



Lotte Brondum Speech

Stockholm 20 February 2020

3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety: Closing Ceremony

Good afternoon, my name is Lotte Brondum, and I am the head of the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety.

I promise to only take 4 minutes of your time, so please bear with me even though it's late and you're tired after 2 busy days.

I'm here to tell you about **leadership** and how I would like you to **act now** and **stand by the promises** you make.

While we have been together here in Stockholm, the past two days, another 7400 people have lost their lives and around 275.000 people been injured in the traffic.

We can create as many targets, frameworks and declarations. We can fly in hundreds of ministers, show films and make speeches from nice podiums. But we need you, the ministers, the UN, and the private sectors to **act now** and **stand by the promises** you make and show **real leadership**.

I will give you two good reasons as to why your actions and leadership are so important.

The first good reason as to why you must all act now is, that *nothing* will ever change, unless you make it happen. Safety is not an option – it's a right.

Let me give you an example. It is from Zambia, but it could have been so many other places in the world . It is from one of our NGO members in Zambia. He wrote these lines, and I quote:

"I was the breadwinner of my family and responsible to my wife, four children, and two dependents. I was involved in a road crash which robbed me, not only my physical ability, but also my psychological stature. I lost my source of income, and my local NGO that was helping many other vulnerable people in my community, collapsed. I lost all my savings and had to sell my furniture to make ends meet. My family and my social ties were brought into serious question. Without access to health insurance, I have to depend on the usual poorly resourced public health system in my low income country".

The Human Rights Declaration article 3 states: Everyone has the right to life and security. To safety.

But most people do not live in a countries which care about basic human rights. You saw the frustrated mothers at the opening session, and you heard the youth saying enough is enough. We need action now to protect the individual from more injuries and deaths.

The second good reason as to why you must all act now is, the great potential there is to show that you are the leaders of tomorrow who stand by your promises. Leaders that show the way for change and show that you care about basic human rights. Nothing will ever change, unless you commit and stand by your promises. You are leaders who want to protect your people and are accountable to your promises. Promises are made to be held.

I want to tell you something: The Alliance members have started tracking the specific commitments that are made to road safety. The tool is launched today and so far we have 45 commitments for specific actions such as 30/km/hour speed in school zones. 45. Yes, it is not mind blowing numbers. But 45 is a start. Congratulations to the 45 leaders who demonstrate how they care about their citizens and communities. Who want to act, keep their promise and save lives.

Now 45 commitments need to become millions.



We, at the Alliance will with our NGOs promise to partner with you, share the good news, and we will applaud and celebrate with you as you **act, keep your promise** and **save lives**.

Now you may say; well this is easier said than done and all this is very difficult. To you I say; if you are not acting and keeping your promises, nothing will change. You are responsible leaders and I sincerely hope, that you will travel back home and show good leadership and work for better traffic safety and victim support.

So **act now** because it is a human right and **keep your promises** because you are the modern leader of the future.

If you have any questions or need to discuss concrete solutions, my fellow NGO colleagues and I will be most happy to talk to you about how we can reach our common goal - to create better safety for everyone.

Thank you so much for your time.