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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Report

Of the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport Cairo, 23-24 November 2015

Summary

The sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was held in Cairo, on 23 and 24 November 2015. The Committee discussed the items on its agenda, notably trade and transport facilitation in the Arab region; amending the Agreement on International Railways, the Agreement on International Roads and the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq to include the Maghreb States that have recently joined ESCWA; and the establishment and activation of national systems for road safety management. The Committee also issued a number of recommendations, some of a general nature and some relating specifically to items on the session agenda.

The present report contains a brief summary of the discussions that took place on each agenda item, and the outcomes and recommendations emerging from the session. The Committee adopted this report at its final meeting, held on 24 November 2015.

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Introduction

1. The Committee on Transport of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its sixteenth session pursuant to ESCWA resolution 213 (XIX) of 7 May 1997 concerning the establishment of a Committee on Transport within the Commission, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/11 of 18 July 1997; and in accordance with ESCWA resolution 229 (XXI) of 11 May 2001 concerning the frequency of the sessions of the Committee.
2. The present report contains the recommendations issued by the Committee at its final meeting, some related to specific agenda items and others of a general nature. It also summarizes the discussions conducted under each agenda item, the statements made at the opening meeting, and details of the session organization and attendance.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AT ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AT ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION

3. Member States are invited to take note of the information contained in the secretariat report on the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee on Transport at its fifteenth session, as set out in document E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/4(Part I); to update that information as necessary; and to submit it, together with any comments, to the secretariat by 30 March 2016 on the understanding that, should no comments be received from member States, the document will be adopted as is.

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPORT-RELATED ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ESCWA PROGRAMME OF WORK

4. Member States are invited to take note of the activities undertaken by the secretariat in the field of transport under the ESCWA programme of work since the fifteenth session of the Committee, as set forth in document E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/4(Part II); and to welcome the secretariat's efforts to develop and support transport systems in member States.

C. COMPONENTS OF THE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE ARAB MASHREQ

5. The ESCWA secretariat is requested to invite member States that have not yet acceded to the two agreements or Memorandum of Understanding in the field of transport to accelerate the accession process.
6. Signatories to those agreements are requested to update the information in the questionnaire on their follow-up processes and submit it to the secretariat by 15 June 2016.
7. The secretariat is requested to provide technical support to facilitate accession to the transport agreements and Memorandum for countries that have not yet done so, upon their request.

1. Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq

8. The Committee is invited to take note that the States parties to the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq agreed to participate in the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport to vote on the proposed amendments to the Agreement and to review consequent legal procedures.
9. States parties to the Agreement are requested to update the information in the questionnaire on its implementation and submit it to the secretariat by 15 June 2016.

2. Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq

10. The Committee is invited to note that States parties to the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq agreed to participate in the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport to vote on the proposed amendments to the Agreement and to review consequent legal procedures.

11. States parties to the Agreement are requested to update the information in the questionnaire on its implementation and submit it to the secretariat by 15 June 2016.

3. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq

12. The Committee is invited to take note that States parties to the Memorandum agreed to participate in the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport to vote on the proposed amendments to the Memorandum and to review consequent legal procedures.

13. Member States are requested to take note of a presentation by the secretariat on navigation lines for maritime and pluvial connections between Arab countries. The secretariat is requested to prepare a technical working paper on the issue, to be presented at the seventeenth session of the Committee.

4. Transport and trade facilitation in the Arab region

14. Member States that have not yet established national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade are invited to accelerate the process using the guide for the establishment of national committees for transport and trade facilitation in the region prepared by ESCWA in 2003, and the technical support provided by ESCWA in that area.

15. Member States that have already established national committees are called to accelerate their activation by drafting and adopting action plans for each committee and by making use of the technical support provided by ESCWA in that regard.

16. The secretariat is requested to continue providing technical support to member States for trade and transport facilitation, especially regarding the monitoring and evaluation of constraints related to long delays and complexity of commercial operations; and to study the best practices employed globally. Member States are also requested to include the chairs of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in the Committee delegations.

17. Participating member States are requested to complete questionnaires from the secretariat so as to evaluate the status of transport procedures, including trade.

5. Road safety

18. The Committee is requested to take note of the proposed guide developed by the secretariat on the establishment of integrated national systems for road safety management (national lead agencies and councils and related coordination committees); and to request the secretariat to publish and disseminate the guide to member States for guidance in establishing road safety systems.

