

SPEECH BY ANNE-MARIE LECLERC, PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ROAD ASSOCIATION

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE
24TH WORLD ROAD CONGRESS IN MEXICO CITY**

**Part 1: Current congress and
2012–2015 Strategic Plan**

Mr. Secretary of Communications and Transportation,
Mr. Organizing Committee Chair,
Honourable Council members,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The themes of the 24th World Road Congress were mobility, sustainability and development. That was a strategic and judicious choice. You might have noticed it this week: safe, sustainable mobility focused on the development of societies was at the heart of the discussions.

The Congress was a smashing success and it met the Association's objectives: promoting best practices, fostering exchanges and promoting sustainable mobility to technicians, users and decision makers.

Throughout this Congress, the World Road Association specifically was able to highlight to the world road community its role as a focal point for exchanges on good road safety practices by adopting a declaration supporting the United Nations Decade for Action on Road Safety.

This Congress is the result of four years of work by the technical committees. I am very pleased to point out the quality of the productions and their technical expertise. The World Road Association is proud to be able to benefit from vast knowledge of so many experts. I must praise the work of the theme coordinators, the chairs, the secretaries and the technical committees. I am indeed confident that the dissemination of your work will guarantee that the Association's next work cycle will be among the most productive.

Based on the Association's fifth strategic plan, the 2012–2015 work cycle builds on the reforms that were launched in the cycle that ends here. Aiming to better meet the Association's expectations, the plan focuses on major issues and challenges such as climate change adaptation and sustainable mobility.

The Association has also listed road safety as a major issue in the next cycle, echoing the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety.

Some new developments in organizing the technical work for the strategic themes, such as the creation of regional and study groups, are promising because they will allow for better knowledge sharing and ensure an accurate response to the issues and challenges faced by the road community.

I now turn the floor over to Jim Barton, president of the Strategic Planning Commission, who will discuss the 2012–2015 strategic plan in greater detail.