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Rochelle Sobel Delivers Address at Global Meeting of the NGO Alliance for Road Safety

The Seventh Global Meeting of the Global Alliance of NGOs Advocating for Road Safety and Road Victims was held virtually and in person in Budapest, on March 23–24. **Rochelle Sobel**, founder and president of ASIRT, and outgoing president of the Alliance Board of Directors, delivered poignant remarks prior to a moment of silence which was observed to honor the memory of victims of road crashes the world over. Sobel, a founding member of the Alliance will now join the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Alliance. Opening messages were presented by László Palkovics, Minister of Innovation and Technology of Hungary; Abdulla Shahid, President of the UN General Assembly; Jean Todt, UN General Secretary Special Envoy for Road Safety; Etienne Krug, Director, Social Determinants of Health, WHO and Lotte Brondum, Executive Director of the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety. Highlights of the meeting included the launching of the **Budapest NGO Declaration**, a discussion on achieving the goals of the **Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030** and a presentation of the **Commit to Act Campaign.**

ASIRT and Paragon Take Lead in Crafting Text for North American Budapest NGO Declaration Call to Action

One of the pivotal events of the Meeting was the launching of the **Budapest NGO Declaration** and regional calls to actions, representing each of the five UN regions. The Declaration advocates for evidence-based actions to improve road safety, increased investment in road safety solutions and greater involvement of civil society in the road safety decision making process. In addition to global goals, each region presented its own call to action reflecting its road crash data, needs, demands and commitments. **The North American regional text for the call to action was written by ASIRT, representing the U.S., and Paragon, representing Canada.**

The Budapest Declaration was presented to the European Commission for Road Safety Coordinator, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, and the UN ESCAP Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. The Declaration will be an invaluable tool for NGOs as they advocate for specific actions with regional and national decision makers.

The Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030. How Can It Be achieved?

The Global Plan for the Decade developed by the WHO and UN Regional Commissions in cooperation with partners in the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration calls for a reduction by 50% of road deaths and injuries by 2030. Speakers representing the Hungarian Motorsport and Green Development Agency, the United Nations Road Safety Fund, European Coordinator

for Road Safety and Sustainable Mobility, the FIA Foundation, Toward Zero Foundation and Johnson and Johnson presented their views on the what, the how and the who of achieving this very ambitious goal.

Plans Announced for Commit to Act for Safety Campaign

Alliance staff members presented plans for the #CommitToAct campaign (May 16-20) which will be a Week of Action. Leveraging the regional calls to action defined by Alliance members in the Budapest NGO Declaration, the Week will support NGO engagement with their national decision makers ahead of a High-level Meeting on Global Road Safety scheduled to be held on June 30–July 1, 2022. The campaign will encourage political leaders to make specific meaningful commitments for evidence-based action, with a particular call for 30 km/h limits where people live, walk and play. NGOs will arrange roundtables and events with their decision makers to encourage them to make commitments and present them at the High-level Meeting. In support of Global Road Safety Week, **ASIRT is planning a Walk, Bike, Run, Scooter Challenge on May 20–22 and a Congressional Caucus for Global Road Safety Briefing this summer.**