



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**REPORT****TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT
BEIRUT, 31 MARCH - 2 APRIL 2009****Summary**

The tenth session of the Committee on Transport was held in Beirut from 31 March to 2 April 2009 and discussed the items included in the session agenda. This report contains the recommendations adopted by the session as well as a brief account of the major points raised in the discussions. The report was adopted by the Committee at its final meeting, which was held on 2 April 2009.

Discussions focused on the following topics: harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); request by the Sudan to accede to the three transport-related agreements adopted by ESCWA; and follow-up on the implementation of recommendations made during the ninth session of the Committee.

The Committee reviewed a paper containing the main results of the Expert Group Meeting on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region, which was organized by ESCWA in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport in Syria, and held in Damascus on 12 and 13 November 2008. The Committee also reviewed the recommendations presented, discussed and adopted at the ninth session. The Committee adopted a number of recommendations, some of which were general, while others were related to the topics set forth in the session agenda, particularly the issue of the accession of the Sudan to the three transport-related agreements adopted under the aegis of ESCWA.

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1-3	4
<i>Chapter</i>		
I. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT	4-53	4
A. Recommendations on the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region.....	4-9	4
B. Recommendations on follow-up to the implementation of recommendations adopted by the ninth session of the Committee on Transport.....	10	6
C. Recommendations on progress made in the implementation of transport-related activities within ESCWA's programme of work since the ninth session of the Committee on Transport	11	6
D. Recommendations on the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq	12-41	6
E. Recommendations relating to the request by the Sudan to accede to ESCWA transport-related agreements	42-49	9
F. General recommendations	50-53	10
II. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION	54-74	10
A. General discussion on transport issues in the Arab Mashreq: harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region.....	54-56	10
B. Review of transport-related actions since the ninth session of the Committee on Transport.....	57	11
C. Follow-up to implementation of the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq.....	58-69	11
D. Request by the Sudan to accede to ESCWA transport-related agreements....	70	12
E. Draft programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of transport.....	71	12
F. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Committee on Transport.....	72	13
G. Other matters: an idea to develop the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq	73-74	13
III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT	75	13

CONTENTS *(continued)*

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK	76-87	13
A. Date and venue of the session.....	76	13
B. Opening of the session.....	77-80	13
C. Attendance.....	81-82	14
D. Election of officers.....	83-84	14
E. Agenda.....	85-86	15
F. List of documents.....	87	15

ANNEXES

I. List of participants.....	16
II. List of documents.....	21
III. Questionnaire: Establishment and Activation of National Committees for the Facilitation of Transport and Trade in ESCWA Member Countries (February 2009).....	22

Introduction

1. The Committee on Transport held its tenth session pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 213 (XIX) of 7 May 1997 concerning the establishment of a Committee on Transport in 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 on Transport in ESCWA.
2. The Committee expressed gratitude to the Lebanese Minister of Transport and Public Works, Mr. Ghazi el-Aridi, who welcomed the participants in his statement and thanked them for their presence in Beirut to take part in the session. Mr. El-Aridi stressed the importance of the multimodal transport sector, in particular in view of the global financial and economic crisis. The minister praised the cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States in view of the preparation of the plan of the Arab railway linkages, and the multimodal transport agreement between the Arab States. Mr. El-Aridi concluded his speech wishing success for the session.
3. This report, which was adopted by the Committee in its final session on 2 April 2009, reviews the main discussions held on every item of the agenda.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

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

4. The Committee on Transport recommended the adoption of all recommendations issued by the Expert Group Meeting on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region (Damascus, 12-13 November 2008), after introducing changes submitted by Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

1. *General recommendations*

5. The Committee examined studies, executive procedures and legislative and organizational reforms in view of developing institutional structures and legislation in the transport sector in a number of ESCWA member countries. The participants recommended making use of national expertise in member countries and of successful international practice for the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector.
6. Furthermore, the participants recommended the formation of a working group comprising representatives of all or some of the member countries, with the aim of presenting recommendations to the Committee on Transport on the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region.
7. For this purpose, participants recommended that the ESCWA secretariat assume the role of general coordinator for this group, and prepare a proposal on its membership, scope of work, tasks and working timeframe in order to present it to the Committee on Transport for approval.

2. *Recommendations on the harmonization of institutional frameworks in the transport sector in the ESCWA region*

8. The Committee recommended that the priorities of the working group be focused on the harmonization of institutional frameworks in the transport sector in the ESCWA region, in particular land transport and railways, as well as legislation related to coordination among State institutions. In this regard, the participants determined tasks to be undertaken by the working group and those to be undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat.

