

SAFE WAY RIGHT WAY

# 4TH GLOBAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ROAD SAFETY

15TH TO 20TH FEBRUARY, 2025



*Safe Way Right Way General Manager Irene Namuyiga posing for a photo with country delegates after a panel discussion on enhancing motorcycle safety*

## The 4th Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety

The 4th Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Marrakech, Morocco, is so far a major 2025 road safety highlight. The event, which spanned from February 15 to

20, 2025, was attended by honorable ministers, delegates from several countries, civil society officers, and individuals with a specialty and keen interest in road safety.



*Minister Katumba making commitments on behalf of Uganda*

# ACTIVITIES

## Conference Objectives

Themed "Commit to Life," the event was purposed to assess the progress made in implementing the Global Plan 2021-2030 during its first five-year period. It also aimed to generate support for the new vision of safe and sustainable mobility.



*TotalEnergies, and several companies were awarded for promoting road safety*

## World Youth Assembly

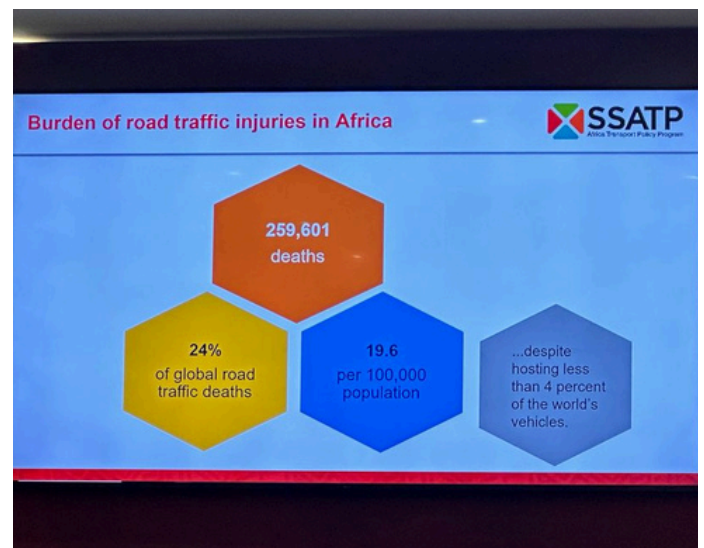
One of the key events preceding the conference was the 3rd World Youth Assembly for Road Safety. Over 150 young leaders from 130+ countries gathered in Marrakech for high-impact discussions, issuing a bold call for safer and more sustainable mobility.



*Irene Namuyiga posing for a photo with Olivia Nalwada, FIA Foundation youth ambassador and Mr. Abdul Buchani at the conference*

## Timing and Location

The timing of the conference was significant, given the global consensus on transitioning to sustainable transport options. The choice of Africa as the host continent underscored the region's vulnerability, with 24% of global road traffic deaths despite having only 4% of the world's registered vehicles.



*Statistics representing the burden of road safety injuries in Africa, as depicted by the WHO Africa road safety report.*

# Safe Way Right Way Participation

Safe Way Right Way, an organization dedicated to creating safer roads for Africa, participated in the event. Irene Namuyiga, the General Manager, represented the organization throughout the conference.



**Safe Way Right Way General Manager, Irene Namuyiga with Mr. Kizito Edward, Commissioner of transport and other participants at the 4th Ministerial Conference on road safety in Marrakech-Morocco**

Irene Namuyiga utilized this conference as an opportunity to tap into the thought process of the youth on critical road safety issues affecting sub-Saharan African countries, such as Uganda. She also engaged in critical and strategic discussions with key stakeholders from both Uganda and other countries and/or key multinational organisations representatives.

## Safe Helmets Presentation



**Irene making a presentation on helmet safety under Safe Way Right Way's SHU project at the FIA foundation safe helmet workshop**



**Irene Namuyiga and Hon. Katumba Wamala, minister of works and transport evaluating the various standards of helmets at the Global Alliance of NGOs in Road safety symposium**

During one of the critical roundtable discussions, Irene Namuyiga presented on Safe Way Right Way's Safe Helmets Uganda (SHU) project. She highlighted the contribution of quality and standardized helmets in promoting road safety in developing countries like Uganda.

Namuyiga emphasized the effect of Safe Way Right Way's direct mobilization, which enabled boda boda riders (motorcyclists) to amplify their safety using helmets.

## Uganda Delegation

The Uganda delegation, led by the Honorable Minister of Transport and Works, Gen. Katumba Wamala, attended the conference. Irene Namuyiga updated the Minister on Safe Way Right Way's efforts toward standardising helmets for Ugandan riders and the advocacy efforts to engrave those standards into legal regulations.



