

**“We are running out of  
time”**

**An Update on the Latin  
American and Caribbean Region**

**UN Road Safety Collaboration**

**Geneva—October 31, 2006**

**ECLAC/CEPAL and the Global Road Safety Forum**

# Multi-year LAC Road Safety Initiative

How do we get from this Forum to regional coordination?

National Plans, Interventions, Regional Plan

IDB  
Brasilia

PAHO  
Meetings

Regional  
Planning  
Meeting

Regional  
Stakeholders  
Forum

Regional Committee  
Strategy  
Structure  
Management  
Relationships

Sustainability  
Accountability

Measurable  
Objectives

Brasilia  
1998

Brazilia  
2004, 2005

Santiago,  
Jan 18-  
19, 2006

~September 2006

September 2007

# We are ambitious in our objectives

- Build political will for reducing deaths and disability from road traffic injuries
- Organize a regional, multi-sectoral approach to road safety in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Promote integration of the relevant areas of government, civil society, and the private sector
- Accelerate national plans and road safety programs throughout the region

# We are Ambitious

- Assure the continuation and sustainability of this effort
- Support the Declaration of San Jose
- Initiate a process for creating a regional committee for promoting road safety throughout the region
- Develop a plan for sustaining regional collaboration for road safety

# Sponsoring institutions

- COSEVI
- PAHO
- ECLAC
- World Bank
- Inter-American Development Bank
- FIA Foundation and Automobile Clubs of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Global Road Safety Forum

# Rationale for Organizing the Collaborative Effort

*It is both important and urgent* that all the nations of the Latin American and Caribbean region work together to stop the growing epidemic of deaths and injuries on our roads.

*But* we do not have a mechanism to promote multi-sectoral collaboration and manage our joint projects in road traffic safety.

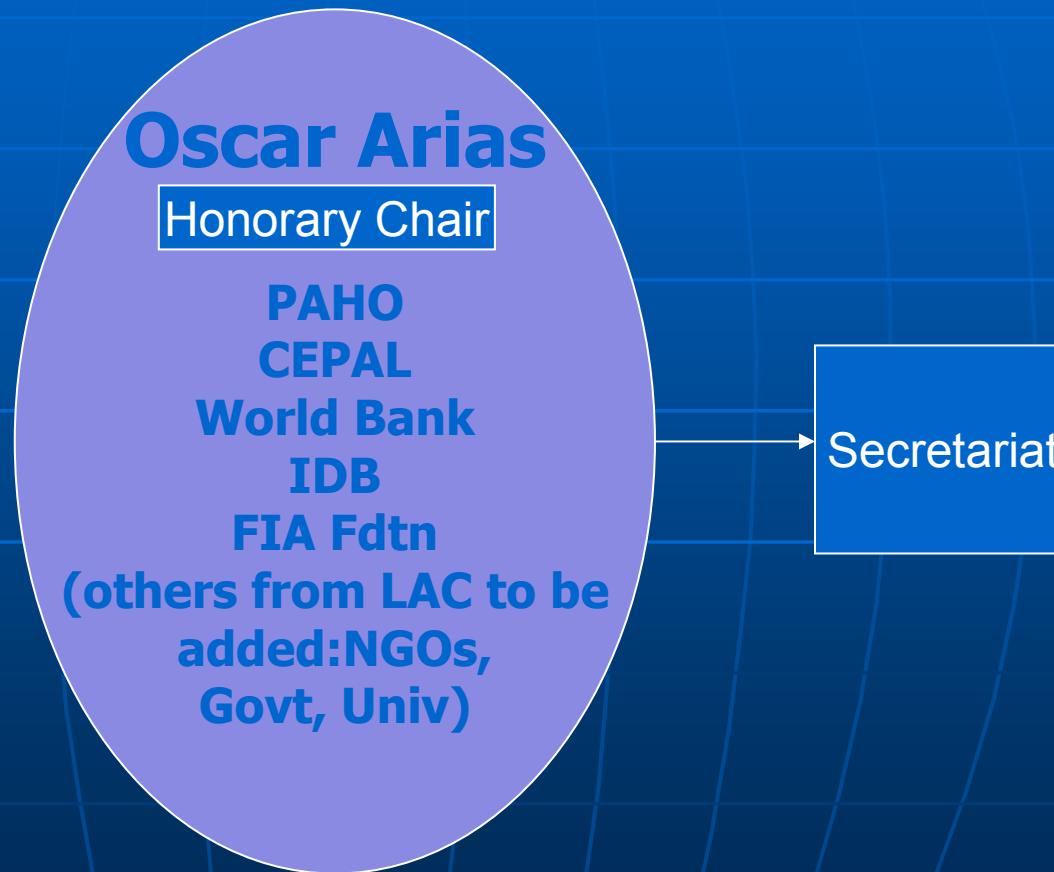
*Therefore* we propose to work together to develop a regional coordinating mechanism that will draw upon all relevant sectors of government, civil society, and the private sector to promote a region-wide approach to road safety.