19. Member States are requested to complete the questionnaire on road safety and submit it to the secretariat by 30 January 2016, to allow the secretariat to publish the data in a report on the Global Plan for the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

20. Member States are invited to implement the recommendations of the second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety, held in Brasilia on 18 and 19 November 2015, especially regarding the

development of policies, strategies and action plans to improve road safety in line with national goals and specificities; and to vote in favour of the impending General Assembly resolution on the adoption of the Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety.

21. The secretariat is requested to continue providing technical support to member States in implementing activities to improve road safety.

D. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

22. The secretariat is requested to continue applying the methodological framework for the development and implementation of an integrated transport system between Arab countries, and promote cooperation and coordination between all national and regional organizations, bodies, union, enterprises, centres of expertise, experts, advisors and international organizations concerned with implementing the Trade Facilitation Agreement, so as to benefit from their expertise.

23. Member States are requested to submit the following two reports to the secretariat by 15 June 2016: the first on implementing the recommendations of the fifteenth session of the Committee on Transport and the second on transport developments in member States from 1 January to 31 December 2015, to enable the secretariat to prepare its comprehensive report and publish it on the ESCWA website to facilitate access for member States.

24. Member States are requested to appoint national focal points to work with the secretariat on an electronic platform for an integrated transport system in Arab States, and to inform ESCWA of their names by 15 January 2016, noting that some countries have already appointed focal points to follow up on the implementation of the transport agreements and Memorandum of Understanding.

25. Member States are urged to integrate projects and strategies for the development of transport networks in their inclusive economic development strategies and policies and national trade orientations, following the example of countries that have already done so.

26. The Committee is requested to welcome the secretariat's efforts to hold sessions of the Committee on Transport sequentially with sessions of related committees, such as the committees on trade and on statistics, to discuss issues that are jointly relevant to those committees; and to invite the secretariat to consider including representatives of civil society and the private sector in those sessions in accordance with United Nations procedures and regulations.

II. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

A. TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS IN THE ARAB REGION (Agenda item 4)

27. Under this item, the Committee considered the following four documents: E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/3(Part I) on national trade and transport facilitation committees, E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/3(Part II) on the results of the trade and transport facilitation survey, E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/3(Part III) on the ePlatform for the follow-up on the implementation of the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM) and E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/3(Part IV) on progress in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq.

1. *National trade and transport facilitation committees*

28. The representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on progress in establishing and activating national trade and transport facilitation committees in some member States, on the basis of national reports and responses to the secretariat's questionnaire on the issue. She concluded with recommendations and

proposals to member States, urging them to hasten the process of establishing and activating those committees and to inform the secretariat of any developments in that regard. She requested the secretariat to continue providing technical support to member States in facilitating transport and trade and in operationalizing the committees.

2. Results of the trade and transport facilitation survey

29. The representative of the secretariat reviewed the results of the survey on progress in implementing trade measures and paperless trade, distributed to member States by the secretariat similarly to other United Nations regional commissions as part of the Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade, aimed at gathering information on the implementation of trade facilitation measures and identifying related challenges. He said that survey results from Arab countries highlighted significant variations in the implementation of trade facilitation measures, especially between developing economies, such as in Gulf countries, and less developed economies. Results also showed delays in the adoption and application of the paperless trade system in most Arab countries.

30. In the ensuing discussion, participants proposed that the secretariat continue informing member States of international experiences in trade facilitation and of measures to identify and tackle challenges that delayed and complicated trade transactions.

3. E-platform to follow up on the implementation of the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq

31. The representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on an e-platform currently being established by the secretariat to enable focal points in member States to update maps and data relevant to the transport agreements under ITSAM. He gave practical examples of establishing a platform that would function as a geographic information system, which would allow ITSAM information to be monitored and updated and would provide data on the transport sector in member States, including ITSAM components for new ESCWA members. The scope of the platform could also be expanded to include future ESCWA members. When implemented, the project would show interactive maps and charts related to the transport sector and would facilitate conducting investigations to analyse the status of the sector in ESCWA member States, which would assist in formulating policies, strategies and action plans for the future development of transport sector components and in achieving regional integration to strengthen economic and social development opportunities in member States. Each country must appoint a national coordinator to enter and amend national data following any developments.

32. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the Sudan lauded the secretariat's efforts to prepare for that ambitious project. The representative of Kuwait stressed the importance of the platform, both at the national and regional levels, drawing the secretariat's attention to the high cost of establishing and continually updating the platform. Some representatives questioned the platform's carrying capacity and the components of the related data classification guide. The representative of the secretariat of the League of Arab States reaffirmed the need to coordinate with the ESCWA secretariat in matters concerning the field of transport, in general, and such projects, in particular, so as to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations and avoid duplication in their work.

33. The representative of the secretariat said that the platform was developed in cooperation with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFEL) under a project funded by the United Nations, based on a geographic information system. With regard to the platform's technical characteristics, he said that the platform would be broad in scope and include transport facilities and hubs, as well as a data guide, a terminology database and a list of logistics terminals.

4. Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq

34. The Committee reviewed progress in implementing the action plan adopted at its twelfth session, pursuant to article 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq on coastal transportation. It also considered developments in maritime transport in member States, which had provided ESCWA with related information and data in their national reports on transport developments over the period 2014-2015.

35. The representative of the secretariat presented a preliminary concept to identify shipping lines for maritime and pluvial connections between Arab countries, noting developments in international trade and the driving role of international maritime transport. He focused on the cost and efficiency of containerized transport in terms of protection from damage and loss, on the drop in cost and time needed for loading and unloading, and the possibility of adopting multi-modal transport systems. He identified key container transport operators, the global container line network, international maritime transport alliances and principal international ports, including Arab ports. He also noted the advanced ranking of some Arab countries, according to the liner shipping connectivity index. He made a set of proposals to member States on activating the maritime transport sector and benefiting from it to support economic development.

36. In the ensuing discussion, representatives expressed their interest in maritime and pluvial shipping lines and the need to build upon the preliminary concept described by the representative of the secretariat, with a view to presenting the results at the next Committee session. The representative of Morocco requested the secretariat to organize seminars on maritime and pluvial shipping lines on the sidelines of Committee session in which private sector representatives and experts would participate, given the importance of the issue and its role in facilitating trade.

B. PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT SINCE THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT (Agenda item 5)

37. Under this item, the Committee considered the following four documents: E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/4(Part I) on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifteenth session, E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/4(Part II) on the implementation of transport-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work, E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/4(Part III) on feedback from member State representatives on the proceedings of the fifteenth session of the Committee and E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/4(Part IV) on updating the Agreement on International Railways, the Agreement on International Roads and the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq to include the Maghreb States that have recently joined ESCWA.

38. With regard to feedback from member State representatives on the proceedings of the fifteenth session of the Committee, the representative of the secretariat reviewed the importance of the questionnaire and the issues raised in its questions, informing the secretariat of the views of Committee members on discussion topics and the organizational aspects of Committee sessions. He said that the aim was to develop the secretariat's work to meet the expectations and needs of member States. He also gave an overview of developments in the Committee's work, of the responses and views of representatives who had participated in the four previous Committee sessions, and of the secretariat's responses to questions, comments and proposals raised by the questionnaire.

39. The fourth section of this item was considered in three special meetings on amending the two transport agreements and the Memorandum. At the start of each meeting, and before States parties voted on the amendments, the representative of the secretariat reviewed the United Nations mechanisms for amending international agreements, in general, and the transport agreements and Memorandum to include North African countries that had recently joined ESCWA, in particular. The proposed amendments to the Agreement on

International Roads included adding route M58 North-South in Libya and adding lines to route M40 East-West, which is an international road stretching to Nouakchott. States parties agreed to redesignate the Agreement as the “Agreement on International Roads between Arab Countries”. Amendments to the Agreement on international railways included adding axis R95 North-South that passes through Algeria to the Mauritanian border and altering axis R50 East-West to reach Nouadhibou in Mauritania. States parties agreed to redesignate the Agreement as “Agreement on International Railways between Arab Countries”. States parties to the Memorandum unanimously agreed to redesignate it as the “Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport between Arab Countries”.

C. ROAD SAFETY (Agenda item 6)

40. Under this item, the Committee considered the following four documents: E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/5(Part I) on the status of road safety in the Arab region, E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/5(Part II) on a proposed ESCWA manual on road safety management systems, E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/5(Part III) on the experiences of Arab countries in managing road safety and E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/5(Part IV) on the Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety.

