



High-level Panel:

Moving forward to 2030 and closing

We need you, the ministers, UN and the private sector to act now and stand by the promises you make and show real leadership. Nothing will change unless you make it happen. Safety is not an option it is a human right.

This was the closing message to the conference from Lotte Brøndum, executive Director, Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety. Her call for urgent action was repeated in various ways from the other panellists.

– We must go from words to action. Many of us are tired and lost all our belief in our decision makers to lead the change. We want to be an equal partner and participate in the decision making process. Either we keep preaching or we start reaching concrete results, said Raquel Barrios, Project Manager World Youth Assembly YOURS – Youth for Road Safety.

– Continuing in the way we do will not bring about the necessary change. We must take a different path. We have underestimated the magnitude of the work that is required to bring about the desired changes. We have to bridge the gap between evidence-based scientific research and concrete reforms to be able to create sustainable, well thought-out and effective solutions, said Hala Abou-Ali Member of Parliament of Arab Republic of Egypt.

– The private sector can make a big impact by addressing road safety, not only as a transport issue, but also as an occupational health issue. The private sector, especially multinational companies, is in a unique position to make impact, said Martin Lundstedt, President and Chief Executive Officer, Volvo Group.

– We need a transformation in thinking. We need to evolve into a new era, fundamentally and holistically grounded in safety. Safety must be a non-negotiable value like in aviation. It must become an integral part of the DNA of the road transport system, said Jean Todt, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety.

– The Stockholm Declaration needs to become a UN General Assembly resolution in order to have more weight and to ensure that we will have a heads of state conference very soon, said Etienne Krug, Director of the Department of Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization.

– Together we start to implement the words of the Stockholm Declaration into real action. We implement it by pointing out the important role of road safety for making progress on the global sustainable challenges. I want the message from the conference to be clear, we can do it, concluded, Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure, Sweden.