support of submitting a project proposal to the UN Road Safety Fund seeking supplementary source of

funds for a pilot project on road safety. Sri Lanka wishes to work in close cooperation with the UNESCAP to effective implementation of the intended projects in line with the United Nations regulations on road safety and other relevant frameworks.