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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

REPORT

THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT BEIRUT, 24-26 APRIL 2012

Summary

The thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was held in Beirut from 24 to 26 April 2012. It discussed items on the session agenda, including, among others, the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region and methods of financing the infrastructure of some components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM). It also reviewed progress in the implementation of recommendations issued at its previous session. The Committee issued a number of recommendations, some of a general nature and some relating specifically to items on the session agenda.

This report contains a brief summary of the discussions that took place on each agenda item, in addition to the outcomes and recommendations emerging from the session. This report was adopted by the Committee at its final meeting, which was held on 26 April 2012.

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Introduction

1. The Committee on Transport of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its thirteenth session pursuant to ESCWA resolution 213 (XIX) of 7 May 1997 concerning the establishment of a Committee on Transport within ESCWA, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) 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 session was organized under the aegis of His Excellency Mr. Ghazi El-Areedi, Lebanese Minister of Public Works and Transportation, who was represented by Mr. Abd El Hafeez El Kayssi, Director General of Land and Maritime Transport, Public Works and Transportation.
3. This report contains the recommendations issued by the Committee at the close of the session, some of which related to specific agenda items and some of which were 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 organization and attendance of the session.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

A. HARMONIZATION OF INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND LEGISLATION IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR IN THE ESCWA REGION

4. Adopt recommendations made at the second meeting of the working group on the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region, as set forth in annex I of this report.
5. Establish standard terms of reference that include definitions for member countries to use when drafting legislation, memorandums of understanding, and international and bilateral agreements.

B. FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FOR COMPONENTS OF THE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE ARAB MASHREQ

6. Adopt the proposed programme of work for financing infrastructure projects for components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM) as contained in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/3(Part II).
7. Urge member countries to provide a variety of sources of financing for transport, including, among others, national trust funds.

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AT ITS TWELFTH SESSION

8. Invite member countries to take note of the information contained in the report of the secretariat on implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee on Transport at its twelfth session, as set forth in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/4 (Part I); to update that information as necessary; and to submit it, together with any comments, to the secretariat by 30 June 2012, it being understood that should no comments be received from any country, the document will be considered to have been adopted.

D. IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPORT-RELATED ACTIVITIES UNDER ESCWA'S PROGRAMME OF WORK

9. Invite member countries to take note of the information contained in the report of the secretariat on progress achieved since the twelfth session of the Committee on implementation transport-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work, as set forth in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/4 (Part II); to

update that information as necessary; and to submit it, together with any comments, to the secretariat by 30 June 2012, it being understood that should no comments be received from any country, the document will be considered to have been adopted.

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

10. Request the ESCWA secretariat to call on member countries that have not yet acceded to agreements or memorandums of understanding in the field of transport to accelerate the accession process.

1. Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq

11. Call on Oman to accelerate the steps it was taking to accede to the Agreement.

12. Request countries that are parties to the Agreement to update the information contained in the questionnaire on the follow-up to the Agreement, and to submit that questionnaire to ESCWA by 31 August 2012.

2. Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq

13. Call on countries that have not yet signed that Agreement (Iraq, Oman and Qatar) to accelerate the accession process.

14. Call on countries that have signed, but not yet ratified that Agreement (Kuwait) to accelerate the ratification process.

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

15. Call for implementation of the plan of action adopted by the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport for implementing article 5 of the Memorandum regarding coastal transport.

16. Call on countries that have still not signed the Memorandum (Bahrain and Kuwait) to accelerate the accession process.

17. Call on countries that have signed, but not ratified the Agreement (Qatar and Egypt) to accelerate the ratification process.

4. Facilitation of transport and trade in the countries of the ESCWA region

18. Call on countries that have still not established national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates) to accelerate the process, using the guide for the establishment of national committees for transport and trade facilitation in the ESCWA region prepared by ESCWA in 2003, and making use of technical support provided by ESCWA in that area.