*Uganda Delegation pose for some photos at the conference in Marrakech*

Additionally, the General Manager updated the Minister on the progress of the Helmet User Guide, which is in its final stages of completion.

Once completed, this guide will contribute to the demystification of helmet safety cautions for the riders and passengers in categorical need of personalised helmets that meet the requisite standards.

## Parallel Panel Session



*Irene Namuyiga submitting at the parallel panel session safety for powered Two and Three wheeler users at Marrakech-Morocco*

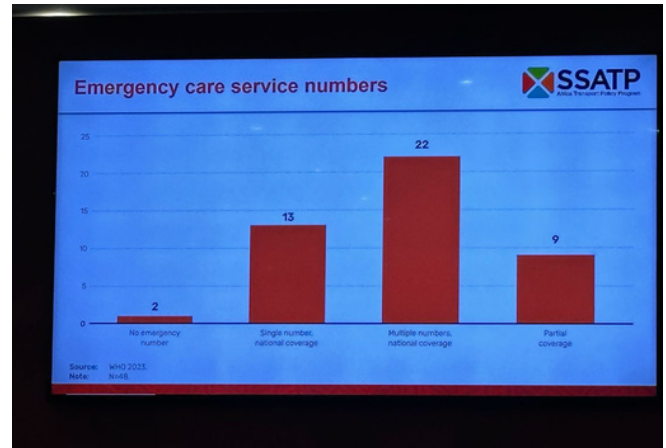
Irene Namuyiga was invited to participate in a parallel panel session themed "Enhancing Safety for Powered Two and Three Wheeler Users." She engaged in candid discussions with other key sector players, sharing her experience with Kampala's infrastructure and how it could be redesigned to accommodate powered two and three wheelers.

Namuyiga emphasized cycling as an alternative transport means and road safety education as a foundation for accommodating powered two and three wheelers. She stressed that the adoption of these transport modes would depend on effective behavioral change among motorists, passengers, and other road users.

# Marrakech Declaration

The conference culminated into the Marrakech Declaration, which emphasized the need for urgent action to address road safety. Key points from the declaration include:

- Express deep concern that road safety remains severely underfunded through both public and private financing;
- Emphasize the importance of people-centered transport systems
- Recognize the impact of road traffic crashes on victims and their families, particularly children and youth;
- Urge Member States to accelerate and scale up efforts to implement the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030;
- Note that a very limited number of African countries have technical standards aligned with international standards for road infrastructure;
- Strengthen the collection of data and define key road safety performance indicators;
- Support low-income countries, particularly in Africa, in integrating road safety into their policies;
- Encourage the deployment of vehicle and road infrastructure technologies that provide life-saving benefits;
- Encourage businesses and industries to include road safety in their work environment management;
- Promote the sharing of technology and know-how in critical health infrastructure, among others.



*Graphic excerpt from the WHO Africa road safety report showing status of emergency response.*



*Photo moment by the participants of the African chapter at the Global alliance of NGOs in Road safety symposium*



*Opening ceremony of motorcycle safety at the road safety village at Marrakesh*



# Marrakech Declaration

The conference comprised of a series of other panel discussions which contributed considerably to the shaping of the conversation on road safety in Africa and the world at large.

In one of the dialogues, Miguel Nadal, one of the panelists highlighted the challenge posed by the public sector in combatting road safety risks given the inadequacy of funds and lack of will to invest in road safety. He however opined that data can be used to formulate key performance indicators (KPIs) which in turn will ensure that safety inclined projects create the projected impact.



*Dignitaries pose for a photo after a panel discussion at the conference*

Other points of discussion included the redesigning of urban towns and/or cities traffic regulation. This extends to deliberate steps towards reduction of speed limits in urban areas and the adoption of demerit systems. It follows that these steps can only be undertaken with improved or revised city plans and air tight enforcement of these new rules.

There emerged a purposeful debate on the need for clear leadership for road safety in Government bodies, agencies, Non Government Organisations, Academia, private entities and all other stakeholders. This would overwhelmingly lead to the realisation of the goals set by the several countries.



*Panelists discussing the topic 'Driving change in road safety' at the conference*

For his part, Stephen Perkins, the head of research and policy at ITF opined that road safety projects and interventions would best be realised through incentivisation, especially for the private entities that approach road safety through Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices. The effect of that would be increased investment in ESG interventions and investments altogether.



*Kenya's bright Oywaya, a GRSP consultant, joined advocacy for road safety after a road traffic injury*

