Summary

The Workshop on the Implementation of Good Practices in Road Traffic Safety aimed at discussing specific good practices in traffic safety related to human behaviour; vehicles; road design; specific examples of both good and poor practices in selected ESCWA member countries; strategies for implementing good practices and for managing poor practices in road traffic safety in the ESCWA region; and preparations for the Global Road Safety Week in April 2007.

Specifically, discussions focused on the following: (a) introducing participants to internationally recognized good practices in road safety and the mechanisms required for introducing and implementing such practices in the ESCWA region; (b) highlighting the experiences of ESCWA representatives with regard to the implementation of both good and adverse practices in across the region; (c) and exchanging views in terms of improving the application of good practices and of finding solutions to overcome poor practices.

Recommendations were reached with regard to good practices in road safety; and a list of steps to be undertaken was approved.
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ANNEXES

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I. RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY THE WORKSHOP

1. The major recommendations of the Workshop, which were adopted in Muscat on 29 November 2005, are as follows:

   (a) ESCWA is invited to encourage cooperation in the region on the implementation and exchange of good practices in road safety; and to organize another workshop prior to the forthcoming Global Safety Week in April 2007 in order to review the results of these activities;

   (b) Each member country is encouraged to prepare and present to this future workshop a plan of action to focus on the main causes of accidents in addition to a working paper to highlight the accomplishments in terms of reducing traffic accidents. These papers will enhance the exchange of effective measures and promote common activities;

   (c) Specialized workshops and/or training courses for professionals need to be conducted across the ESCWA region in a number of fields, including, most prominently, road safety audits, databases training and e-learning training;

   (d) There is a need for the establishment of an adequate benchmark on road safety performance and its outcome in terms of fatalities and injuries caused by traffic accidents in ESCWA member countries, based on the relevant definitions by the International Road Traffic and Accident Database (IRTAD);

   (e) The exchange of experiences can be coordinated through project teams under the leadership of one of the ESCWA member countries and aimed at the following: (i) promoting the use of such safety measures as helmets, seat belts and children seats; (ii) developing and enforcing common regional campaigns on, among others, speed reduction, young drivers, pedestrian safety and seat belts, based on the successful application of a national campaign of one of the ESCWA member countries; (iii) safety management of roads at affordable cost through a common application of road safety audits, road safety inspections and black spot programmes; and (iv) promoting the education of children on traffic issues through e-learning;

   (f) A working group needs to be established with the aim of collecting, analysing and reporting on the national road safety plans of member countries, and of proposing effective measures;

   (g) ESCWA will prepare a website on the activities of member countries on road safety, provided that the necessary resources are made available;

   (h) ESCWA needs to assist member countries to establish and activate national road safety committees.

2. The Workshop noted with appreciation the readiness of the International Touring Alliance/International Automobile Federation (AIT/FIA) to support the activities of the project and to offer their expertise to countries of the region aimed at facilitating international transport.

3. Additionally, the Workshop expressed its appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oman for hosting the meeting and to the secretariat of ESCWA for the organizing thereof.

II. ADOPTED ACTIVITIES

4. The main conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop were reached in the course of the round-table discussion on good practices in road safety. These good practices were further expounded through a series of presentations, which included the screening of a range of relevant video films.
III. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

5. The Workshop on the Implementation of Good Practices in Road Traffic Safety (Muscat, 28-29 November 2005) was organized jointly by ESCWA and FIA. The agenda and programme of the Workshop are attached in annex II.

6. The Workshop was attended by heads of traffic safety departments and other officials dealing with traffic safety issues, consultants and representatives of international safety bodies, representatives from civil society groups dealing with traffic safety in the ESCWA region and international consultants.

7. The Workshop was opened jointly by the Minister of Transportation and Communications in Oman, H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah al-Harthi; the leader of the transport team in ESCWA, Mr. Nabil Safwat; and the Director General of FIA, Mr. David Ward.

8. In his opening address, Mr. Nabil Safwat expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of the Interior and to the Government of Oman for hosting the meeting, and stressed the importance of road safety for all countries. He pointed out that the United Nations remains seized of the matter of road safety and has undertaken many measures aimed at solving this challenge, particularly in the light of the growing number of accidents and injuries and their link to bad practices in road safety. Moreover, he affirmed that the issue remains a priority for ESCWA as underscored by several resolutions adopted during the twenty-third session of the Commission. He praised the Government of Oman for introducing to the General Assembly draft resolution A/60/L.8 on improving global road safety. Finally, Mr. Safwat stated the objectives of the Workshop and thanked Oman for its outstanding support in this area.