19. Call on countries that have already established such national committees to accelerate their operationalization by drafting and adopting action plans for each committee and by making use of the technical support provided by ESCWA in that regard.

5. Road safety

20. Call on member countries to treat road safety as a priority and a critical issue.

21. Call on member countries to cooperate and coordinate with the ESCWA secretariat to begin practical implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety, and to set a timetable for implementation of the Moscow Declaration of 20 November 2009.

22. Call on ESCWA to continue to provide member countries with technical support for road safety.
23. Call on ESCWA to begin drafting a guide for the establishment of national road safety committees.

F. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

24. Take note of the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport, as set forth in document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/6), and presented to the Committee.
25. Request the ESCWA secretariat to continue its efforts to implement the methodological framework for development of ITSAM, by developing a mechanism to promote cooperation and coordination with all regional and international organizations, bodies and federations, as well as with companies, specialized consulting firms, experts and consultants, with a view to making use of their expertise; and to submit a presentation in that regard.
26. Request member countries to submit two reports to ESCWA by 31 October 2012: one on implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee at its thirteenth session, and a second on progress achieved in the field of transport in each country between 1 October 2011 and 30 September 2012.
27. Call on member countries to submit the requested reports by the relevant deadlines in order to give the secretariat time to prepare its overall report and post it on the Committee's website for member countries to view, which would allow for more time for discussion at meetings.

II. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

A. GENERAL DISCUSSION ON TRANSPORT ISSUES IN THE ARAB MASHREQ (Agenda item 4)

1. *The second meeting of the working group on harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region*

28. The representative of Jordan, in his capacity as Chair of the first meeting of the working group on the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region, gave an overview of the proceedings of that meeting, the resulting recommendations, and measures taken to implement them. Recommendations that had not yet been fully implemented included the establishment of terms of reference for evaluating the overall state of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region, to be achieved through cooperation between the working group's technical secretariat and the ESCWA secretariat; and the drafting of a proposed budget to cover the working group's anticipated expenses and to be submitted to the Committee at its thirteenth meeting.
29. The ensuing discussion of transport issues in the Arab Mashreq, focusing on harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation, constituted the second meeting of the working group on this issue. Annex I of this report contains a summary of the discussion and the recommendations emerging from it.
30. The ESCWA secretariat presented a provisional agenda for the working group's second meeting. In the absence of the representatives of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic was selected to chair the proceedings. The secretariat presented an overall report based on national reports submitted by member countries on transport sector legislation and institutional frameworks, which covered the following: land transport on roadways; land transport on railways (if applicable); maritime transport and seaports; air transport and airports; international cross-border transport of imports and exports; transit; and other sectors depending on the country. The reports also addressed future plans and projects for updating transport sector legislation and institutional frameworks.

31. The participants commended the efforts of the secretariat in preparing what had been the first ever presentation reviewing and comparing transport legislation and institutional frameworks in certain member countries. One participant said that existing international agreements, such as those between the League of Arab States and the European Union, should be taken into consideration when harmonizing proposed legislation for the advancement of the transport sector, with due attention paid to related sectors such as trade and the economy. Differences between the Arab countries in tax and customs regulations meant that immigration, passport, tax and customs law would all have to be considered. Participants agreed on the need to establish terms of reference that included definitions for countries to use when drafting legislation, memorandums of understanding, and international and bilateral agreements.

32. There was a wide-ranging discussion of the variation among countries in legislation and ministerial competences, and the kinds of conflicts of authority that arose when it came to the issues being addressed by the Committee. Participants wondered about the precise benefits and objectives of reviewing and harmonizing legislation and institutional frameworks. One proposal for resolving authority conflicts was to create national committees made up of representatives of the relevant ministries and tasked with harmonizing the relevant legislation. Such committees should be chaired by ministers for transport, who should keep the Committee on Transport informed of their activities. The representative of Lebanon, Chair of the current session, noting the difficulties inherent in harmonization, stressed the importance of maintaining a database on transport management that kept track of national agencies responsible for transport affairs, with a view to identifying common denominators and achieving horizontal coordination between the major actors, something that was presently lacking in most ESCWA member countries.

