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Around 90% of accidents were attributed to human factors

- Early Swedish and international studies concluded: ~90% of accidents linked to human factors
- System factors: road, vehicle → minor role
- Policy implication: focus on behavior, discipline, compliance



The Traditional Starting Point: The Road User Must Adapt

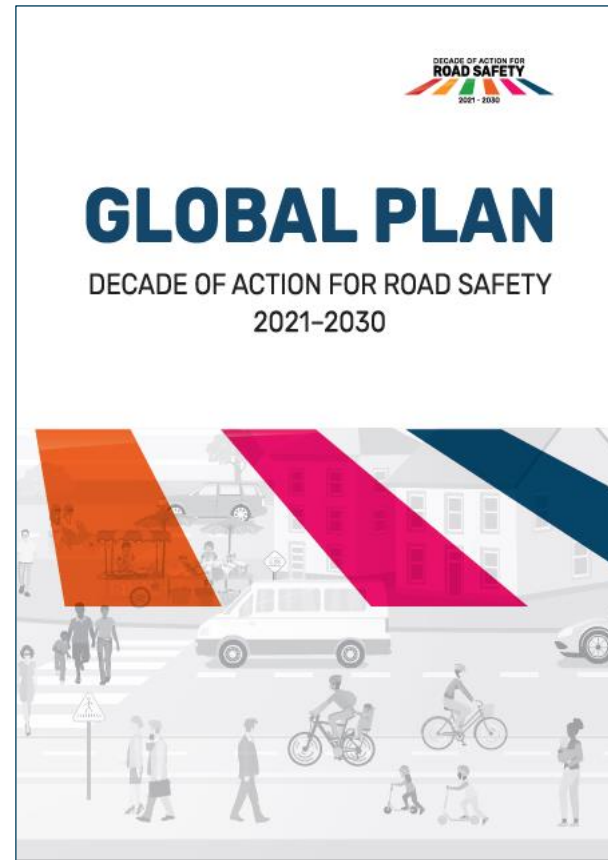
- Vienna Convention on Road Traffic (1968)
 - Article 7 – General Rules
 - “Road-user shall avoid any behaviour likely to endanger or obstruct traffic, to endanger persons...”
 - Article 13 – Speed and distance between vehicles
 - “Every driver of a vehicle shall in all circumstances have his vehicle under control...”
 - Swedish traffic law
 - “In order to avoid traffic accidents, a road user must observe the care and take the caution required by the circumstances.”



From individual responsibility to system responsibility

UN General Assembly Resolution 74/299 declared a **Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030**, with the target to reduce road traffic deaths & injuries

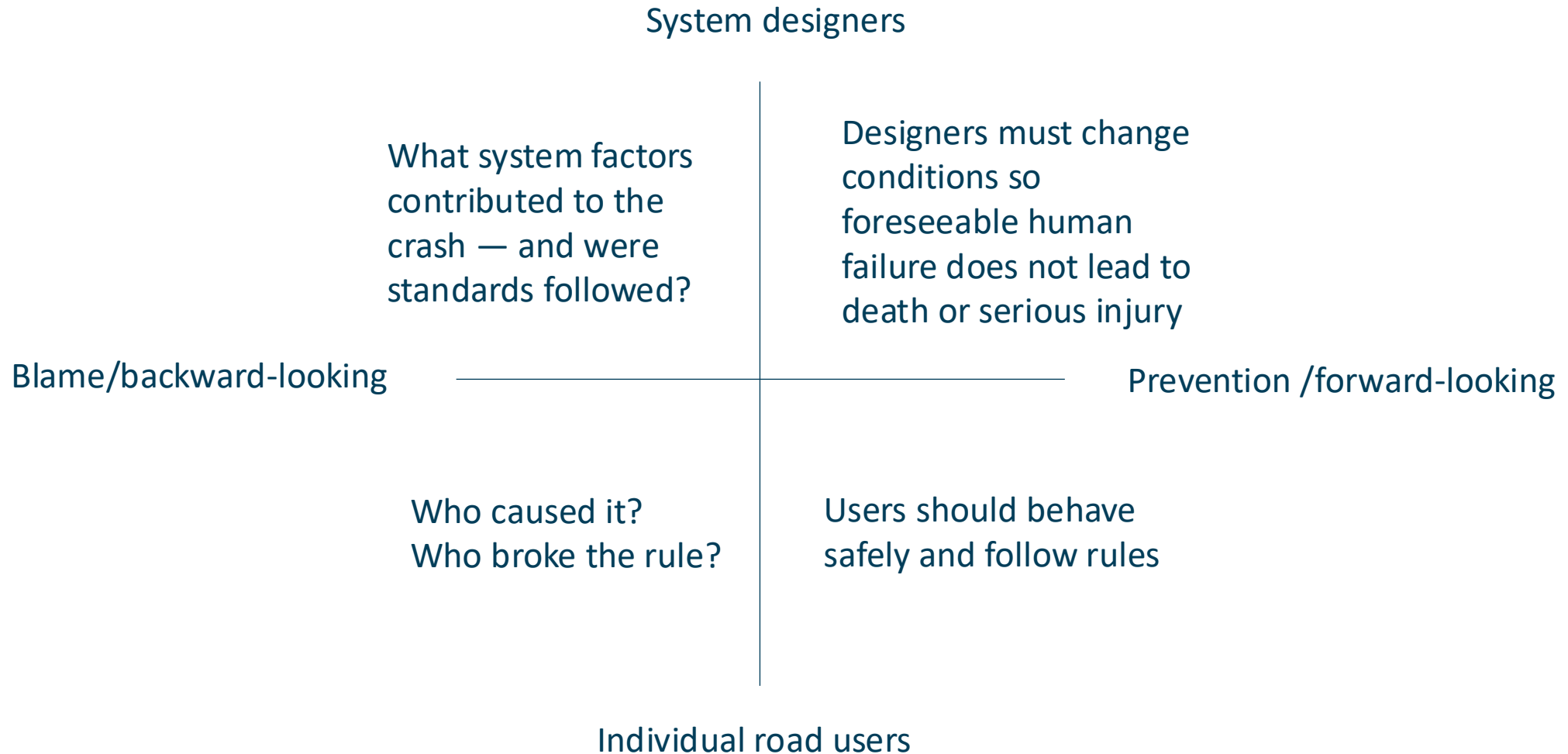
**BY AT
LEAST 50%** during that
period



Vision Zero – Chain of Responsibility

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- System designers shall always have the ultimate responsibility for the design, operation, and use of the road transport system, and thus for its overall level of safety.
 - Road users have a responsibility to show consideration, good judgment, and responsibility in traffic, and to comply with traffic rules.
 - If road users fail to take their share of responsibility—due to lack of knowledge, acceptance, or ability—or if injuries occur or risk occurring for other reasons, **system designers** must take additional measures as necessary to prevent people from being killed or seriously injured.

From blame to prevention



From Policy Idea to Formal Implementation

- Safe System/Vision Zero is now widely endorsed
- But legal and regulatory implementation remains limited
- One important exception: EU road infrastructure safety management directive (binding system-level obligations)
- Main challenge: move from road-user duties to enforceable legal duties for system designers
- Without stronger international regulation, the shift to Safe System will remain incomplete

