On behalf of the FIA Foundation, and the many members of our board of trustees who are here today, I warmly welcome you to London for this important and unprecedented child health conference.

Last year the FIA Foundation convened a new coalition for child rights. This Child Health Initiative is motivated by three unacceptable facts:

- Every day 3000 children are killed or seriously injured on the world’s roads;
- Road traffic crashes are now the leading global cause of death for adolescents;
- 300 million children are breathing toxic air which is at least six times World Health Organization limits.

Taken together, this represents a public health emergency for our children. Yet many cities, many governments, and the international community as a whole, are not yet responding with anything like sufficient urgency.

Every day millions of children across the world take a vital and liberating journey. They walk to school.
But on this journey children face traffic danger, they breathe dirty air. So they need a voice to represent and protect them.

Today, on International Walk to School Day, all of us in this hall can commit to work together to provide that voice.

The Declaration of Child Rights which we are publishing today, is a global call to unite and protect children from harm as they travel around our cities.

It urges practical action. And through our TRUE initiative, measuring the real emissions of vehicles as they drive on the streets, we are working with partners including C40 Cities, The International Council on Clean Transportation and the Mayor’s team at the Greater London Authority, to improve the health of all the citizens of this great city.

Together with our Share the Road campaign to promote walking and cycling, and action to clean up vehicles through our Global Fuel Economy Initiative, TRUE forms part of the FIA Foundation’s contribution to the Breathe Life campaign to which we will also sign up today. Under the banner of Breathe Life, led by UN Environment & the WHO, cities, organisations and companies across the world are coming together to pledge to work together for cleaner, healthier cities.
Here, in London, we have a mayor who is listening to children and intervening to protect their health:

With tough action to curb toxic vehicle emissions;

With a Vision Zero ambition that no death or serious injury caused by road traffic is acceptable;

With an unwavering focus on social justice for every child;

So now it is an honour, and gives me great pleasure, to introduce our keynote speaker, Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London.