33. The secretariat said that the purpose of harmonization was to ensure that all possible steps, however incremental, were taken towards harmonizing laws with a view to facilitating trade and travel between Arab countries. Some participants suggested that successful experiences in foreign countries be disseminated so that each country could choose to emulate them as they saw fit. The representative of the World Bank proposed that the problem of duplication of authorities should be addressed through the establishment of a higher council for transportation and roadways in each country, headed by the Prime Minister, to coordinate the tasks of the various ministries. One observer noted that the survey of institutional structures and legislation neglected to touch on issues regulating border posts, where benefits could be derived from avoiding duplication of procedures, standardizing freight weights, and other measures to increase transportation efficiency and reduce costs to trade and the economy.

2. Financing infrastructure projects for components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq

34. The secretariat made a presentation on the importance of attracting foreign investment in general, and in particular for infrastructure projects, which could provide job opportunities to young people in the Arab region who were facing increasing unemployment, and would also reduce costs and increase productivity. The presentation covered the current state of investment and infrastructure development in a number of member countries, and public-private sector partnerships, particularly in Gulf Cooperation Council countries, which had increased.

35. The secretariat, referring to document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/3 (Part II), made a presentation on ESCWA activities in the area of financing infrastructure projects for components of ITSAM. Several steps had been taken in implementation of the infrastructure financing action plan, including laying out institutional, legislative and organizational frameworks; preparing economic feasibility studies; soliciting the aid of international financing institutions, development funds and the private sector for infrastructure financing; building institutional and organizational management capacities for scheduled public-private sector projects; reinforcing the environmental component of such projects; and requesting technical support from ESCWA.

36. In the ensuing discussion, it was pointed out that the document did not link ITSAM components to a particular timetable. Participants also noted that it was difficult to obtain private sector financing for such projects given their high costs, minimal profits, and the length of the investment horizon. Among proposals offered by participants were the creation of sovereign funds to finance infrastructure projects and road maintenance, to be supported through transport-related activities; and the conduct of feasibility studies for submission to international funds, it being understood that different funds had different conditions and the same study could not be submitted to more than one fund. Participants called on the secretariat to standardize guidelines for such studies to spare member countries the trouble of conducting the same study twice.

37. Measures should be taken to ensure that ministries of transport benefited from fees imposed on goods transported by roadway, which currently went to other ministries. The private sector should be provided with incentives to invest in infrastructure, such as the right to set up profit-making businesses along the roads being renovated or to conduct projects with a higher rate of return alongside transport projects. Participants also discussed how to finance proposals for strategic and regional transport links that were important to member countries even if they had no clear economic benefit by the standards of international funds or the private sector.

38. The secretariat explained that the problem for the Arab region was not lack of funds, but ensuring that available funds were used for economically beneficial projects. New instruments should be created for investing surpluses. Central banks should create funds for the investment of commercial bank surpluses in national transport projects. Remittances from workers abroad amounted to US\$36 billion, of which US\$20 billion consisted of intra-Arab transfers, only a small portion of which was invested.¹ Member countries should cooperate to invest those deposits in strategic transportation links and other projects. The secretariat also explained that the strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015 currently being prepared by ESCWA included development infrastructure funding, separate from the public-private sector forum that it was trying to establish.

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

39. The Committee considered two documents: document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/4(Part I) on transport-related activities and measures carried out pursuant to the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its twelfth session; and document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/4(Part II), which reviewed progress on transport-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013.

40. Some participants urged the secretariat to prepare reports sufficiently in advance of the Committee session to allow time for examination and comments. The secretariat explained that the reason for delays was the failure of some member countries to meet deadlines for submission of the national reports that formed the basis of ESCWA overall reports. Participants also touched on the issue of road safety, noting that while there was not a lack of institutions and committees dealing with the issue, there was a lack of contact and coordination between them.

C. PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE COMPONENTS OF THE INTEGRATED
TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE ARAB MASHREQ
(Agenda item 6)

41. The representative of Saudi Arabia gave a presentation on the Saudi Arabia's transport sector that covered road safety, institutional frameworks and legislation, international roads and railways, and facilitation of transport and trade. He also discussed what had been done to implement components of ITSAM.

¹ World Bank, electronic database, <http://databank.worldbank.org/ddp/home.do?Step=12&id=4&CNO=2>.

42. The secretariat, referring to document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/5, gave a presentation on progress achieved since the Committee's twelfth session in implementing the components of ITSAM. The presentation covered developments in member countries in implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq since its entry into force on 19 October 2003, the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq and the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq, as well as progress achieved in the establishment and operationalization of national committees to facilitate transport and trade and improve road safety. Pursuant to the recommendation issued by the Committee at its twelfth session, an overview given of the progress made by member countries in facilitating transport and trade, as measured by internationally recognized indicators.

43. The Chair of the session urged member countries to submit their reports to ESCWA by their deadlines so that the secretariat would have sufficient time to prepare its overall report and post it on the website for examination by member countries, leaving more time for discussion during the meetings. He urged countries that had not yet signed agreements and memorandums of understanding to accelerate the signature process. The secretariat noted that some of the data contained in the document just presented had already been updated. A delegate suggested that the secretariat should annex indicators to the report and conduct a progress assessment. Some participants noted the importance of road safety training, and proposed the establishment of national road safety committees composed of representatives from the relevant ministries. An observer expressed the readiness of his organization to conduct a road safety study along the lines of those conducted by the European Union in cooperation with any interested party.

D. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2012-2013
IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT
(Agenda item 7)

44. The Committee was presented with the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport, as set forth in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/6, which fell within the framework of subprogramme 3 on Economic Development and Integration, the implementation of which is overseen by the Economic Development and Globalization Division of ESCWA.

E. PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015
IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT
(Agenda item 8)

45. The Committee considered the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of transport, as set forth in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/7, including the goal listed under subprogramme 3, which was to achieve a decent standard of living for all inhabitants of the ESCWA region through increasing sustainable growth and human security in the region with a greater degree of integration in accordance with the strategic goals of ESCWA, and the strategy for that subprogramme, including expected accomplishments, achievement indicators and external factors.

F. DATE AND VENUE OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT
(Agenda item 9)

46. The Committee recommended that its fourteenth session should be convened in Beirut in March 2013, provided that no member country expressed its wish to host the session.

G. OTHER MATTERS
(Agenda item 10)

47. On the margins of the Committee's thirteenth session, participants honoured Mr. Nabil Safwat, Special Advisor to ESCWA on Transport and Logistics, on the occasion of his retirement from the Commission on 30 April 2012 after more than 14 years of service to the transport sector in the Arab region. He contributed to the creation of ITSAM as a whole and to implementation of its components. On behalf the Committee, the

Chair of the session thanked Mr. Safwat for his work. On behalf of the secretariat, a representative expressed her and her ESCWA colleagues' gratitude and appreciation for his contributions to transport and to other sectors, which had benefited the region greatly. The representative of Saudi Arabia commended Mr. Safwat's role in coordination between ESCWA and the League of Arab States for a unified text of the Convention on Multimodal Transport of Goods in the Arab States (2008). A representative of the Economic Development and Globalization Division presented Mr. Safwat with a plaque in appreciation of his efforts during his tenure with ESCWA from 1998 to 2012.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

(Agenda item 11)

48. At its final meeting, convened on 26 April 2012, the Committee on Transport adopted the report of its thirteenth session, as set forth in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/8.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SESSION

49. The thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport was held at the United Nations House in Beirut from 24 to 26 April 2012. Its work was divided into five meetings.

