



25 February 2022

His Excellency Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa

C/- Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations

By email: pmun.newyork@dirco.gov.za

Dear President Ramaphosa

High level meeting on road safety

On 30 June and 1 July, 2022, leaders from across the globe will gather at the United Nations for the first ever [high-level meeting on road safety](#). The theme is “2030 Horizon for Road Safety: Securing a Decade of Action and Delivery” and reflects the UN Sustainable Development Goal to halve road deaths and injuries by 2030.

I am writing to encourage you to actively participate in the high-level meeting, commit to the implementation of the [Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-30](#) and share your country’s success stories and plans for the future at the event.

Road trauma impacts every country, every community and every economy. Road crashes are the leading killer of children and young people worldwide. In the International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP) *Vaccines for Roads* resource, it is estimated that road crashes cause the death and life-changing injury of 159,577 people in South Africa every year, with a direct financial cost of US\$18,932,343,667.

Without action at the global level, road crashes are set to cause an estimated 13 million deaths and 500 million injuries during this decade at a cost of more than US\$25 trillion to the global economy. Targeting existing and new investment at proven solutions will save lives, reduce injuries, save money and create jobs as part of both your national and global response to road safety.

iRAP is a global charity with a vision for *a world free of high-risk roads* that works in partnerships with the UN, Development Banks, National and Local Governments, Industry and Academia in over 100 countries worldwide. The free [iRAP star rating and investment planning tools](#) have been adopted as the global standard with associated [national programme support](#) to ensure local leadership and ownership. More than US\$80 billion of road investment has been made safer with investment optimised to maximise lives saved and provide Government and the private sector with the [business case for safer roads](#).

In South Africa, you have already made important progress towards achieving the Global Road Safety Performance Target 3 for all new roads to be 3-star or better by 2030 and Target 4 for >75% of travel to be on safe roads for all road users by 2030. Your SARAP programme activity has already assessed 24,654 km of roads and designs, and 60 schools. 231 nationals have benefited from iRAP training, along with 103 people trained in events delivered locally. [AA South Africa has recommended iRAP Star Ratings](#) as the government intervention to reduce annual high road fatalities.

The **International Road Assessment Programme** is a global registered charity with a vision for a world free of high-risk roads.

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National policies, results-based financing and action to ensure more than 75% of travel is on 3-star or better roads for all road users by 2030 will unlock the win-win benefits of safer roads. Your leadership to achieve this outcome in South Africa will save an estimated 1,066,902 deaths and injuries over the life of the treatments with an economic benefit of US\$104,818,364,180. Every safer road upgrade can be celebrated and the positive impact in terms of lives saved, health-care costs avoided and jobs created can be measured as part of creating safe, sustainable, healthy and inclusive communities that thrive.

By acting boldly and decisively, with a focus on action and delivery in line with the Global Plan and High-Level Meeting, world leaders can change the course of the road trauma pandemic and save thousands of lives. The eradication of serious road trauma in our communities will remove the burden of road trauma on health systems and the economy. In addition to creating safer road infrastructure, coordinated action is needed across all sectors including safe and sustainable transport planning; safer vehicles; safer road use; and improved post-crash response. It will require commitment to results-based financing, managing safe speeds, capacity building and new technology with extra support for low and middle-income countries.

In the lead-up to the high-level meeting, I encourage you to:

- Actively support the UN to prepare a bold and decisive statement on a Decade of Action and Delivery that will prevent millions of deaths and injuries
- Ensure that national and local road safety plans in South Africa are in harmony with the SDG target to halve road deaths and injuries by 2030 and the associated Global Plan for the Decade of Action 2021-2030.
- Share the success of your existing iRAP programme activity in South Africa and your plans for the future at the High-Level Meeting. Our [Partnerships for 2030 Impact document](#) provides decisive actions you can embrace and implement.
- Share this letter with your Minister of Transport and relevant Ministries and affirm your joint commitment to support and implement the Global Plan.

Should you have any questions on the event and the potential for your iRAP programme going forwards, please don't hesitate to contact me on rob.mcinerney@irap.org. For more details on your existing activity please contact our Global Programme Director Greg Smith on greg.smith@irap.org.

We look forward to your leadership, action and delivery in the Decade ahead and the life-saving potential of implementing the Global Plan for the Decade of Action 2021-2030 in South Africa.

Yours sincerely



ROB MCINERNEY
Chief Executive Officer