# The Declaration of San Jose: We Must Stop the Epidemic of Death on Our Roads

Commit to work together to develop a regional committee that will:

- a. Be representative of all relevant sectors of government, civil society, and the private sector,
- b. Promote a region-wide approach to road safety,
- c. Strengthen the capacity to collect and use road safety information throughout the region,
- d. Promote harmonization of laws for road and vehicle safety, and
- e. Share road safety information and best practices across the region.

# Transitional Commission: Approved by Consensus



September 2006  
San Jose



# Institutional Members and Patrons

## Named Institution (Patron)

- **Oscar Arias**
- **PAHO** (Director, Mirta Roses)
- **CEPAL/ECLAC** (Executive Secretary, Jose Luis Machinea)
- **World Bank** (Director of Transport and Urban Development, Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard)
- **Inter-American Development Bank** (President, Luis Moreno)
- **FIA/FIA Foundation** (Chair, Rosario Alessi)

## Contact (worker)

- Karla Gonzalez or Vice Minister for transport
- Alberto Concha or Eugenia Rodriguez
- Ricardo Sanchez
- Tony Bliss
- Pietro Masci
- Carlos Macaya or David Ward

# Interim Commission Responsibilities

- Design and vet proposal for regional coordinating mechanism for submission to 2007 Regional Forum
- Gather signatures throughout region for Declaration of San Jose
- Organize Second Regional Road Safety Forum where the proposal for a regional coordinating mechanism can be approved

# Interim Commission for the LAC Regional Coordinating Mechanism

- **The Proposal to Create a Regional Coordinating Mechanism**

- Will be widely vetted then approved by 2007 Regional Forum Participants
- Will answer the following questions
  - **Strategy:** goal, objectives, priority activities,
  - **Structure:** must be inclusive and participative, LAC focused, decide on voting members, non-voting members? how will it be organized? where will it be located? Executive or advisory board?
  - **Management:** financial resources, accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability
  - **Relationships:** building relationships with transparency, trust,

# President Oscar Arias

- Op-ed in Washington Post
- Signer of Declaration of San Jose
- Keynote closing speech
- Honorary chair of Transitional Regional Commission

## Peace On the Roads By Oscar Arias Sanchez

- In the 1980s Central America was engaged in violent struggles that claimed the lives of more than 70,000 people. But we were able to bring a peaceful resolution to these struggles, restore human rights and work for a better future. I dedicated my life to this cause.
- Times have changed, and now peace requires a different kind of fight. We face a danger that not only kills people but lulls us into an unconscious silence. It doesn't attract media and global attention as wars and murders do, but it is violence nonetheless -- violence on our roads.
- We have an opportunity to address this threat, to substitute peace and survival for violence and death. We have faced such choices in the past and we have won. The people of this region have the same right to safety as those in other parts of the world. I am committed to promoting road safety because I know it will benefit Costa Rica and every other country in our region. We hope our success will also be a beacon of hope for many others in Asia, Africa and other parts of the world. I know we can succeed; *I only fear that we are running out of time.*

*The Washington Post, Saturday, September 9, 2006*

Thank

you

# BIHAG

- **Big**
- **Hairy**
- **Audacious**
- **Goal**

# Each working group prepared for the San Jose meeting

## Political Will

- Declaration of San Jose
- Plan for regional coordination

## Information Systems

- Profile of existing information systems
- Plan for strengthening a regional information system

## Knowledge Sharing

- Prototype website for knowledge sharing
- Identify priority areas for knowledge sharing

## Communications and Culture Change

- Prepare for panel on media and communications
- Identify priorities for communications and campaign plan

## Infrastructure

- Prepare for training session
- Coordinate with International Road Assessment Program



# We should learn the lessons from AIDS

- ***We must work quickly:***
  - In AIDS, the public health community failed to respond to the problem as it was growing rapidly in developing nations. As a result, we ended up with the worst public health disaster the world has seen.
- ***We must work together:***
  - “The biggest single failure in the fight against AIDS in the first 15 years of the pandemic was the failure to collaborate.” — Dr. Michael Merson, former Dean, Yale School of Public Health
- We missed one of the worst public health disasters of our lifetime with AIDS. We cannot let what happened to AIDS happen to the epidemic of road traffic injuries. We are here to make sure this does not happen