B. OPENING

50. Mr. Fahd al-Masoud, representative of Kuwait, in his capacity as outgoing Chair of the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport, gave an address in which he thanked Mr. Ghazi El-Areedi, Lebanese Minister of Public Works and Transportation, under whose aegis the session was being held, and expressed his appreciation to the ESCWA secretariat for its efforts in organizing the Committee's annual meetings and to member countries for the attention they devoted to transport issues in the region. Kuwait had remained in constant touch with ESCWA throughout its tenure as Chair of the twelfth session of the Committee in order to monitor progress in implementing the recommendations issued by that session and to keep up with transport sector developments in all member countries. Those countries had devoted great attention to following up implementation of international agreements in the Arab Mashreq signed within the ESCWA framework and to developing both the national and regional transport sectors in the face of the great difficulties being faced by the region.

51. Mr. Abdullah Dardari, Director of the Economic Development and Globalization Division, delivered an address on behalf of Ms. Rima Khalaf, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of ESCWA, in which he welcomed the participants and expressed gratitude to Mr. Ghazi El-Areedi, Lebanese Minister of Public Works and Transportation, under whose aegis the session was being held. Mr. Dardari noted that since 1999, ESCWA had devoted a great deal of attention to regional integration, notably with the launching of ITSAM. The current challenges faced by the Arab countries made it all the more urgent to operationalize such integration on the ground. The Commission was always working for closer cooperation with regional and international organizations, governments, international funds, civil society associations and the private sector with a view to helping the peoples of the region overcome their problems and raise their standards of living. Greater regional Arab cooperation required a redoubling of efforts to develop road and rail land transport and maritime transport; harmonization of institutional frameworks and transport legislation; international multimodal transport agreements; measures to facilitate transport and trade; and attention to traffic safety. The Commission had incorporated into both its work programme for the biennium 2012-2013 and its strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015 activities and plans in support of member country capacities to finance transport infrastructure projects for the components of ITSAM and to harmonize transport legislation and institutional frameworks. Mr. Dardari closed by expressing his gratitude to all the delegations for their attendance and his wishes for the success of the session.

52. Mr. Abd El Hafiz El Kayssi Director General of Land and Maritime Transport, Lebanon, delivered an address on behalf of the Lebanese Minister of Public Works and Transportation, in which he welcomed participants to Beirut. The annual session of the ESCWA Committee on Transport was a successful model of Arab cooperation that united aspirations with efforts to create a better future for transport. He expressed appreciation for the Commission's ongoing efforts to preserve continuity in the work of the Committee and to increase cooperation between member countries in all areas of transport with a view to achieving the goals of ITSAM and improving road, rail and sea links. The session agenda contained a number of important items, notably harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region and financing infrastructure projects for components of ITSAM, which in themselves would constitute a basic step towards achieving integration among member countries. In closing, Mr. El Kayssi expressed his wishes for the success of the session and his hope that it would result in the desired outcomes.

C. ATTENDANCE

53. The meeting was attended by representatives of 12 ESCWA member countries, namely: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan and Yemen.

54. Attending as observers were representatives of Arab federations active in the field of transport, and numerous regional organizations. The full list of participants is contained in annex II of this report.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

55. Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA states that member countries shall assume the Chair of the sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. Accordingly, Mr. Abd El Hafeez El Kayssi, representative of Lebanon, assumed the Chair of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport. In conformity with procedures adopted in previous sessions, the Committee elected Fahd al-Masoud, representative of Kuwait, and Mr. Jemal Khalil Hejazi, representative of Egypt, as Vice-Chairs. Mr. Youssef Ismail Jadu, representative of Saudi Arabia, was elected as Rapporteur.

56. The drafting committee was presided over by Mr. Youssef Ismail Jadu, representative of Saudi Arabia and Rapporteur of the Committee, and included representatives of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and of the ESCWA secretariat.

E. AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

57. In its first meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda of the thirteenth session, as set forth in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/L.1. The adopted agenda was as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. General discussion on transport issues in the Arab Mashreq:
 - (a) Second Meeting of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region;
 - (b) Financing projects for building the infrastructure of selected components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq.

5. Progress achieved in the field of transport since the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport:
 - (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its twelfth session;
 - (b) Implementation of transport-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work.
6. Progress achieved in implementing the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq: Overview.
7. Programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport.
8. Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of transport.
9. Date and venue of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Transport.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report on the thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport.

58. At the same meeting, the Committee agreed to the proposed organization of work as set forth in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/L.2.

F. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

59. Annex III of this report includes the list of documents submitted to the thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport.

Annex I

SUMMARY OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE HARMONIZATION OF INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND LEGISLATION IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR IN THE ESCWA REGION (Beirut, 25 April 2012)

1. Attendance

- Iraq: Ms. Azhar Hussein Saleh Mr. Salam Jabr al-Abbas, Mr. Jawdat Kazim Ulyawi, and Mr. Ali Husun Khidr.
- Jordan: Mr. Naim Hamdan.
- Kuwait: Mr. Nabil Basha Mohammed.
- Saudi Arabia: Mr. Youssef Ben Ismail Jada and Mr. Monther Nasser Al-Rashed.
- The Sudan: Mr. Ibrahim Fadl Abdullah, Ms. Afaf Moussa and Mr. Azhari Fadl al-Mawla.
- Syrian Arab Republic: Mr. Rajih Sari.
- Yemen: Mr. Abd al-Karim Saleh, Mr. Ali Muhammad Mutafi.
- ESCWA secretariat: Ms. Fathia Abdel Fadil and Ms. Mona Fattah.

2. Agenda

1. Election of the Chair of the Working Group for 2012.²
2. Consideration of the overall report based on national reports submitted to the working group secretariat.
3. Discussion of the draft terms of reference for a study evaluating the overall state of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region, to be submitted to the working group at its next meeting for consideration and adoption.
4. Discussion of the working group budget and ways to fund it.
5. The role of ESCWA and steps to be taken by its secretariat.
6. Topics for discussion.
7. Date and venue of the third meeting of the working group.
8. Recommendations of the second meeting.

3. Discussion

The working group on the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region held its second meeting at United Nations House in Beirut on Wednesday, 25 April 2012 as part of the proceedings of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport (Beirut, 24 to 26 April 2012).

² “The Chair of the working group shall be for one year and rotates among member countries participating in the group in the alphabetical order of the names of countries. The chair of the group shall be a member of the technical secretariat.” (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2010/IG.1/3).

The working group reviewed the tasks with which it had been charged, as agreed at the tenth session of the Committee on Transport (Beirut, 31 March to 2 April 2009). A number of topics were discussed, including information on transport sector legislation and institutional frameworks that had been presented on the first day of the Committee's session. The working group stressed the common denominators shared by such frameworks and legislation with respect to the facilitation of intra-Arab trade. The subject of the working group budget was discussed. Participants agreed to request the ESCWA secretariat to draft a proposed budget containing all anticipated expenditures and to submit it to the Chair and secretariat of the working group for consideration and adoption. Participants agreed that in view of the current lack of a budget, working group meetings should be held conjointly with the annual session of the Committee on Transport.

At the end of the meeting, the following recommendations were agreed to:

4. Recommendations

(1) Request member countries that had not yet named a representative to the working group to supply the working group technical secretariat and the ESCWA secretariat with the names of their delegates as soon as possible;

(2) Urge member countries to supply full national reports by 1 June 2012, with separate sections for each transport sector;

(3) Request member countries that had already supplied national information to review and update it by 1 June 2012, with separate sections for infrastructure and licensing, and with a brief description of legislation;

(4) Request ESCWA to review previous experiences in developed countries and in the Arab world and circulate them, along with regional agreements, before the next meeting of the working group;

(5) Place focus on areas that serve the interests of intra-Arab trade;