- (a) Action to be taken by the working group:
 - (i) To identify transport-related bodies and institutions within and outside the sector as well as ways to coordinate amongst them;
 - (ii) To cooperate with ESCWA in deriving successful experiences and lessons learned from member countries and other developed countries;
 - (iii) To develop the matrix of future responsibilities in accordance with the general framework in order to improve the transport sector in all countries, and the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation;
 - (iv) To submit proposals for the development of organizational institutional frameworks within and outside the transport sector in relevant sectors as well as ways to coordinate amongst them;
- (b) Action to be taken by the ESCWA secretariat:
 - (i) To prepare a questionnaire after consulting with member countries and to distribute it to parties concerned in member countries to collect information needed for the introduction of institutional frameworks and their roles, procedures aiming at reforming and developing the transport sector, and relevant bodies outside the transport sector in each of the member countries;
 - (ii) To carry out an analytical study of institutional frameworks, assign responsibilities in transport-related sectors and identify gaps and duplication in each of the member countries;
 - (iii) To organize a regional expert group meeting to discuss the study results and consult with member countries in order to help the working group in formulating required recommendations to develop a matrix for future responsibilities and organizational institutional frameworks in each member country;
 - (iv) To assist the working group in developing a plan of action for the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in member countries.

3. Recommendations on the harmonization of legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region

9. Participants made the following recommendations for the harmonization of legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region.

- (a) Action to be taken by the working group:

To reach consensus on a number of proposals, whether shared by countries of the region or specific to a single country according to its needs, in order to develop legislation in the transport sector (and if possible in related sectors);
- (b) Action to be taken by the ESCWA secretariat:
 - (i) To prepare a questionnaire, after consulting with member countries, in order to analyse existing legislation, focusing on administrative procedures (such as licensing procedures for transport-related work) and their links to institutional bodies;
 - (ii) To establish dialogue with each country on legislative aspects related to development in order to allow for the applicability of institutional frameworks.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
ADOPTED BY THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

10. Participants invited member countries to take note of the information contained in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/4(Part I) regarding the follow-up to the implementation of recommendations adopted by the Committee on Transport at its ninth session, to update it as needed and to send it, along with their observations, to the secretariat by 30 June 2009 at the latest. Should no observations be received from any country, the document will be considered to have been adopted.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPORT-RELATED
ACTIVITIES WITHIN ESCWA'S PROGRAMME OF WORK SINCE THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT

11. Participants invited member countries to take note of the information contained in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/4(Part II) regarding the progress made in transport-related activities within ESCWA programme of work since the ninth session of the Committee on Transport, to update it as needed and to send it along with their observations to the secretariat by 30 June 2009 at the latest. Should no observations be received from any country, the document will be considered to have been adopted.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE COMPONENTS OF THE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT
SYSTEM IN THE ARAB MASHREQ

12. The Committee on Transport issued the following recommendations regarding each of the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq:

1. *Recommendations on the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq*

13. Participants took note of the amendments adopted for Annex I of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq regarding the international roads network, in accordance with adoption document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part I) issued by United Nations Secretary-General in his capacity as depository of the Agreement.

14. Participants called upon the secretariat to update the map of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq by including member countries' proposals regarding the map. They also requested the inclusion of the most recent modifications adopted above and stated in the recommendations on the accession of the Sudan to the Agreement once it is adopted in the treaty section.

15. Participants called upon Oman to speed up its procedures for accession to the Agreement.

16. Participants also called upon the United Arab Emirates and Iraq to accelerate the ratification of the Agreement.

17. Participants requested that Kuwait and Lebanon, both parties to the Agreement, complete tables 1 and 2 of the plan of action for the implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq* and to present them to ESCWA by 30 June 2009 at the latest.

18. Participants requested that Iraq, Lebanon and Qatar, parties to the Agreement, fill out the questionnaire relating to the follow-up to the agreement which has already been sent to the ratifying countries, and to present it to ESCWA by 30 June 2009 at the latest.

* United Nations, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq, New York 2004, E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/1/Rev.1.

19. The Committee requested that all ESCWA member countries review the roads database in the ESCWA region (2007) stored on the CD distributed to representatives of those countries during the ninth session of the Committee on Transport, update the data, complete missing data (if any) and convey it to ESCWA by 30 June 2009 at the latest. Copies of this CD were distributed during the current session to Bahrain, Oman, Palestine and Yemen upon their request (the Committee also asked the secretariat to provide the CD to all other countries).

20. The Committee welcomed the request of the Sudan to accede to the Agreement, having become an ESCWA member country.

2. Recommendations on the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq

21. Participants agreed that all member countries review and update data stated in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part II) regarding the implementation of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq and convey them along with their observations to the secretariat by 30 June 2009 at the latest. Should no observations be received from any country, the document will be considered to have been adopted.

22. The Committee deemed appropriate that Jordan present an official request to the ESCWA secretariat regarding its suggestion under item 10 of the Agenda intended for other business.

23. Participants called upon Iraq, Oman, Qatar and the Sudan to accelerate accession to the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq, and on Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to accelerate its ratification.