1. *Status of road safety in the Arab region*

41. The representative of the secretariat reviewed the status of road safety in the Arab region, with reference to national reports submitted to the secretariat in that regard and responses to the questionnaire sent by the secretariat to member States to follow up on progress in implementing recommendations issued by the Committee at its fifteenth session. He analysed data received by the secretariat from eight member States on improvements in road safety, as indicated by the establishment of lead agencies with full-time staff specializing in all aspects of road safety. He said that developments could also be measured in terms of technical committees and high councils that coordinated efforts to improve road safety by formulating integrated policies and operational strategies and action plans with specific goals; in terms of the availability of data on national activities implemented in May 2015 during the third United Nations Global Road Safety Week 2015; and in terms of the availability of data on activities implemented under the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. He also reviewed the status of road safety management in member States.

42. In the ensuing discussion, representatives praised the secretariat for its comprehensive presentation. Most representatives focused on the importance of collecting data on road safety and on the different systems used to calculate road deaths in member States. The representative of Jordan highlighted the variations between statistics and figures set out in reports of the World Health Organization (WHO) that relied on specific evaluations and estimations, and those calculated in practice by national bodies on the ground. Those variations were mainly due to the WHO basing its evaluations on the number of officially registered people, rather than the total population including new arrivals and refugees. Consequently, the number of road deaths as a percentage of the population was generally lower than that indicated by WHO. The representative of Morocco requested the secretariat to add data from other member States to its report, while focusing on data collection and classification methods.

2. *Proposed ESCWA manual on road safety management systems*

43. Referencing document E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/5(Part II), the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the proposed ESCWA manual on establishing and activating road safety management systems in member States. He reviewed the pillars of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, focusing on the activities of the first pillar on building road safety management capacity and noting its core and optional indicators. He presented global experiences in establishing national road safety management systems, including those of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Australian states of Victoria and Western Australia, highlighting their common characteristics. He also explained the proposed template for establishing a national road safety management system in member States, comprising a high council at the premiership level, a technical

committee at the relevant ministerial level, a national lead agency, a road safety observatory, scientific research institutions and a national advisory council.

44. In the ensuing discussion, some representatives said that several member States had established national road safety committees, but the problem lay in their activation and the development of their work. Other representatives questioned the roles of the Transport Ministry and the Interior Ministry in managing the proposed system, and the required level of coordination between the two.

3. *Experiences of Arab countries in managing road safety*

45. The secretariat held a round-table discussion on the experiences of Arab countries in managing road safety, focusing on the implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety. Several representatives made succinct interventions on their countries' successful experiences in improving road safety by adopting national plans to implement the Global Plan. The round-table discussion was an opportunity for representatives to exchange national experiences and lessons learned.

46. The representative of Palestine gave a presentation on the experience of his country in improving road safety, despite the challenges of Israeli occupation. He said that Palestine had established a high council under the Transportation Ministry tasked with overseeing road safety in the country, and comprising representatives of all stakeholders. He also reviewed all aspects of the council's action plan to improve road safety in Palestine.

47. The representative of Morocco gave a presentation on the experiences of his country in improving road safety by establishing a specialized national council, headed by the Minister of Equipment, Transport and Logistics, and by adopting laws and procedures aimed at improving road safety. He highlighted the significant improvements in the country's national road safety indicators and the considerable attention given to the issue, reflected in the participation of Morocco in related regional and international activities, including the Second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety attended by a high-level Moroccan delegation headed by the Minister of Equipment, Transport and Logistics.

48. The representative of the Egyptian Transport Ministry presented a plan by the General Authority for Roads, Bridges and Land Transport on improving road safety, revolving around traffic control, education, awareness-raising, engineering improvements, social participation and continual evaluation. He noted the strategy adopted under the plan, based on a black spots system, accident avoidance and investigation, analysing road safety status and projects, identifying dangerous stretches of roads, implementing road safety action plans, and conducting consultative research to improve road safety. He added that the plan would be implemented through an integrated national system, managed by the ministries of transport, health and the interior, with financing and implementation assistance from the European Union. He gave a practical example of an information system established under the project, aimed at covering all data, statistics and maps related to road safety. He also described several projects aimed at improving road infrastructure, as well as activities and awareness-raising campaigns organized in collaboration with the ministries of education, the interior, the environment, *awqaf*, information, transport, health, tourism and youth, among other official and civil bodies.