(6) Request the working group technical secretariat and the ESCWA secretariat to remain in contact and, once national reports had been completed and the overall report updated, to coordinate organization of the next meeting of the working group and set its date and venue.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Egypt

Mr. Gamal Khalil Hegazy
Vice Chairman of Transport Planning Authority
Transport Planning Authority
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Mohamed AbdelSabour ElGhandour
General Manager, International Cooperation Unit
Transport Planning Authority
Ministry of Transport

Iraq

Ms. Azhar Hussein Salih
General Manager, Directorate of Planning Sectors
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Jawdat Kadhim Eliwi
Senior Chief Engineers
State Commission of Roads and Bridges
Ministry of Construction and Housing

Mr. Salam Jabur Salloom Al-Abbas
Deputy of Director General
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Ali Hassoon Khudhur
Senior Engineer

Jordan

Mr. Anmar Khasawneh
Director of the Executive Affairs Department
Ministry of Public Works and Housing

Mr. Naim Khadr Hamdan
Director of Legal Affairs
Ministry of Transport

Kuwait

Mr. Fahed Saad AlMassoud
Director of Land Transport Department
Ministry of Transportation

Mr. Nabeel Basha Basha
Controller Marine Registration
Ministry of Transportation

Ms. Fatema Abdullatif Boushahri
Coordinator of Administrative Transactions
Ministry of Communications

Lebanon

Mr. Abdel Hafeez Kayssi
General Director,
Directorate General of Land and
Maritime Transport
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Ms. Ilham El Khabbaz
Chief of Land Transport Section
Directorate General of Land and
Maritime Transport
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Mr. Amer Bayda
Chief of Maritime Directorate of Land and
Maritime Transport
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Ms. Hala Chams
Chief of Transport Sector

Mr. Hassan Chaaban
Maritime Expert
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Oman

Mr. Ahmed Suleiman Al-Yarubi
Deputy Director of Land Transport
Ministry of Transport and Communications

Palestine

Mr. Jamal Ali Allan
General Director of Transport
Ministry of Transport

Qatar

Mr. Hamad Salem Mohammad Al-Khalifa
Chief of Land Transport Unit
Ministry of Business and Trade

Mr. Hilal Saad Al-Nuaimi
First Researcher, Maritime Affairs,
Ministry of Business and Trade

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Ali Abdullah Al-Nuaim
Head of Delegation
Deputy Minister for Planning and Follow-up
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Monther Nasser Al-Rashed
Director General of Public Transport
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Yousef Ismail Jadu
Director General of Studies Department
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Zahem Faihan AlMutairi
Planning Engineer
Studies Department
Ministry of Transport

The Sudan

Mr. Azhari Ali Fadl Elmola
General Director,
National Authority for Roads and Bridges
Ministry of Roads and Bridges

Mr. Ibrahim Fadul Abdalla
Deputy General Manager
Sudan Railways Corporation

Ms. Afaf Musa Alrfai
Administrative Director
Ministry of Transport

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Rajeh Sarea
Minister Assistant for Land Transport
Ministry of Transport

Yemen

Mr. Ali Mohamed Mutaafi
Head of Delegation
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Hussein Mohamed Haider
Senior Engineer, Road Sector
Ministry of Public Works and Roads

Mr. AbdelKareem Mohamed Saleh
General Director, Transport Policies
and Economies

Mr. Nassr Saleh Al-Harbi
Deputy Minister Economic Units Department
Ministry of Finance

Mr. Ali Thabet Harmal
Director
United Nations Specialized Organizations
Department
Ministry of Planning and International
Cooperation

B. UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

World Bank

Mr. Sateh Chafic El-Arnaout
Senior Urban and Regional Development
Specialist, Sustainable Development
Department
Middle East and North Africa Region

C. GOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES

League of Arab States

Mr. Ismail Abdel-Ghafar Farag
Chairman, Arab Academy for Science,
Technology and Maritime Transport