9. Mr. Wahid Kharoussi, an expert from Oman, discussed the global impact of road safety and cited alarming figures and statistics. He explained the sequence of events that resulted in various General Assembly resolutions, and thanked ESCWA and FIA for co-organizing the Workshop in Oman in recognition of that country’s leading role in General Assembly resolutions on road safety.

10. Mr. Bassam Anani of the transport team in ESCWA detailed the current situation of traffic safety in selected ESCWA member countries; summarized the traffic safety laws applied in each country; and highlighted both the positive and the negative aspects of each relevant law. Moreover, he offered some suggestions aimed at improving road traffic safety.

11. Representatives of ESCWA countries described road traffic safety in their countries and explained the applied laws, activities and efforts by their respective Governments with regard to improving traffic safety.

12. The representative of Oman explained the e-learning programme that is being prepared by the Directorate of General Curriculum and Training in the Ministry of Education in Oman, and which is set to be incorporated into the curricula of schools and universities. This programme introduces road safety within other subjects and across various courses, with the aim of building direct awareness of good practices in road safety.

13. Mr. David Ward, the General Director of FIA, focused on the use of seat belts and other good practices in road safety. He highlighted the Costa Rica Safety Awareness Campaign, which is supported by FIA, as a successful case study that resulted in the increase in the widespread use of seat belts in that country and in new safety legislation and severe fines for non-adherence.

14. In his presentation, Mr. Mahmoud Al-Katib, a consultant for ESCWA, explained the development of road safety strategy in general and presented the strategy for the city of Riyadh as a case study. He pinpointed the need for road safety in Riyadh, in the context of similar needs of many cities across the region; gave statistics on accidents, risks, costs, injuries and fatalities; and outlined the development phases of the road safety strategy that was applied in Riyadh, and the subsequent improvements that were reaped.

15. Mr. Peter Elsenaar of Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) gave an overview of road safety in the Middle East, including the challenges and statistical results of injuries and casualties; introduced the plans
and strategies of GRSP aimed at improving road safety through its partnerships and contribution with United Nations entities, other international organizations and companies, and governmental and non-governmental associations; and distributed manuals from GRSP on good practices in road safety. Equally from GRSP, Ms. Samar Aburaad outlined further the work of the Partnership and evaluated the awareness campaign in Australia as a case study, thereby showing the positive impact of such campaigns and underscoring the recommendations of GRSP in this field. Moreover, she emphasized the importance of a crash database and black spot treatment in safety strategies and planning, and provided the case of Fiji as an example.

16. Mr. Junaid Razzak, chief of emergency medicine in the Agha Khan University in Pakistan, presented an outline of the required data for road traffic safety, including factual details needed for the collection of realistic figures on crashes, deaths and injuries in order to establish an effective system for road safety.

17. Ms. Lina Shbeeb, a consultant for ESCWA, focused on the road traffic safety situation in Jordan, and listed some facts on traffic accidents in the country and the challenges faced by the Ministry of Interior in this regard. Her presentation included a series of photographs illustrating recent pedestrian footbridges built recently to minimize crossing risks on highways; examples on some of the rules in traffic safety that are included in the education curriculum in Jordan; and figures on pedestrian crossings, including why pedestrians failed to use footbridges and level of traffic knowledge of students at different ages. She concluded that road traffic safety curriculum needed to be implemented, constantly monitored and continuously updated.

18. Mr. Hashim Madani, a consultant for ESCWA, summarized the good practices and main indicators related to traffic safety in the Gulf subregion, including general background and targets both at a global and subregional level. He listed the statistical figures of accidents, casualties and injuries in those countries, compared to those of other countries; highlighted the good and bad practices in road safety in the countries of the Gulf subregion; and offered a list of practical recommendations aimed at improving road traffic safety.

19. In his second presentation, Mr. Bassam Anani recapitulated the results of a questionnaire on the use of seat belts and other good practices in road safety that was completed by seven ESCWA member countries, and discussed each question, result and remark made by the respondents.