4. *Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety*

49. The representative of the secretariat presented to the Committee her comments on the recommendations contained in the final draft of the Brasilia Declaration, which was officially issued at the second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety, held in Brasilia on 18 and 19 November 2015, just a few days before the current Committee session. She said that the Conference aimed to highlight recommendations by States on improving road safety. She explained the effective role of the secretariat in the Conference in terms of organizing a meeting for Arab participants to reach a unified position on the Declaration and to prepare a common road map to assist Arab States in implementing the Declaration and the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety.

D. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT
(Agenda item 7)

50. The Committee on Transport proposed that its seventeenth session be held in Beirut in the last quarter of 2016, if no other member State wished to host it.

E. OTHER MATTERS
(Agenda item 8)

51. Under this item, representatives welcomed the secretariat's proposal to hold the sessions of the Committee on Transport sequentially with those of other committees, such as the committees on trade and on statistics, to facilitate discussions on issues common to those committees. They also requested that representatives of civil society and the private sector participate in Committee sessions.

**III. ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE
ON TRANSPORT AT ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION**
(Agenda item 9)

52. At its final meeting, convened on 24 November 2015, the Committee on Transport adopted its recommendations as amended.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. DATE AND VENUE

53. The sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport was held in Cairo on 22 and 24 November 2015. Its work was divided over five meetings.

B. OPENING

54. Mr. Mohamed Lhasiri, the representative of Morocco and of the office of the fifteenth session of the Committee, made a statement in which he thanked the ESCWA secretariat for its valuable efforts in organizing the annual Committee sessions, and for its diligent follow-up of transport issues in member States. He presented key developments in the Moroccan transport sector and the projects undertaken by the Ministry of Equipment, Transport and Logistics, notably infrastructure projects for international roads and railways. He affirmed that Morocco had been in continued contact with ESCWA during his chairmanship of the fifteenth Committee session to follow up on progress in implementing the recommendations issued at that session and on developments in the transport sector in all member States, despite challenges in the region. He expressed his hope that Egypt would succeed in chairing the sixteenth session of the Committee.

55. Mr. Mohamad el-Hacene, Director of the Economic Development and Integration Division, made a statement on behalf of ESCWA, in which he welcomed participants and thanked Egypt for hosting the session. He said that, since the fifteenth session, ESCWA and its member States had followed up on progress in implementing transport-related agreements, mechanisms and recommendations, despite difficult conditions in most Arab countries. ESCWA had prepared a proposal to broaden the scope of the transport agreements in the Arab Mashreq to include North African countries that had recently joined. He noted several technical reports prepared by ESCWA to support member States in facilitating transport and trade, and ESCWA efforts to enhance cooperation and integration between Arab countries to drive economic development and strengthen international trade. A key report entitled "Assessing Arab Economic Integration: Towards the Arab Customs Union" had been discussed before the opening of the session at a joint meeting with the Committee on Trade. It included a set of recommendations and proposals aimed at decision-makers to develop practical methods to achieve Arab economic integration. He said that road safety was a vital issue, noting a proposed ESCWA guide on establishing and activating integrated national systems for road safety management in member States, and

an evaluation of the Brasilia Declaration sent by ESCWA to member States along with its views on the recommendations therein. He thanked the delegations for their attendance, expressing his hopes for a successful session.

56. The representative of the General Authority for Roads, Bridges and Land Transport of Egypt, Mr. Adel Turk, gave a statement on behalf of his country in its capacity as Chair of the sixteenth session of the Committee. He welcomed the participants, affirming that Egypt was committed to effectively participating in all ESCWA transport-related activities. He praised continued ESCWA efforts to organize the Committee's work and strengthen cooperation between member States in all areas of the transport sector. He added that the session's agenda set out many key issues, stressing that road safety and transport and trade facilitation were two vital pillars for achieving integration and cohesion between member States. He expressed his hope for a successful session and desired outcomes.

C. ATTENDANCE

57. The meeting was attended by representatives of 13 ESCWA member States, namely Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.

