Sweden is to host the 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety on 19–20 February 2020. The conference will be co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), and minister-led delegations from more than 80 countries are expected to attend. Representatives from the world of industry and research, international institutions and other global organizations will also participate.

The conference marks the end of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020 and the starting point for continued collaboration on road safety. The aim is to reach global consensus on guidelines for continued international collaboration on road safety up to 2030.
Making progress together

The broad representation at the conference reflects the need for stakeholders and sectors of society to contribute to making roads safe. We must all contribute with knowledge, competence and innovative ideas to effect change and make progress together. This conference gives us all a valuable opportunity to put road safety in a global perspective and collaborate in the interests of reducing or eliminating road traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

Road safety – part of a sustainable society

Road safety issues, their consequences and possible solutions, are included in the 2030 Agenda and are closely linked to other sustainability challenges, such as climate change, health, equality, poverty and human rights. For this reason, the conference will include themes that relate to several aspects of sustainability, all of which contribute to reducing the number of road traffic fatalities.

Decade of Action

Every year there are 1.35 million road traffic fatalities globally. This not only causes human suffering, but also major economic losses. In a vigorous effort to prevent this, world leaders gathered in Moscow in 2009 to declare 2011–2020 a Decade of Action for Road Safety.

In 2015, a follow-up conference was held in Brasilia. The decade is coming to an end and, in April 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that designated Sweden as the host of the 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety.

The Decade of Action has encouraged action at all levels of society, but the focus is primarily national and local. Five pillars have been established to guide the efforts of national and local governments:

- Road safety management
- Safer roads and mobility
- Safer vehicles
- Safer road users
- Post-crash response

Source: World Health Organization

Source: Global Status Report On Road Safety 2018

Source: www.globalgoals.org
In October 1997, the Swedish Parliament adopted a new long-term goal and a new strategic framework for road safety, Vision Zero. The goal is that: “no one shall be killed or seriously injured as a consequence of accidents in road traffic, and the design, function and use of the road transport system shall be adapted to meet the requirements that follow from Vision Zero”. Vision Zero is therefore a moral principle which states that we cannot accept that people are killed or seriously injured within the road transport system.

Vision Zero emphasises that the road transport system is an entity in which the different components such as roads, vehicles and road users must interact in order to ensure safety. Vision Zero alters the view of responsibility. Those who design the road transport system bear the ultimate responsibility for safety: road managers, vehicle manufacturers, road transport carriers, politicians, public employees, legislative authorities and the police. It is the responsibility of the individual person to comply with laws and regulations.

With a Vision Zero policy, safety has become an integral part of the movement for the long-term sustainable development of our societies. Safety is a basic requirement for achieving more active and environmentally friendly mobility around the world.
Conference content and pre- and post-events

In 2019, the conference secretariat, together with the International Advisory Committee and the High-level Consultative Committee, will develop the content and arrangements for the conference. The conference secretariat will also handle requests from other actors to host events before and after the main conference. For more information, please visit our website:

www.roadsafetysweden.com