

IRF signs « Abuja Plan of Action »



From 17 to 21 February 2008 IRF Project Manager on Road Safety Maria Novikov was invited to speak at the International Conference on Road Safety in Africa organised by IRF Member – the Federal Road Safety Commission of Nigeria. The Conference, organised for the 20th Anniversary of the Federal Road Safety Commission, attracted some 2,000 international delegates. During the opening ceremony the participants were welcomed by Osita Chidoka, Corps Marshal and Chief Executive of the Federal Road Safety Committee and addressed by Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria as well as Dr Gooluck Jonathan, Vice President of Nigeria.



The first plenary session addressed the outlook of economic growth in Africa and challenges for road safety for 2020. Twelve breakaway sessions followed over two days, where various aspects were discussed: safety practices in an integrated transport system, trends in road engineering, road fund financing, road safety advocacy through NGOs, urban transport and safety management, vulnerable road users, healthcare aspects of road safety, vehicle inspection systems, capacity building in road transport management, best practices in regulatory environment for road safety and, finally case studies were presented.



Maria Novikov's presentation addressed road safety practices in an integrated transport system. She emphasised the importance of a safe road infrastructure within the context of road safety and introduced the main international instruments helping achieve a truly integrated transport system.

A number of points made by the IRF were included in the Abuja Plan of Action, which was signed at the end of the Conference by Osita Chidoka, Corps Marshal and Chief Executive of the Federal Road Safety Commission as well as nine international experts, who took part in the Conference and delivered presentations.