58. Attending as observers were representatives of Arab federations active in the field of transport and of several regional organizations. Annex I to the present report contains the full list of participants.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

59. In accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA, member States chair the sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. In conformity with Rule 18, the representative of Egypt, Mr. Adel Turk, chaired the sixteenth session of the Committee. In line with procedures adopted at previous sessions, the Committee elected Mr. Mohamed Lhasiri, representative of Morocco, and Mr. Zahem al-Mutairi, representative of Saudi Arabia, as Vice-Chairs. Mr. Ahmed Banan Shaykhna, representative of Mauritania, was elected as Rapporteur.

60. The drafting committee was presided over by Mr. Ahmed Banan Shaykhna and representatives of the ESCWA secretariat and of other participating countries.

E. AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

61. At its first meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda of its sixteenth session, set forth in document E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/L.1 as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Transport and logistics in the Arab region:
 - (a) National trade and transport facilitation committees;
 - (b) Results of the trade and transport facilitation survey;
 - (c) The ePlatform for the follow-up on the implementation of the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM);
 - (d) Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq.

5. Progress achieved in the field of transport since the fifteenth session of the Committee on Transport:
 - (a) Implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifteenth session;
 - (b) Implementation of transport-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work;
 - (c) Feedback of member State representatives on the proceedings of the fifteenth session of the Committee;
 - (d) Updating the Agreement on International Railways, the Agreement on International Roads and the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq to include the Maghreb States that have recently joined ESCWA.

6. Road safety:
 - (a) The status of road safety in the Arab region;
 - (b) A proposed ESCWA manual on road safety management systems;
 - (c) Experiences of Arab countries in managing road safety (round-table discussion);
 - (d) Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety.

7. Date and venue of the seventeenth session of the Committee on Transport.

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Transport at its sixteenth session.

F. DOCUMENTS

62. Annex II to the present report contains the list of documents submitted at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBER STATES

Jordan

Mr. Naim Hassan
Director, Executive Secretariat for Trade and
Transport Facilitation
Development and Planning Director
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Mansour Mansour Al Tawafsheh
Harbour Master Director, Maritime
Communication and Pratique Directorate
Jordanian Maritime Authority

Mr. Mohammed Eid al-Habashin
Director of Traffic Safety
Ministry of Public Works and Housing

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Abdallah Moussallem al-Harhi
Director, Department of Transport Affairs
Federal Transport Authority – Land and Maritime

Bahrain

Mr. Fuad Sadiq al-Baharnah
Advisor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sudan

Mr. Issa Tartib shater
Director, Department of Regional Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Trade

Iraq

Mr. Haidar Noury Jaber
Trade Attaché
Embassy of Iraq in Egypt

Oman

Mr. Salem Said Salem al-Amry
Assistant Director General for Maintenance and
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Ministry of Transport and Communications

Palestine

Mr. Ammar Yasin
Undersecretary, Ministry of Transportation

Mr. Walid Hamdan al-Astal
Director of Rail Transport
Ministry of Transportation

Kuwait

Mr. Abdelhadi Al-Marri
Director of Land Transport Department
Ministry of Communications

Mr. Hani Mohammed Al-Salih
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Lebanon

Mr. Ali Al-Masri
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Ministry of Public Works and Transport

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Mr. Adel Turk
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Ministry of Transport

Ms. Mona Hassan Kotob Mohammed
Director General of the Technical Office
Ministry of Transport

Ms. Ibtissam Abdel-Fatah Mustafa
Director, Directorate of International Relations
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Ousama Sayed Ahmed
International Trade Policies Researcher
Ministry of Trade and Industry

Mr. Ahmed Abdel Alim Mohamed
Head of the Technical Office
Planning Authority for Transportation Projects
Ministry of Transport

Egypt (continued)

Mr. Imad al-Din Mahmoud Mohammed
Under-Secretary of land transport
Ministry of Transport-Egypt

Mr. Mohammed Mohammed Metwally
Director General for Road Safety Engineering
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Mohamed Mohammed Khairy Sayyed
Abdellatif
International Trade Policies Researcher
Ministry of Trade and Industry

Ms. Nermin Mohammed Meligi
Director of trade facilitation at the Central
Department of WTO
Trade Agreements Sector, Ministry of Trade and
Industry

Mr. Akram Hassan Shalabi
Director of Telecom Investment Projects
Department
Egypt railway

Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Fouad Salit
Project Director General
Central Department of Strategic Investment
Projects
Egypt railway

Morocco

Mr. Mohamed Lhasiri
Head of international cooperation with the
International Maritime Organization
Ministry of Equipment and Transport.

