

Africa-Europe Week  
14-18 Feb. 2022



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## INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ROAD SAFETY IN AFRICA BETWEEN YOUTH LEADERS AND HIGH-LEVEL DECISION-MAKERS FROM THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE EUROPEAN UNION – 15 FEBRUARY 2022

### OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We, the members of the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety, call for urgent action from decision-makers in the African Union, the European Union, and at national and local level in Africa to collaborate with youth on the implementation of our recommendations to improve road safety for youth in Africa.

#### THE ISSUE:

Young people are paying an unacceptably high price for their mobility. Globally, road traffic crashes have been the biggest killer of young people aged 15-29 for more than a decade. Moreover, the road fatality rate in Africa is now six times that of the EU. This is a double crisis for young people but within these major challenges there are also opportunities to work with and for young people to develop safe and sustainable mobility systems that incorporate their needs and ideas. Increased funding for road safety and meaningful participation for all young people are required to safeguard the lives and futures of youth globally, and specifically across Africa. Young people have every right to be consulted in policy-making and implementation on such a major issue.

**“IT’S TIME FOR REAL ACTION, NO MORE FALSE PROMISES OR FAKE COMMITMENTS. YOU HAVE TO PICK A LANE: WILL YOU WORK WITH US TO SAVE LIVES AND CREATE A HEALTHIER WORLD? OR WILL YOU CONFESS TO YOUR CHILDREN THAT YOU DID NOTHING TO STOP THIS GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY CRISIS?”**

QUOTE FROM THE GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT FOR ROAD SAFETY 2020

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## OUR VISION FOR GREATER YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN ROAD SAFETY DECISION MAKING :

We, the members of the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety, call on decision-makers across the African Union and European Union, and at national and local level in Africa:

- to stop blaming young people for road traffic crashes and start creating safe and sustainable mobility systems in Africa with youth that protect youth.
- to foster systematic and meaningful youth participation at all stages of policymaking to proactively deliver intergenerational equity.
- to collaborate with youth on our recommendations to urgently reduce the road traffic fatalities and serious injuries disproportionately impacting young people in Africa.

## OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

### GREATER POLITICAL WILL

1. Make tackling road safety for young people in Africa the highest political priority

### SYSTEMATIC YOUTH PARTICIPATION

1. Mainstream meaningful youth participation as standard in the design and delivery of road safety policies and national plans/programs in Africa, such as membership of advisory bodies, youth councils, technical committees or evaluation panels for calls for proposals and tenders.
2. Foster intergenerational collaboration and integrate youth representation at high-level meetings by including youth as part of official governmental delegations within the global development agenda, instead of staging separate youth meetings on the days before, e.g. at the High Level meeting on road safety in New York in July and the EU results conference in October.
3. Provide 'Youth Check' mechanisms for consultation with young people to co-design new road safety initiatives and assess the impact on youth, adjusting policies and planning based on the feedback received.
4. Foster a youth participatory budgeting (social accountability) so young people have a greater role in the decision-making process on the allocation of funding for road safety initiatives.
5. Communicate road safety information and campaigns in youth-friendly ways, and develop engagement strategies with youth to reach marginalised groups within young populations. There is no one size fits all approach to engaging young people in participatory processes.



## FUNDING TO MATCH THE SCALE OF THE ISSUE

1. Increase funding for road safety in Africa, in particular for initiatives most affecting youth
2. Within national youth policies and programmes allocate funding specifically to work with young people on delivering safe and sustainable mobility, beyond road safety education and empowerment programs. Fund traineeships aimed at youth to develop careers and expertise within the sector
3. Fund youth-led pilot projects at local/national level, create a stream of work dedicated to road safety within the AU - EU Youth Cooperation Hub and the first youth action plan in EU external action

## IMPLEMENT PROVEN SOLUTIONS

1. Implement low-cost, high impact, sustainable solutions throughout Africa which have proven successful in various countries and cities, e.g. Global Youth Coalition [Local Actions](#)
2. Adopt and enforce 30km/h speed limits in towns and cities where high volumes of pedestrians and traffic meet (e.g. around education settings), and provide safe infrastructure for walking and cycling.

## COMMITMENTS FROM THE GLOBAL COALITION FOR ROAD SAFETY

We, the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety, commit to support and promote evidence-based solutions that will contribute to saving lives. We will act as change makers for safe road behaviour and to be the change we would like to see in the EU, Africa and indeed globally.

We also call on youth partners to build alliances and develop a common agenda with other NGOs who work on road safety or interlinking agendas and SDGs such as climate action, sustainable cities, health and gender equality; to share examples of successful initiatives; and to hold policymakers to account.

We will continue:

1. Advocating for better road safety laws and enforcement, quality forms of non-motorized transport and better post-crash care. (SDG 3)
2. Raising awareness and campaigning for safe school zones. (SDG 4)
3. Promoting peer education on the importance of observing road safety rules. (SDG 4)
4. Petitioning for more meaningful youth representation in road safety decision-making. (SDG 10)
5. Fighting for women's rights to move safely and free of prejudices. (SDG 10)



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6. Advocating to put vulnerable road users first in city design. (SDG 11)
7. Pressing local decision-makers to invest in safer and sustainable infrastructure, vehicles and road users. (SDG 11)
8. Advocating for safe and sustainable transport that is clean and green. (SDG 13)

**Access the full list of events in the Africa-Europe Programme [here](#)**

**Read about the speakers [here](#)**



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