20. A final round-table discussion was led by Mr. Safwat and involved several of the above-mentioned experts and consultants. This discussion resulted in the recommendations of the Workshop as set forth above.

21. Furthermore, participants at the Workshop were sensitized on the importance of good practices in road traffic safety and on the need to improve them at a national level.
Annex I*

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. PARTICIPATING ESCWA MEMBERS

* This annex is issued as presented by the Division concerned.
Bahrain

Mr. Khalid Abdulla Bu Ali
Colonel, Director of Traffic Affairs
General Directorate of Traffic
Ministry of the Interior
Tel.: 97317680888
Fax: 97317680968
E-mail: Khalidbuali@hotmail.com
Traffic@batelco.com.bh

Mr. Mohamed bin Ali Bin Khalil
Officer
Traffic Directorate
Ministry of the Interior
Al-Hadd City, 107
Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel.: 97339711888

Egypt

Mr. Sherif Mohamed Gomaa
Minister Assistant for Traffic Affairs
General Directorate of Traffic
Nasr City, Cairo
Tel.: 2024040922
Fax: 2024049022
Mobile: 20123136756

Iraq

Mr. Issam Hassan al-Balbawi
Major General
Manager of Technical Department
Traffic Police
General Directorate of Traffic
Al-Yarmook Area, Baghdad
Tel.: 96417742811
Mobile: 9647901828062
E-mail: Love_Live@yahoo.com

Jordan

Mr. Mohammad A. Al-Maaita
Assistant Director
General Security Directorate
Ministry of Interior
Amman, Jordan
Mobile: 962774746634

Lebanon

Mr. Talal Ali Ayoub
Board member
Board of Director for Traffic Affairs
Ministry of Interior
Tel.: 9617505874
Mobile: 9613522287

Oman

Mr. Salem bin Yehya al-Hanai
Director of Mechanical and Technical Inspection
General Directorate of Traffic
Oman Traffic Police
Tel.: 96824521332
Fax: 96824510258
Mobile: 96899334348
E-mail: 21dsalem@omantel.net.om

Mr. Ahmed Khamis al-Khalbani
Legal researcher
Ministry of Legal Affairs
P.O. Box 112 - 578
Muscat, Oman
Tel.: 96824489834
Fax: 96824479697
Mobile: 96299897174

Mr. Mohammed Rashid al-Khayari
Head of Engineering Department
General Directorate of Traffic
P.O. Box 238 P.C. 617 Al-Hamra
Tel.: 96824510770
Fax: 96824510770
Mobile: 96299463252
E-mail: mralkhayari@hotmail.com

Oman (continued)

Mr. Khaled bin Mansour al-Farsi
Chief of Traffic Awareness Division
General Directorate of Traffic
Al-Sultania Oman Police
P.O. Box 444 P.C. 613
Tel.: 96824521036
Fax: 96824510258

Mr. Zayed Mohsen Seif
Director of Traffic Safety Division
General Directorate of Traffic, Al-Sultania Oman Police
Tel.: 96824521037
Fax: 96824521037
Mobile: 96899331199
Mr. Ali bin Sulayem al-Falahi  
Director of Traffic Engineering  
General Directorate of Traffic  
Muscat  
Tel.: 96824510372  
Fax: 96824510770  
Mobile: 96899323284  
E-mail: alfalahi@traffic.gov.om  
Website: www.traffic.gov.om

Mr. Ahmad Khamis Al-Jamri  
Counselor  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
P.O. Box 2130 P.C. 111 Bousher  
Tel.: 96824542699/96824453930  
Mobile: 9689424536

Mr. Said Salem al-Harthu  
Duty Director of Applied Sciences  
Department of Applied Sciences  
P.O. Box 3 Muscat P.C. 113  
Tel.: 96824695944  
Fax: 96824602528  
Mobile: 96899715956  
E-mail: sokoon05@hotmail.com

Ms. Fatma Abdullah al-Riyami  
Traffic Engineer  
General Directorate of Traffic  
Tel.: 96824510770  
Fax: 96824510770  
Mobile: 9689939377  
E-mail: S_aa202@yahoo.com

Mr. Ali Salem al-Mashani  
Civil Engineer  
Ministry of Transport and Communications  
Directorate General of Roads  
P.O. Box 3341 P.C. 112 Ruwi  
Tel.: 96824703551  
Fax: 96824788959  
Mobile: 96899479913  
E-mail: halthait@omantel.net.om