Mr. Ahmed Al-Aked
Researcher in communication and analysis
Officer in Charge of the National Committee for
Traffic Accident Prevention

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Zahem ben Faihan al-Mutairi
Assistant Director General of the National
Transport Strategy
Ministry of Transport

Mauritania

Mr. Ahmed Banan Shaykhna
Director General of land transport
Ministry of Equipment and Transport

B. SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Mr. Ochozias Gbaguidi
Economic Affairs Officer

C. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

League of Arab States

Ms. Dina Hussein Al-Zaher
Director of the Transportation and Tourism
Department

Mr. Abdul-Aziz Salah al-Din
Consultant- Transportation and Tourism
Department

Mr. Mustafa Rashid
Assistant Director of the Arab Academy for
Science and Technology
Head of the Technical Office
Council of Arab Economic Unity

Mr. Saad al-Wali

Arab Sea Ports Federation

Mr. Bahri Isam Al-Din Badawi
Secretary General

Mr. Youssef Abdel Moneim Badr
Administrative and Technical Affairs
Director/Assistant Secretary-General

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Title	Item	Symbol
Information note		E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/INF.1
Agenda and annotations	3	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/L.1
Organization of work	3	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/L.2
Transport and logistics in the Arab region	4	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/3
National trade and transport facilitation committees	4 (a)	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/3(Part I)
Results of the trade and transport facilitation survey	4 (b)	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/3(Part II)
The ePlatform for the follow-up on the implementation of the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM)	4 (c)	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/3(Part III)
Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq	4 (d)	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/3(Part IV)
Progress achieved in the field of transport since the fifteenth session of the Committee on Transport	5	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/4
Implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifteenth session	5 (a)	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/4(Part I)
Implementation of transport-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work	5 (b)	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/4(Part II)
Updating the Agreement on International Railways, the Agreement on International Roads and the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq to include the Maghreb States that have recently joined ESCWA	5 (d)	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/4(Part III)
Road safety	6	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/5
The status of road safety in the Arab region	6 (a)	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/5(Part I)
A proposed ESCWA manual on road safety management systems	6 (b)	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/5(Part II)
Experiences of Arab countries in managing road safety (round-table discussion)	6 (c)	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/5(Part III)
Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety	6 (d)	E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.3/5(Part IV)

Annex III

RECORD OF THE MEETING TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ROADS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ

(Cairo, 24 November 2015)

1. ESCWA member States parties to the Agreement that participated in the meeting

- Bahrain
- Egypt
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Palestine
- Saudi Arabia
- Sudan
- United Arab Emirates

2. Agenda

1. Review of article 7 of the Agreement on amendments.
2. Voting on the proposed amendments.
3. Results of the vote.
4. Adoption of the amendments.

3. Details of the meeting

In collaboration with the ESCWA secretariat, representatives of ESCWA member States parties to the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq, who participated in the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport (Cairo, 23-24 November 2015), held a special meeting in Cairo, on 24 November 2015, as part of the Committee's work, to amend the Agreement to include North African countries that recently joined ESCWA, pursuant to recommendations issued by the Committee at its previous session.

The representative of the secretariat opened the meeting and reviewed article 7 of the Agreement on amendments so as to follow the steps contained in the article regarding the proposed amendments to redesignate the Agreement as the "Agreement on International Roads between Arab States" and expand its scope to cover North African countries that recently joined ESCWA. She also described the United Nations mechanisms for amending international agreements, in general, and the Agreement under consideration, in particular.

4. Voting

The representative of the secretariat called on representatives of State parties to the agreement to vote, and requested that the heads of delegations give their country's vote on the amendments. The Rapporteur of the sixteenth Committee session recorded States' votes and the meeting outcomes. The table below sets out States' votes as declared by the heads of their delegations.

Number	State	Vote
1	Jordan	In favour
2	United Arab Emirates	In favour
3	Bahrain	In favour
4	Sudan	In favour
5	Iraq	In favour
6	Palestine	In favour
7	Kuwait	In favour
8	Lebanon	In favour
9	Egypt	In favour
10	Saudi Arabia	In favour

At the closing of the meeting, the Rapporteur of the sixteenth Committee session announced 10 voting results whereby representatives had unanimously voted to redesignate the Agreement as the “Agreement on International Roads between Arab States”. They also agreed to follow up on the procedures resulting from the amendment.