24. Participants requested Lebanon to fill table 4 of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq, and to send it to ESCWA by 30 June 2009 at the latest.

25. Participants requested Lebanon to fill the questionnaire relating to the follow-up of the Agreement, which has already been sent to ratifying countries, and send it to ESCWA by 30 June 2009 at the latest.

26. The Committee requested all ESCWA member countries to review the railways database in the ESCWA region (2007), stored on the CD distributed to the representatives of these countries during the ninth session of the Committee, update the data, complete missing data (if any) and convey it to ESCWA by 30 June 2009 at the latest.

27. The Committee welcomed the request by the Sudan to accede to the Agreement, having become an ESCWA member country (see recommendations 41, 42 and 43 of the present report).

28. Participants requested the secretariat to update the map of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq by including suggestions by possible member countries on the map, in addition to modifications relating to the accession of the Sudan to the Agreement, as soon as it is adopted in the Treaty Section in the United Nations.

3. Recommendations on national committees to facilitate transport and trade in the countries of the ESCWA region

29. Participants agreed that all member countries review and update the data stated in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5 (Part III) regarding the progress made in the establishment and activation of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in ESCWA member countries. Updated data and relevant observations should be conveyed to the secretariat by 30 June 2009 at the latest. Should no observations be received from any country, the document will be considered to have been adopted.

30. Participants called upon Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates to accelerate the establishment of national committees, and to seek guidance for this purpose from the guidelines for the establishment of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in the countries in the ESCWA region, prepared by ESCWA in 2003, and to make use of the technical support provided by ESCWA to establish those committees.

31. Participants urged countries that have already established national committees to accelerate their activation through formulating and adopting operational plans of action for each committee, and to make use of the technical support provided by ESCWA for the preparation of plans of actions and the activation of those committees.

32. Participants adopted the questionnaire (annex 3) relating to the establishment and activation of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in ESCWA member countries after introducing modifications suggested by member countries. They also requested the secretariat to convey the questionnaire to member countries by 30 June 2009 at the latest in order for them to fill it in and send it back to ESCWA by 30 August 2009 at the latest, thus allowing the secretariat to prepare the required follow-up report in this respect.

33. Participants requested the secretariat to undertake regional coordination missions between national committees as well as follow-up missions.

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

34. Participants urged Bahrain, Kuwait and the Sudan to accelerate the process of signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq, and Egypt, Qatar and Yemen to accelerate its ratification.

35. Participants called upon member countries to give priority to Article 5 regarding coastal transportation between the seaports of the parties to the Memorandum when undertaking the implementation of the Agreement clauses.

36. They also urged member countries parties to international agreements on maritime transport, to enforce those agreements and to implement them in parallel with the Memorandum of Understanding.

37. Participants invited the ESCWA secretariat to prepare a plan of action for the implementation of the aforementioned Article 5 in accordance with the national laws of member countries.

38. The Committee welcomed the request by the Sudan, now an ESCWA member, to accede to the Agreement.

5. Recommendations on road safety

39. Participants asked the secretariat to invite member countries to participate in the Workshop for Setting Regional and National Road Traffic Casualty Reduction Targets in the ESCWA region, to be held in the United Arab Emirates, on 16 and 17 June 2009. In this regard, they asked for the preparation of a clear plan of action to achieve the desired targets by 2015 as well as the actions to be taken to attain those targets.

40. Participants urged member countries to accept the invitation sent to them through ESCWA for active participation in the first Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety to be held in Moscow on 18 and 19 November 2009 under the motto "Time for Action". In addition to concerned ministers, participating delegations should include representatives from both the public and the private sectors as well as from civil society organizations.

41. Participants asked the secretariat to hold regular regional workshops for expertise-sharing and benefitting from good practice adopted in some countries of the region and the world.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE REQUEST BY THE SUDAN TO ACCEDE TO ESCWA
TRANSPORT-RELATED AGREEMENTS

1. *Recommendations on the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq*

42. Participants welcomed the request made by the Sudan to accede to the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq and encouraged it to complete accession procedures and to send the accession document to the secretariat as soon as possible.

43. The Committee agreed to the suggestion by the Sudan to modify the M65 and M75 axes to become as follows:

M65: Red Sea – West Coast axis

Ismailia – Suez – Safaga – Halayeb passage (Egypt/the Sudan) – Halayeb passage (the Sudan/Egypt) – Gabatit – Port Sudan

M75: Nile Valley axis

Alexandria – Cairo – Qena – Arqine passage (Egypt/the Sudan) – Wadi Halfa passage (the Sudan/Egypt) – Al Ghaba – Omdurman – Khartoum – Wadmadani

44. The Committee also agreed to the suggestion by the Sudan to add the two following axes to the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq:

M82: Port Sudan – Khartoum

Port Sudan – Atbara – Khartoum

M110: Centre Sudan axis (Ethiopia – the Sudan – Chad)

Metema (Ethiopia/the Sudan) – Qalabat passage (the Sudan/Ethiopia) – Duka – Al-Qadarif – Wadmadani – Sennar – Kosti – Al-Ubayyid – Al-Nahoud – Nyala – Zalinjay – Geneina passage (the Sudan/Chad) – Adri passage (Chad/the Sudan)

2. *Recommendations relating to the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq*

45. The Committee welcomed the request by the Sudan to accede to the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq, and urged it to complete accession procedures and to send the accession document to the secretariat as soon as possible.