Mr. Ali Abdullah al-Saidi  
Legal Researcher  
Ministry of Legal Affairs  
Tel.: 96824489075  
Fax: 96824479697  
Mobile: 96899274377  
E-mail: alii2u2@hotmail.com

Mr. Ayman Helmy al-Sharawy  
Senior Specialist and Focal Coordinator  
Khoula Hospital – Mina Al-Fahal  
Tel.: 96824650939  
Fax: 96824560937  
E-mail: asharawy@omantel.net.om

Palestine

Mr. Fadel Mahammed al-Najajra  
Inspector of Traffic Investigation  
Police of Palestine  
Public Police Headquarters  
West Bank  
Tel.: 0225953175  
Fax: 022953175  
Mobile: 0599869913

Qatar

Mr. Bakhit al-Dosari  
Traffic Studies and Information Section Officer  
Traffic and Patrols Department  
P.O. Box 13650 Doha – Qatar  
Tel.: 9744874805  
Fax: 9744890622  
Mobile: 9745530884  
E-mail: bakhit05@hotmail.com

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Abdulaziz Ali Bin Ghanem  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Ministry of Interior  
Tel.: 96612755115  
Fax: 96612743020  
Mobile: 96655488787

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Farouk Al-Mousalli  
General  
Head of Traffic Department  
Ministry of Interior  
Tel.: 963115446606  
Fax: 963115412841  
Mobile: 96394217408

Mr. Amal Abu Ayash  
Deputy General Director of Public Establishment for Road Communications
Ministry of Transport  
Tel.: 963112455356  
Fax: 963124455356  
Mobile: 96393882467  
E-Mail: laco@mail.sy

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Khamis Eshaq al-Mahmoudi  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Traffic Directorate  
Fax: 97124196621  
Mobile: 971506222511  
E-mail: TRAFFIC1212@yahoo.com

Mr. Ali Sayeed Al-Shehi  
Captain  
Abu Dhabi Traffic Police  
Traffic Directorate  
Fax: 971 2 4446293  
Mobile: 971504870400

Mr. Ahmad Mahmoud El-Haj  
Lieutenant  
Dubai Traffic Police  
Traffic Directorate

B. UNITED NATIONS BODIES

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Mr. Nabil Safwat  
Leader of Transport Team  
Globalization and Regional Integration Division  
United Nations House, Riad El-Solh  
Beirut  
Tel.: 961 1 978342  
Fax: 961 1 981510  
E-mail: safwatn@un.org
Web site: www.escwa.org.lb

Mr. Bassam Anani  
First Economic Affairs Officer  
Transport Team  
Globalization and Regional Integration Division  
United Nations House, Riad El-Solh  
Beirut  
Tel.: 961 1 978358  
Fax: 961 1 981510  
E-mail: anani@un.org
Website: www.escwa.org.lb
C. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Automobile Federation (FIA)
Mr. David Ward
Director General
FIA
60 Trafalgar Square
London WC2N 5DS
United Kingdom
Tel.: +412079303882
Fax: +412079303883
E-mail: d.ward@fiafoundation.com
Website: www.fia.com

Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE)
Mr. Rohit Balluja
President
B-128-130, DDA Sheds, Okhla Indl.
New Delhi-110 020 India
Tel.: 911126816868
Fax: 911126817965
E-mail: safety@irte.com
Website: www.irte.com

Automobile and Touring Club of Egypt
Mr. Raouf Deghidy
General
Member of Board of Directors
Cheif of Trips, Tourism and Traffic Committees
10 Kas El-Nile Street, Cairo
Tel.: 2025743355- 2025743418
Fax: 2025743348
E-mail: autoclubegypt@link.net

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Mr. Phil Jones
Head of Base
P.O. Box 261131
Jebel Ali Free Zone, Dubai
Tel.: 97148833887
Fax: 97148832212
Mobile: 971508110305
E-mail: philip.jones@ifrc.org
Website: www.ifrc.org

The Public Establishment of Road Communication
Mr. Albdulwahab Alkurdi
Director of Traffic Safety Department
P.O. Box 7696
Damascus
Tel.: 963113119944
Fax: 963113119980
Mobile: 96394210274
E-mail: wahab-k@ses-net.org