Annex IV

RECORD OF THE MEETING TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL RAILWAYS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ

(Cairo, 24 November 2015)

1. ESCWA member States parties to the Agreement that participated in the meeting

- Bahrain
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Palestine
- Saudi Arabia
- Sudan
- United Arab Emirates

2. Agenda

1. Review of article 6 of the Agreement on amendments.
2. Voting on the proposed amendments.
3. Results of the vote.
4. Adoption of the amendments.

3. Details of the meeting

In collaboration with the ESCWA secretariat, representatives of ESCWA member States parties to the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq, who participated in the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport (Cairo, 23-24 November 2015), held a special meeting in Cairo, on 24 November 2015, as part of the Committee's work, to amend the Agreement to include North African countries that recently joined ESCWA, pursuant to recommendations issued by the Committee at its previous session.

The representative of the secretariat opened the meeting and reviewed article 6 of the Agreement on amendments so as to follow the steps contained in the article regarding the proposed amendments to redesignate the Agreement as the "Agreement on International Railways between Arab States" and expand its scope to cover North African countries that recently joined ESCWA. She also described the United Nations mechanisms for amending international agreements, in general, and the Agreement under consideration, in particular.

4. Voting

The representative of the secretariat called on representatives of State parties to the agreement to vote, and requested that the heads of delegations give their country's vote on the amendments. The Rapporteur of the sixteenth Committee session recorded States' votes and the meeting outcomes. The table below sets out States' votes as declared by the heads of their delegations.

Number	State	Vote
1	Jordan	In favour
2	United Arab Emirates	In favour
3	Bahrain	In favour
4	Sudan	In favour
5	Palestine	In favour
6	Kuwait	In favour
7	Lebanon	In favour
8	Egypt	In favour
9	Saudi Arabia	In favour

At the closing of the meeting, the Rapporteur of the sixteenth Committee session announced that representatives had unanimously voted to redesignate the Agreement as the “Agreement on International Railways between Arab States”. They also agreed to follow up on the procedures resulting from the amendment.

Annex V

RECORD OF THE MEETING TO AMEND THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON MARITIME TRANSPORT COOPERATION IN THE ARAB MASHREQ

(Cairo, 24 November 2015)

1. ESCWA member States parties to the Memorandum that participated in the meeting

- Bahrain
- Egypt
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Palestine
- Saudi Arabia
- Sudan
- United Arab Emirates

2. Agenda

1. Review of article 18 of the Agreement on amendments.
2. Voting on the proposed amendments.
3. Results of the vote.
4. Adoption of the amendments.

3. Details of the meeting

In collaboration with the ESCWA secretariat, representatives of ESCWA member States parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq, who participated in the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport (Cairo, 23-24 November 2015), held a special meeting in Cairo, on 24 November 2015, as part of the Committee's work, to amend the Memorandum to include North African countries that recently joined ESCWA, pursuant to recommendations issued by the Committee at its previous session.

The representative of the secretariat opened the meeting and reviewed article 18 of the Memorandum on amendments so as to follow the steps contained in the article regarding the proposed amendment to redesignate the Memorandum as the "Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation between Arab States" and expand its scope to cover North African countries that recently joined ESCWA. She also described the United Nations mechanisms for amending international agreements, in general, and the Memorandum under consideration, in particular.

4. Voting

The representative of the secretariat called on representatives of State parties to the Memorandum to vote, and requested that the heads of delegations give their country's vote on the amendments. The Rapporteur of the sixteenth Committee session recorded States' votes and the meeting outcomes. The table below sets out States' votes as declared by the heads of their delegations.

Number	State	Vote
1	Jordan	In favour
2	United Arab Emirates	In favour
3	Bahrain	In favour
4	Sudan	In favour
5	Iraq	In favour
6	Palestine	In favour
7	Kuwait	In favour
8	Lebanon	In favour
9	Egypt	In favour
10	Saudi Arabia	In favour

At the closing of the meeting, the Rapporteur of the sixteenth Committee session announced 10 voting results whereby representatives had unanimously voted to redesignate the Memorandum as the “Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation between Arab States”. Representatives also agreed to follow up on the procedures resulting from the amendment.