46. The Committee agreed to the suggestion by the Sudan to modify axis S45 of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq to become as follows:

S45: Nile Valley axis

Tanta – Wadi Halfa – Atbarah – Khartoum

47. The Committee agreed to the suggestion by the Sudan to add axis S84, as presented below, to the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq:

S84: Port Sudan – Atbarah

Port Sudan – Atbarah

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

48. The Committee welcomed the request by the Sudan to accede to the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq, and urged it to complete accession procedures and to send the accession document to the secretariat as soon as possible.

49. The Committee agreed to the suggestion by the Sudan to add a sea linkage between Jeddah and Port Sudan on the M40 maritime route in the Red Sea, to sea routes within the seaports and harbours network and maritime routes in the Arab Mashreq.

F. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

50. The Committee took note of the proposed programme of work for the 2010-2011 biennium in the field of transport, submitted to it in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/7.

51. The Committee welcomed the activities undertaken by the Secretariat-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the field of transport, including the study on the establishment of an information base for the transport sector in the GCC States as well as the integration of transportation modes. The Committee stressed the importance of continuing and enhancing cooperation between the GCC Secretariat-General and the ESCWA Committee on Transport secretariat, including participation by the Secretariat-General in transport-related ESCWA activities.

52. The Committee urged the GCC countries to complete data and information related to the study undertaken by ESCWA on the implementation of the methodological framework for the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq, and to send them to ESCWA no later than 30 July 2009, in order for the secretariat to finalize the study by the end of 2009.

53. The Committee requested member countries to provide ESCWA, by 31 October 2009 at the latest, with two reports: the first on follow-up to the implementation of recommendations adopted at the tenth session of the Committee on Transport; and the second on the most important transport-related developments monitored in each country during the period extending from 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009.

II. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

A. GENERAL DISCUSSION ON TRANSPORT ISSUES IN THE ARAB MASHREQ:
HARMONIZATION OF INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND LEGISLATION
IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR IN THE ESCWA REGION
(Item 4 of the agenda)

54. The Committee addressed this item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/3. Participants reviewed the recommendations, in particular those related to the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region, as well as the steps to be taken in order to activate the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation within the context of updating the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq.

55. The representative of the secretariat made a detailed presentation on the importance of the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region, as well as on the process of presenting this issue to member countries.

56. A thorough discussion followed in which member countries and all regional Arab unions and organizations participated. Some observations were made on missions undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat

missions as well as on the succession of events in the implementation of recommendations regarding the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region.

B. REVIEW OF TRANSPORT-RELATED ACTIONS SINCE THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT
(Item 5 of the agenda)

57. The Committee discussed this item in two parts. The first part was based on document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/4(Part I) dealing with follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations made at the ninth session of the Committee on Transport. The second was based on document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/4(Part II) which reviewed progress made between the ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee on Transport in the implementation of transport-related activities of the programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium. The representative of the secretariat made a detailed presentation of the two parts, followed by a thorough discussion on follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations.

C. FOLLOW-UP TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE INTEGRATED
TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE ARAB MASHREQ
(Item 6 of the agenda)

1. Adoption of amendments to the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq

58. The Committee considered this sub-item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part I) and reviewed the progress made with regard to the modified road axes adopted in the Agreement. Member countries were invited to provide ESCWA with their proposals regarding any other possible modifications by 30 June 2009 at the latest.

2. Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq

59. The Committee reviewed document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part II) on progress made in the follow-up to ratification of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq, as well as the implementation and technical support provided by ESCWA to member countries in this respect.

60. Participating delegations took note of what had been achieved regarding the Agreement. A number of delegates indicated that their countries were on their way to acceding to and ratifying the Agreement in order to start implementation.

61. The Committee urged Iraq, Oman, Qatar and the Sudan to accelerate the procedures of accession to the agreement, and Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to accelerate the ratification procedure completion.

62. The Committee took note of the work of the GCC Secretariat-General with respect to the project of establishing railways connecting GCC member countries, considering it part of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq adopted by ESCWA.

*3. National committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in the countries
of the ESCWA region*

63. The Committee reviewed the progress made in the establishment of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in member countries, as well as the implementation and the technical support provided by ESCWA to member countries in this respect, as stated in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part III). It also reviewed the questionnaire regarding the establishment and activation of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in the countries of the ESCWA region, which is annexed to the document and modified in light of relevant suggestions made by member countries.