Universal Group/Yemen Club for Touring and Automobile
Mr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Kohlani
Business Development Manager
P.O. Box 19406
Sana’a
Tel.: 9671440305-14 Ext: 203
Fax: 9671441351
Mobile: 96777415171
E-mail: vcta@universalyemen.com
Website: www.universalyemen.com

Emirates Motor Sports Federation
Ms. Roshanara Sait
Public Relations and Marketing Manager
P.O. Box 25508, Dubai
Tel.: 97122827111
Fax: 97122827555
E-mail: roshanara@emsf.ae

Oman Society for Petroleum Services
Abdullah Said al-Mahruqi
QHSE Executive Manager
P.O. Box 493, Al Khuwair
Oman
Tel.: 96824605700
Fax: 96834604255
Mobile: 96899414767
E-mail: almahruqi@opaloman.org

United Omani Company for Insurance
Mr. Abdallah Bin Said El-Oudwani
Representative of Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Oman
Tel.: 96824703990
Fax: 96824799417
Mobile: 96899733891
Khawla Hospital, Muscat

Mr. Sultan Al-Mashari
Senior Consultant Orthopaedic
Muscat
Tel.: 96824560939

Bahrain International Circuit

Mr. Martin Whitaker
General Manager
P.O. Box 26381
Sakhir, Bahrain
Tel.: 97317451001
Fax: 97317451116
Mobile: 97339320643
E-mail: m.whitaker@bic.com.bh
Website: www.BAHRAINGP.com

D. RESOURCE PERSONS

Ms. Lina Shbeeb
Balqa’a Applied University
Faculty of Engineering Technologies
Amman
Tel.: 9626489245
Mobile: 96277215539
E-mail: linash@nets.com.jo
shbeeb3@yahoo.com

Mr. Mahmoud Al-Katib
Managing Director
TSTN Limited
82 Measham Way
Berkshire RG6 4ES
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Tel.: 441189863331
Fax: 447767301259
Mobile: 966578445098
E-mail: mahmouddalkatib@oal.com

Mr. Hashim Al-Madani
Associate Prof. Transportation Engineering
Chairman Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering
P.O. Box 32038
Tel.: 97317876634/17876180
Fax: 97317780137/17684844
E-mail: madanihshm@eng.uob.bh

Ms. Samar Abouraad
GRSP Advisor
Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
P.O. Box 372
17, Chemin des Crêts
CH-1211 Geneva 19
Tel.: 41227304249
Fax: 41227330395
E-mail: grsp@ifrc.org
Website: www.GRSProadsafety.org

Mr. Junaid A. Razzak
Assistant Professor and Head
Section of Emergency Medicine
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Health Sciences, Medical College
The Agha Khan University
Stadium Road, P.O. Box 3500
Karachi, 74800 Pakistan
Tel.: 92214861087/4861080
Fax: 92214934294/4932095
Mobile: 923333197519
E-mail: junaid.razzak@aku.edu
Website: www.aku.edu
Annex II

AGENDA AND PROGRAMME

Monday 28 November 2005

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  Registration of participants

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m  Item 1  Opening of the Workshop (Speeches from ESCWA, FIA and the Minister of Transportation and Communications in Oman)

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  Coffee break

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  Item 2  Presentation by ESCWA: Overview of traffic situation in the ESCWA region (Bassam Anani, ESCWA)

Item 3  Country presentations of good practices and traffic safety

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Lunch break

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  Item 4  Manuals of selected international accepted good practices (IFRC)

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.  Coffee break

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Discussions on the manual, entitled “Global Road Safety Week”

Close of day 1

Tuesday 29 November 2005

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  Item 5  Good practices in road safety strategy

Overview of usage of seat belts and child constraints seats (FIA) Road safety database (Junaid Razzak)

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  Coffee break

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  Item 6  Case studies of implementation of good practices in Jordan (ESCWA consultant)

Case studies of implementation of good practices in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Presentation on seatbelt usage in ESCWA countries (Bassam Anani, ESCWA)

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  Lunch break

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  Item 7  Round-table discussions (Moderator: Mr. Nabil Safwat) (Panel: ESCWA, FIA, IFRC and TRL)

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.  Coffee break

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Strategy and recommendations for future work

Close of day 2
## Annex III

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

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