Mr. Khaled Mohamed Hanafy
Dean, College of International Transport and
Logistics
Arab Academy for Science, Technology and
Maritime Transport

Mr. Mustafa Abdelkader Rachid
Vice Dean, College of International Transport and
Logistics
Arab Academy for Science, Technology and
Maritime Transport

Mr. Ayman Taher Ghoneim
Director, Protocol Department and Public
Relations
Arab Academy for Science, Technology and
Maritime Transport

Mr. Samir Sami Enan
Vice President for International Relations
Arab Academy for Science, Technology and
Maritime Transport

Saudi Fund for Development

Mr. Nassir Kraidi AlSebaie
Consultant

Mr. Abdullah Essa Binmoamar
Economic Specialist

Council of Arab Economic Unity – General
Secretariat

Mr. Mohammed Mohammed Al-Rabee
Secretary-General

D. GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Arab Union of Land Transport

Mr. Mahmoud Hamad Al- Abdallat
Secretary General
Amman Jordan

Arab Union of Railways

Mr. Murhaf Al-Sabouni
Secretary General
Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Omar Sultan
International Relations Director
Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic

Arab Federation for Freight Forwarders and
Logistics

Mr. Abdellatif Gamil Rajab
Secretary General
Alexandria, Egypt

General Union of Chambers of Commerce,
Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries

Ms. May Samih Dimachkieh
Director of Economic Research

Arab Sea Ports Federation

Mr. Essam El-Din Badawi
Secretary General

Mr. Mahmud Salhab
Board member, Tripoli Port
Investment Authority, Tripoli Port

Arab Federation of Chambers of Shipping

Mr. Mohammed Mohsen El-Masry
R. Admiral
General Secretary
Alexandria, Egypt

International Chamber of Navigation

Mr. Elie Zakhour
President
Beirut, Lebanon

Jordan Shipping Association

Mr. Mohammed Al-Dalabeh
Executive Manager
Amman, Jordan

Arab Federation of Shipping

Mr. Anwar Gazawoui
Secretary General of the Arab Federation of
Shipping
President of the Lebanese Ship-owners
Association

Holding Company for Land and Maritime
Company

Mr. Mohammed Ahmad Ibrahim Yousef
Chief of Administration
Egypt

Lebanese Shipowners Association

Mr. Mohammed M. Itani
Vice-President,
Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Hasan Chamas
President Assistant

Gharib Shipping & Trading

Mr. Abdul Ghani Gharib
Chairman
Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Mohamed Khalil Ibrahim Gharib
Beirut, Lebanon

Gezairi Transport

Mr. Fouad Bawarshi
Vice-President – General Director
Beirut, Lebanon

Arab Bridge Maritime Company

Mr. Hussein Souob
Managing Director
Aqaba, Jordan

E. EMBASSIES

Embassy of Egypt, Beirut

Mr. Mohamed Mamdouh Osman
Second Secretary

Embassy of the Sudan, Beirut

Mr. ElHadi Siddiq Ali Numirey
Consultant, Deputy Head of Mission

Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic, Beirut

Mr. Bashar Mohamed Asa'ad
Second Secretary

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Title	Item	Symbol
Information note		E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/INF.1
Provisional agenda and annotations	3	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/L.1
Organization of work	3	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/L.2
General discussion on transport issues in the Arab Mashreq	4	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/3
Second meeting of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region	4 (a)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/3(Part I)
Financing infrastructure projects for components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq	4 (b)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/3(Part II)
Progress made in the field of transport since the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport	5	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/4
Follow-up to the implementation of recommendations adopted during the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport	5 (a)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/4(Part I)
Follow-up to the implementation of transport-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work	5 (b)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/4(Part II)
Progress achieved in implementing the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq	6	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/5
Proposed Programme of Work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport	7	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/6
Proposed Strategic Framework for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of transport	8	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/7
Provisional list of documents		E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/INF.2