

FEDERAL ROADS SAFETY COMMISSION, NIGERIA JOINS UNITED NATIONS ROAD SAFETY COLLABORATION.

The Federal Roads Safety Corps Nigeria on Monday 17th April 2012 became a distinguished member of the United Nation's Roads Safety Collaboration at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC.

At the 15th meeting of the UN Road Safety Collaboration which was hosted by WHO and the World Bank on 16-17 April in Washington DC in the context of the 2012 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and The World Bank Group, the over one hundred participants gathered at the MC 6 – 787 Hall in the World Bank Head office in Washington DC, USA unanimously voted that the FRSC, Nigeria be admitted into the United Nations Road Safety partnership.

FRSC, Nigeria was admitted along with two other international Organization, the FIA and the FIM. The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (**FIA**) is the governing body for world motor sport and the federation of the world's leading motoring organizations.

Founded in 1904, with headquarters in Paris, the FIA is a non-profit making association. It brings together 227 national motoring and sporting organisations from 132 countries on five continents. Its member clubs represent millions of motorists and their families.

The FIA has been dedicated to representing the rights of motoring organizations and motor car users throughout the world via campaigns and activities that defend their interests. On issues such as safety, mobility, the

environment and consumer law the FIA actively promotes the interests of motorists at the United Nations, within the European Union and through other international bodies.

The FIA is also the governing body for motor sport worldwide. It administers the rules and regulations for all international four-wheel motor sport including the FIA Formula One World Championship, FIA World Rally Championship and FIA World Touring Car Championship.

Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (International Motorcycling Federation) FIM' with headquarters in Suisse, Switzerland was established in 1904. It brings together 107 motorcycling organizations in 107 countries.

The Federal Roads Safety Commission was briefly introduced to the distinguished members by Mr. Olanrewaju Osho, the Executive Director Safety Beyond Borders before the election. He informed the electorates that the Federal Roads Safety Commission was established in 1988 to address the unpleasant trends in the nation's road traffic system often resulting to an upsurge in road traffic crashes; stating that the critical mandate of the Commission was accident prevention and loss reduction on all public roads across the country.

The vision of the Commission he explained is to eradicate Road Traffic Crashes and create safe motoring environment in Nigeria while the mission, of the Commission amongst others are to:

- Regulate, enforce and coordinate all road traffic and safety management activities through:

- Sustained Public Enlightenment.
- Effective Patrol Operations.
- Prompt Rescue Services.
- Improved Vehicle Administration.
- Robust Data Management.
- Promotion of Stakeholder Cooperation.

He informed the members of the UNRSC delegates that the Commission carries out its mandate through the structure of regular marshals (permanent employees of the Commission) who are in excess of 12,000 officers and men and the Special Marshal who are volunteer road safety enthusiasts. “The Commission” he explained, “introduced the Special Marshal scheme to involve highly placed Nigerians and seasoned professionals the opportunity to contribute actively in achieving the mandate of the Commission even though they are not in employment of the FRSC. There are over 13,000 Special Marshals at the moment.”

He revealed that the Commission has been working assiduously over the years to bring down the level of carnage on Nigerian roads to around 5,000 deaths per annum and has also introduced reforms in data management, vehicles and drivers licence and Emergency Response. “The Commission” he said “is driving the post crash rescue response time by purchasing ambulances and positioning them at strategic points across the country. The ambulances are monitored real time online via global satellite system that enables one to find out where every one of the ambulances are at every point in time as they carry out their emergency response duties. The Commission

recently introduced emergency number – 122- and to grant easy access to members of the public that want to report an accident.

As a networking focused organization, the FRSC Nigeria he explains is extending its reach to non-governmental organizations in Nigeria as partners in progress, while at the same time spearheading road safety at the sub-regional level by driving the West African Road Safety Organization initiative. Osho concluded by informing delegates that the FRSC's myriad of activities to tackle traffic fatalities were recognized, acknowledged and rewarded with the prestigious Prince Michel International Roads Safety Awards in December 2009.

Earlier in the day, the Keynote speaker David Strickland, Administrator of the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), provided an overview of progress in the country on the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

The Decade was a key agenda item, and updates were made on both global and national efforts to implement the Global Plan. During the meeting considerable progress was made on finalizing the project group work plans for each pillar of the Global Plan, as well as further refining indicators for monitoring progress on each.

National Decade focal points from Ghana and the Philippines shared progress and the challenges they face in implementing their national Decade plans. They invited the international community to continue advocating for increased action at national level across various sectors of society. Funding for the Decade also featured on the agenda with updates from the Road Safety

Fund, the Road Safety Grants Programme, and the Global Road Safety Facility. Decisions were also taken with regard to preparations for the Second UN Global Road Safety Week. Three new members were admitted to the Collaboration during the meeting: FIA, FIM and the Nigeria Road Federal Safety Corps.

Nigeria's representatives at the meeting were Deputy Corp Marshal. Adeyemi Omidij of the Federal Roads Safety Corps and Mr. Olanrewaju Osho of Inspire Nigeria.

UN General Assembly commits to further action to address the global road safety crisis

On 19 April the UN General Assembly adopted a new resolution set to improve global road safety. Resolution A/66/L.43 recognizes the global public health and development burden resulting from road traffic crashes, while taking into account the efforts made by some countries to implement best practices, set ambitious targets, and monitor road traffic fatalities. The resolution welcomes national and local launches of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, officially marked on 11 May 2011, and calls on Member States which have not yet done so to develop plans for the Decade. It also requests governments to implement road safety activities in each of the five pillars of the Global Plan for the Decade: road safety management, safer roads and mobility, safer vehicles, safer road users and post-crash response. It holds up multisectoral collaboration as key. In addition the resolution encourages stakeholders to plan activities and events to mark the Second UN Global Road Safety Week to be hosted on the theme of "pedestrian safety" in early 2013. It

also invites Member States, international organizations, development banks, foundations, professional associations and private companies to consider providing adequate and additional funding to activities relating to the Decade. This latest UN General Assembly resolution on road safety was sponsored by the Russian Federation, and co-sponsored by an additional 80 countries. During the discussions strong statements of support were made by representatives of the governments of Barbados, Brazil, Ethiopia, Iceland, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, the Russian Federation, and Syria as well as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.