



PARALLEL SESSION: DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTIONS

Session Conclusions

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1. KEYWORDS

Accountability; transparency; enforcement; accountable institutions

2. TITLE OF THE SESSION: *DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTIONS*

3. TOPIC OF THE SESSION

This session highlighted the importance of accountable, transparent and inclusive institutions (public, private, civil society and academia) in achieving road safety goals on national and global levels. While considerable achievements have been made, more needs to be done in improving implementation, governance and accountability in road safety.

4. SHORT SUMMARY OF SESSION

Effective and accountable institutions are essential to sustainable road safety. They operate in a transparent, responsive, participatory and inclusive manner to respond to the needs of people and provide timely, appropriate and equitable access to services, including safe transport systems. In a number of countries, several challenges reveal ineffectiveness in the way existing institutions operate. These challenges include, among others, limited accountability, lack of transparency, inadequate enforcement, insufficient resource allocation and partial implementation of long-term plans. As an important enabler with its view on governance, this session addressed in part Sustainable Development Goal 16 to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide

access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Building effective and accountable institutions will remain a key feature if the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to be realized. This session addressed how effective and accountable institutions can help to achieve road safety and other Sustainable Development Goals.

5. OVERALL MESSAGES

Accountability is not just a responsibility of individuals, but of governments, road designers, policy makers and different road safety stakeholders. As we strive toward achieving SDG 2030 goals, it is imperative to think about accountability in more systematic way – accountability of governments (ministries, parliament, judiciary systems), governments of high-income countries (bilateral agencies, ministries of trade, research funding agencies), private sector (for example, alcohol industry's role in the road traffic injury burden), United Nations system (WHO, UNICEF and etc.), multilateral financial institutions, and civil society. It is also critical to discuss the types of accountability: horizontal (between different agencies, external) vs vertical accountability (civic engagement and entitlement, media) or diagonal/hybrid accountability (participatory). Accountability is the core stone and will determine our success and failure in global road safety.

The Russian Federation has achieved considerable reductions in road traffic injuries that could be attributed to the strong accountable institutions in the country – the system was designed to make change and there was a team that was accountable to putting the strategy and vision endorsed by the president forward.

Australia made big step forward in improving road safety by establishing the Office of Road Safety as a governmental agency in April 2019. With a unique structure – local, state and federal levels of governments – the Office provides greater leadership and coordination of road safety efforts at a national level.

European Union has a strong police network and comprehensive road safety standards in place. Enforcement is key in avoiding road traffic crashes and this is the main role of police.

It is critically important that government decisions and interventions are based on best evidence – harmonized research findings and theory. In Malaysia, the academic institution played an important role in designing the road safety master plan that is implemented by the government.

However, despite the examples above, many countries and institutions lack accountability for global road safety. It is imperative to remember that final accountability of institutions is with people.

6. OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

Accountability is a very important topic in road safety. All involved parties are accountable and innovative approaches are needed for holding different agencies and each other accountable.

Accountability should be something that we do – a way of working and reflecting the ethical values that we espouse to.

Accountability is complex and demands asking difficult questions; it is time to make this part of the future of global road safety.

7. IMPORTANT FINDINGS (EX. TECHNICAL OR OTHERS)

[This can include key findings that have been confirmed and can be shared, as well as emerging issues that have been identified and will require more analysis.]

Not applicable

8. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING GOVERNMENTS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

[This can include recommendations for future studies or future collaborations.]

Not applicable

9. PREPARATION OF THE SESSION

The session was prepared by Dr. Adnan Hyder in collaboration with Dr. Ahmed Shelbaya, four panellists and the World Health Organization.

10. SESSION PROGRAM

[Include the program of the session as it actually took place]

Chair:

Moderator: Adnan Hyder

Plan and timing:

| Approx. Time | Topic/Presentation title | Speaker (title, role/position, organisation) |
|--------------|--|--|
| 2 minutes | Welcome remarks | Adnan Hyder, MD MPH PhD, |
| 5 minutes | Questions to panellists | Senior Associate Dean for |
| 3 minutes | Closing remarks | Research & Professor of Global Health, Milken Institute School of Public Health, the George Washington University, USA |
| 5 minutes | Intro presentation on accountable institutions | Ahmed Shelbaya, MD MSc MPH, |
| 2 minutes | Summary points | Senior Director Global Health Outcomes Research, Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, USA |
| 7 minutes | Accountability in road safety in Russia | Natalia Agre, President, Road Safety, Russia |
| 7 minutes | Accountability in road safety in Australia | Pat Conaghan, Member of Parliament, Australian House of Representatives, Australia |
| 7 minutes | The role of police in road safety in European Union | Volker Orben, President, TISPOL |
| 7 minutes | The role of academia in road safety, example from Malaysia | Siti Zaharah Ishak, PhS, Director-General, Malaysian Institute for Road Safety Research, Malaysia |
| 15 minutes | Questions and discussion | Audience and panellists |