64. The Committee asked Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates to follow the guidelines for the establishment of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in the countries of the ESCWA region prepared by ESCWA in 2003 and make use of the technical support provided by ESCWA for that purpose.

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

65. The Committee reviewed document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part IV) on progress made as to the follow-up to the ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq and starting its implementation in addition to the technical support provided by ESCWA to member countries for that purpose.

66. The Committee asked Bahrain, Kuwait and the Sudan to accelerate procedures to sign the Memorandum, and Egypt and Yemen to accelerate completion of ratification procedures.

67. The Committee made recommendations related to granting priority to Article 5 when starting implementation. It invited ESCWA to prepare a plan of action for the implementation of this Article in accordance with the national laws of member countries.

5. Road safety

68. The representative of the secretariat made a presentation on road safety on the basis of document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part V). He reviewed the main activities undertaken by ESCWA in the context of the international day for road safety, the activities related to building a partnership for road safety in the Arab Mashreq, and the implementation of the project financed by the United Nations Development Account aiming at identifying the desired targets to be achieved by 2015 with regard to road safety. He also reviewed preparations for the workshop on setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets in the ESCWA region, to be held in the United Arab Emirates on 16 and 17 June 2009 in cooperation with the National Committee of Transportation in Abu Dhabi, in addition to preparations for the first Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety to be held in Moscow on 18 and 19 November 2009.

69. The representative of the secretariat presented the recommendations on the follow-up to relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and by ESCWA.

D. REQUEST BY THE SUDAN TO ACCEDE TO ESCWA TRANSPORT-RELATED AGREEMENTS
(Item 7 of the agenda)

70. The Committee had before it document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/6 related to the request by the Sudan to accede to the three transport-related agreements adopted by ESCWA, as well as the proposal by the Sudan regarding the addition or modification of axes on roads, railways and maritime routes. The Committee welcomed the accession request of the Sudan and its proposals regarding those axes and adopted the above-mentioned recommendations.

E. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011 IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT
(Item 8 of the agenda)

71. The Committee had before it document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/7 on ESCWA's programme of work for the 2010-2011 biennium in the field of transport. Member countries took note of the proposed programme of work issued by the United Nations Secretary-General at the end of March 2009.

F. DATE AND VENUE OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT
(Item 9 of the agenda)

72. Participants agreed on convening the eleventh session of the Committee during the first quarter of 2010 in Beirut, unless a member country expresses desire to host it.

G. OTHER MATTERS: AN IDEA TO DEVELOP THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL RAILWAYS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ
(Item 10 of the agenda)

73. The representative of Jordan made a proposal to start preparing a draft agreement on international railway transport between ESCWA countries or to amend the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq for this purpose. He commended the coordination between Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic on the one hand, and between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Jordan on the other, to start preparing draft bilateral agreements in this regard.

74. The representative of the GCC Secretariat-General presented an economic feasibility study to establish a railway connection linking GCC countries, as part of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq. He also reviewed the establishment of the transport sector database and the study on the integration of transport modes in addition to the activities implemented by the Committee to facilitate transport in the GCC States. Moreover, he pointed out the beginning of the implementation of the long-distance vessel tracking system issued by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the voluntary inspection of international treaties and agreements in the field of maritime transport. He went on to talk about the establishment of an information centre and a secretariat in Oman within the context of the memorandum of understanding for the inspection and control of vessels in the seaports of GCC States. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination with ESCWA on many topics and projects. In reply, the representative of the ESCWA secretariat emphasized the importance of promoting such cooperation and coordination between the GCC Secretariat-General and the ESCWA secretariat. The Committee agreed on a recommendation in this regard.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT
(Item 11 of the agenda)

75. The Committee on Transport adopted the draft report of its tenth session during its last meeting held on 2 April 2009, on the understanding that agreed modifications would be introduced.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SESSION

76. The tenth session of the Committee on Transport was held in Beirut from 31 March to 2 April 2009. Its work was divided into six meetings.

B. OPENING OF THE SESSION

77. Mr. Nabil Safwat, Chief of the Economic Development and Globalization Division (EDGD) of ESCWA, opened the meeting. He welcomed the participants and thanked them for their participation in the session.

78. Ms. Hanan bin Salem al-Rahbi, representative of Oman, in her capacity as chairperson of the ninth session of the Committee on Transport, made a statement in which she welcomed the participants and thanked them for their efforts and continuous interest to promote the work the Committee. Ms. Al-Rahbi presented a summary of Oman's actions regarding decisions and recommendations adopted by the

Committee during its ninth session, in particular the ratification of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq, the ratification of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq, accession to the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq, the establishment of the National Committee for the Facilitation of Transport and Trade and the implementation of a road safety project. Ms. Al-Rahbi concluded her statement by wishing success to the representative of Palestine in his capacity as chairperson for the tenth session of the Committee on Transport.

