



We, youth leaders representing seven African countries, have united and gathered for the Caravane road safety project and adopted this African Youth Declaration for Road Safety 2012 to create awareness and urge governments to take action to improve road safety.

Background:

Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among young people (15-29 year olds) and kills more young people than hiv/aids or malaria. The road fatality rate per 100.000 population is for the African region 32.2, while the world average is 18.8 fatalities. Road users most likely to be involved in a road crash are pedestrians, cyclists, motor cyclists, and passengers. Road crashes cost US\$ 65 billion in low and middle-income countries, exceeding the total amount received in development assistance. Against this background, we the young people from Africa and potential victims of road traffic crashes stand up for each other and ourselves and we call upon the right to travel safely to attend school and go to work, visit friends and family.

Our commitment:

We have respect for our lives and for the lives of our peers. Because life is so fragile, we have to do our outmost best to live safely and also encourage our peers do so. We realize that road safety has as much to do with a safe road environment and safe vehicles as with safe road user behavior. We fully acknowledge the importance of active youth participation in road safety and call upon all African youth to serve as role models on the road and to promote road safety among their friends and families. Furthermore we call upon youth organizations to unite and develop partnerships with all stakeholders and contribute to the development of youth road safety policies. It is our responsibility to strengthen our efforts and share knowledge and good practices among the African Youth Network for Road Safety and we have an obligation to help each other.



**We urge:**

Governments – policy makers to acknowledge road traffic injuries as a major public and developmental problem and place road safety higher on political agendas. We call upon you to:

-  Create in collaboration with all stakeholders - including youth, a national plan for road safety that put people first. Appoint a lead agency which has leaders responsible for its implementation and coordination;
-  Enact and enforce road traffic laws on the use of seatbelts and helmets, set speed-limits, and a zero tolerance for alcohol- and drug use in traffic and boost your investment of financial resources to make safer roads;
-  Acknowledge the importance of the involvement of youth in road safety by: investing in the development of youth capacities, endorsing post-crash care for (young) road victims and their reinstatement in the African society, engaging with young people in decisions concerning road traffic policies during the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020;
-  Provide safe and affordable public transportation options. Protect drivers and passengers with the use of maintained buses, which are not overcrowded and which are regulated to ensure safety;
-  Invest in safe footpaths, cycle-ways and crossing points, on streets with lower speed limits, particularly around schools and provide resources to youth non-governmental organizations for road safety awareness programs among their peers.

In conclusion, we declare our commitment to actively pursue the demands of this declaration to ensure its impact.

YOURS Sincerely,

**African youth leaders of Niger, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso,
Ivory Coast, Mali, and Senegal.**

