

## Towards Safer Roads in the State of Kuwait

Road accidents in the State of Kuwait are the third cause of death and injury and is the number one cause of death among youths. With a relatively small population of almost three million, the State of Kuwait is witnessing an increasing rate of accidents and injuries with a total of 63,000 accidents including 992 serious injuries in 2007.

United Nations General Assembly passed a new [resolution](#) on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 urging states to strengthen their commitments towards road safety. The resolution stresses the *'importance of addressing global safety issues and the need for further strengthening international cooperation, taking into account the needs of developing countries by building capacities in the field of road safety, and providing financial and technical support for their efforts.'* The resolution comes in as a reaffirmation of UN concern over the alarming accident and fatalities rate and increasing efforts to respond to this global crisis.

In the State of Kuwait, United Nations Development Programme and Supreme Council for Planning and Development are working hand in hand with the Ministry of Interior to develop a *National Long Term Strategy for Road Safety and Traffic (2008-2017)*. The national strategy will aim to create:

- effective transport system by reducing traffic congestion and the economic and environmental problems arising from it;
- safer roads by reducing road accidents and the social and economic costs that are shouldered on the government and people;
- strengthened institutional capacities; and
- sustained development through greater institutional partnerships between the transport sector and national development plans.

The strategy is still underway and will be participatory and inclusive of the government agencies, civil society and the private sector. For more on the National Long Term Strategy, [click here](#).

For more information, please contact :

- Road Safety Strategy Development Consultant:  
Fax: +965 5354695  
E-mail: [kuwaitstrategy@y7mail.com](mailto:kuwaitstrategy@y7mail.com)
- Ms. Rasha Ahmed, UNDP Programme Assistant  
Office no: +965 4751487 extension 215  
e-mail: [rasha.ahmed@undp.org](mailto:rasha.ahmed@undp.org)