79. Mr. Bader Omar Al-Dafa, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, made a statement in which he welcomed the participants. He thanked the Lebanese Minister of Transport and Public Works, Mr. Ghazi El-Aridi for his patronage of the session and for attending its opening meeting. The Executive Secretary pointed out the accomplishments of ESCWA towards achieving regional integration through the implementation of agreements on road, railway and maritime transport as well as the preparation of multimodal transport laws. Mr. Al-Dafa praised the fruitful cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States in the preparation of the agreement on multimodal transport between Arab countries and the project to link railway systems between Arab countries, which was adopted and launched during the Arab Economic, Social and Development Summit (Kuwait, 19-20 January 2009). He also praised the cooperation with Yemen in the preparation of the economic feasibility study to establish a railway network in Yemen.

80. In his statement, the Lebanese Minister of Transport and Public Works, Mr. Ghazi el-Aridi, welcomed the participants and thanked them for their participation. Mr. El-Aridi stressed the importance of transport with all its sectors, particularly in the context of the global economic and financial crisis. He highlighted Lebanese achievements in this field, in particular the expansion of Beirut and Tripoli seaports, which considerably increased their capacity to host tourist and commercial ships. He also stressed the importance of following the example of developed countries in relying on railway transport for better communication and connection between countries. In conclusion, Mr. El-Aridi emphasized the need for cooperation at the Arab level in all transport fields, particularly air transport, while underscoring the importance of focusing on airport and plane safety.

C. ATTENDANCE

81. The session was attended by representatives of thirteen ESCWA member countries, namely: Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

82. Representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Union of Land Transport, the Arab Union of Railways, the Arab Federation of Shipping, the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for the Arab Countries, the Arab Sea Ports Federation, the Arab Federation of Chambers of Shipping, the Arab Federation for Freight Forwarders and Logistics, the Institute of International Transport and Logistics, the Lebanese Shipping Agents Syndicate, the Civil Aviation Affairs Company, the Kuwait Ports Authority, the International Business Alliance Group, the Global Road Safety Partnership, the World Bank, the League of Arab States, the Saudi Fund for Development, the Saudi Ben Laden Group and Al-Falah Holding attended the session as observers. The list of participants is contained in annex I of this report.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

83. Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA state that “member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations”. Accordingly, Mr. Mahmud Khaled, representative of Palestine, assumed the chairmanship of the session. In conformity with procedures adopted in previous sessions of the Committee on Transport, the Committee elected Ms. Hanan bin Salem el-Rahbi, representative of Oman, and Mr. Hamad bin Salem el-Khalifa, representative of Qatar, as vice-chairmen. Mr. Nizar Abed el-Nabi el-Sayegh, representative of Kuwait, was elected as rapporteur.

84. The drafting committee was presided over by the rapporteur, Mr. Nizar Abed el-Nabi el-Sayegh, and included the following members: Mr. Naim Khodor Hamdan from Jordan, Mr. Ali Aad el-Masri from Lebanon, Mr. Kamal Mansour from the Sudan, with the participation of Mr. Mahmud Khaled, representative of Palestine and chairman of the tenth session, and of the ESCWA secretariat.

E. AGENDA

85. In its first session, the Committee adopted the agenda as set forth in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/L.1. The adopted agenda was as follows:

1. Opening of the tenth session of the Committee on Transport.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. General discussion on transport issues in the Arab Mashreq: harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region.
5. Review of transport-related action since the ninth session of the Committee on Transport:
 - (a) Follow-up on implementation of recommendations made during the ninth session of the Committee on Transport;
 - (b) Progress made in implementing transport-related activities within the framework of ESCWA programme of work since the ninth session of the Committee on Transport.
6. Follow-up to the implementation of components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM):
 - (a) Adoption of amendments to the Agreement on International Roads in Arab Mashreq;
 - (b) Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq;
 - (c) National committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in the countries of the ESCWA region;
 - (d) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq;
 - (e) Road safety.
7. Request by the Sudan to accede to ESCWA transport-related agreements.
8. Draft programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of transport.
9. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Committee on Transport.
10. Other matters: idea for developing the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq.
11. Adoption of the report of the tenth session of the Committee on Transport.

86. At the same session, the Committee adopted the proposed agenda presented in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/L.2, after introducing some modifications.

F. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

87. Annex II of this report includes the list of documents presented to the tenth session of the Committee on Transport.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Bahrain

Sheikh Mohamed K. al-Khalifa
Head of Delegation
Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Transportation
Ministry of Transportation

Mr. Rasheed J. Ashoor
Assistant Under-Secretary for
Telecommunications and Land Transport
Ministry of Transportation

Ms. Huda Abdulla Fakhroo
Director, Roads Planning and Design
Ministry of Works

Mr. Muhammad Mahmud Youssef Abdullah
Traffic Engineering Branch
Ministry of Interior

Mr. Khalifa Hassan al-Ammari
Administrative Coordinator for the Under-
Secretary on the Ministry of Transportation
Ministry of Transportation

Egypt

Mr. Hassan A. M. Selim
Head of Delegation
Vice Chairman of the Transport Planning
Authority
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Tarek el-Attar
Chairman of the General Authority for Roads,
Bridges and Land Transport
General Authority for Roads, Bridges and Land
Transport

Jordan

Mr. Laith H. Dababneh
Head of delegation
Assistant Secretary-General for Land Transport
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Naim Khodor Hamdan
Head of the Legal Affairs Unit
Ministry of Transport
Mr. Anmar Khasawneh
Director of Traffic Safety
Ministry of Public Works and Housing

Mr. Inad Kabalan Hassan el-Dalain
Head of the Transit Department
Jordan Customs

Kuwait

Mr. Nizar Abed el-Nabi al-Sayegh
Assistant Director, Structural Planning for
Transport Affairs Department
Kuwait Municipality

Mr. Ammar A. al-Maqtouf
Head of Road Division, Planning Department
Acting Director of the Planning Department
Kuwait Municipality

Lebanon

Mr. Ghazi el-Aridi
Minister of Public Works and Transport
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Mr. Abd el-Hafiz el-Kayssi
Head of Delegation
General Director, Land and Maritime Transport
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Ms. Elham Mansour el-Khabbaz
Chief of Tutelage and Land Transport Department
Directorate-General for Land and Maritime
Transport
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Mr. Joseph Zaki Bu Samra
Head of Planning and Programming Division
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Mr. Ali Aad el-Masri
Head of Maritime Trade Affairs Section
Directorate-General for Land and Maritime
Transport
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Lebanon (continued)

Mr. Hassan Chaaban
Maritime Expert
Directorate-General for Land and Maritime
Transport
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Oman

Ms. Hanan bin Salem al-Rahbi
Head of Delegation
Director of Road Transport Department
Ministry of Transport and Communications

Mr. Mohammed Khalifa al-Ghassani
Director of Projects
Directorate General of Ports
Ministry of Transport and Communications

Palestine

Mr. Mahmud Khaled
Director-General
Ministry of Transport and Communications

Mr. Kassem Khamiss
Economic Counsellor
Palestine State Embassy

Ms. Mirna Samir Abed el-Jawad
Palestine State Embassy

Qatar

Mr. Hamad bin Salem el-Khalifa
Head of Delegation
Head of the International Cooperation Unit for
Land Transport
Customs and Ports General Authority

Mr. Abdallah Muhamad el-Baker
Director, Planning Implementation Department
Urban Planning and Development Authority

Mr. Rached Taleb el-Mari
Head of the Maritime Traffic Department
Customs and Ports General Authority

Mr. Mohammed Faleh al-Hajri
Head of Air Transport Agreements and
International Relations
Department of Air Transport and Airport Affairs
Customs and Ports General Authority

Saudi Arabia

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

Mr. Youssef I. Jadu
Director-General of Studies in Planning and
Follow-up Agency
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Monther Nasser al-Rashed
Director, Public Transport Division
Head of Public Transport Studies
Ministry of Transport

The Sudan

Mr. Malik Muneer Ahmed
Head of Delegation
Permanent Under-Secretary of the Ministry of
Transport, Roads and Bridges
Ministry of Transport, Roads and Bridges

Mr. Hamed Mahmud Wakil
Director-General
National Corporation for Roads and Bridges

Mr. Ibrahim Elamin Ahmed
Director-General
Sea Ports Corporation

Mr. Kamal el-Din Muhamad Ahmad Mansour
Deputy Director-General for Planning and
Development
Sea Ports Corporation

Mr. Elhadi Siddig Ali Numirey
Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission
Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan

Mr. Hamad A. al-Abdulgader
Vice President for Operation Affairs
Saudi Railways Organization

Mr. Abdel Rahman
Civil Engineer
Studies Department

Syrian Arabic Republic

Ms. Miyyada Soukayker
Director of the Planning and Statistics Department
Ministry of Transport

Ms. Racha Badih Muhamad
Director of the Arab and International
Cooperation
Ministry of Transport

Ms. Safaa Abd el-Hak
Assistant to Director, Follow-up to the affairs of
the Railway Transport Department
Ministry of Transport

Ms. Abeer Habib Hassan
Ministry of Transport

Ms. Shereen Abbas el-Suleiman
Civil Engineer
Ministry of Transport, Maritime Transport
Department

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Salem Ali al-Zaabi
Head of Delegation
Assistant Under-Secretary Land and Marine
Affairs
In charge of the Executive Director's tasks for the
Maritime Transport Sector
National Transport Authority

Mr. Abdullah Salem al-Katheeri
Executive Director of Land Transport Sector
National Transport Authority

Mr. Majid Obeid al-Suwaidi
Head of Communication Unit
Custom Affairs Department

Mr. Ghayth Hassan al-Zaabi
General Manager of the Public Administration for
Traffic Coordination
Ministry of Interior

Mr. Khamiss Muhammad Salem el-Kaabi
Legal Consultant

Yemen

Mr. Ali Muhammad Mutafi
Head of Delegation
Deputy of Ministry of Transport and Land and Air
Transport Affairs
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Abdul Wahab al-Hakem
Deputy of Ministry of Public Works and Roads in
the Road Sector
Ministry of Public Works and Roads

Mr. Essam Ahmed Shaker
Chairman of the Land Transport Affairs Authority
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Yasser M. al-Zomany
Assistant Deputy of Maritime Affairs and Ports
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Nasser Saleh el-Harbi
Deputy of Ministry of Finance for Economical
Units Affairs
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Ali Thabat Harmal
Director of Department for International
Organizations
Ministry of Planning and International
Cooperation

B. ARAB REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

League of Arab States

Ms. Mawaheb Khallaf
Minister Plenipotentiary
Director of Tourism and Transport Department

Mr. Hocine Souidi
Head of Transportation Division
Economic Sector

Gulf Cooperation Council

Mr. Khaled Hamed al-Olayan
Assistant Director of Communications
Department
General Secretary of the Council

Saudi Fund for Development

Mr. Mansour al-Zeghaibi
Senior Engineer

Mr. Abdullah M. al-Shaye
Senior Specialist
Economic Studies and Researches

Arab Union of Land Transport

Mr. Mahmud H. Abdallat
Secretary-General of the Arab Union of Land
Transport

Arab Union of Railways

Mr. Mourhaf Sabouni
General Secretary

Mr. Omar Sultan
Director of Financial Affairs and International
Relations

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

Ms. Ola Sidani
Economic Researcher

Arab Federation of Shipping

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

Mr. Imad Abd el-Amir Roudan
Deputy Managing Director for Financial and
Administrative Affairs
Board member

Arab Federation of Chambers of Shipping

Mr. Elie Zakhour
President of the Union and the International
Chamber of Navigation

Civil Aviation Affairs Company

Mr. Victor Hamoush
President
Middle East, Arab Gulf, North Africa and Turkey
Office

Saudi Ben Laden Group

Mr. Bashar Rihani
Director of Transportation Department

Mr. Ghaleb Naamani
Head of Designs Unit
Transportation Department

Kuwait Ports Authority

Mr. Atef Hamad el-Shati
Director, Coordination and Follow-up Department

Mr. Hesham M. al-Mutairi
Manager, Office of General Manager

Mr. Adel M. al-Dea'a
Acting Deputy Manager

Mr. Salah Abd el-Rida mal Allah
Assistant to Director, Information Department

Mr. Bader Dawood el-Khalidi
Deputy Director for Training

Lebanese Shipping Agents Syndicate

Mr. Samir Syriani
Lebanese Shipping Agents Syndicate

Mr. Ibrahim Jaroudi
Jaroudi and Sons for Transit Est.
Custom Clearance, General Transport, Shipping
Agencies, General Trading and Transit

Arab Federation for Freight Forwarders and
Logistics

Mr. Mazen Nadim
Chairman
Federation for Freight Forwarders and Logistics

Mr. Iyad Najjar
First Deputy for the Federation Chairman
Director of the Regional Office in the Syrian Arab
Republic

Mr. Abd el-Kader Zaker Mahmud
Board Member
Deputy Director of the Regional Office in the
Syrian Arab Republic

Arab Federation for Freight Forwarders and Logistics (continued)

Mr. Hussein Daher
Federation for Freight Forwarders and Logistics

Institute of International Transport and Logistics

Ms. Iman Wafaai Ramadan
Dean, Institute of International Transport and Logistics for Higher Education

International Business Alliance Group

Mr. Nasser Khalil el-Khatib
Administrative

Al-Falah Holding

Mr. Zayed al-Falah
Chairman

Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP)

Ms. Samar Abouraad
Road safety consultant

Ms. Nellie Ghusayni
Regional coordinator

C. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The World Bank

Ms. Demba Ba
Regional Director
The World Bank, Middle East and North Africa

D. ORGANIZING PARTY

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Mr. Bader Al-Dafa
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
Executive Secretary

Mr. Mohamad Jamil Abeed el-Razzak
Deputy Executive Secretary
Head of the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division

Mr. Nabil A. Safwat
Chief of the Economic Development and Globalization Division

Mr. Bassam Inani
Senior Officer, Economic Affairs
Transport Team, Economic Development and Globalization Division

Mr. Mahmud el-Mourii
Research Assistant
Transport Team
Economic Development and Globalization Division

Ms. Mona Fattah
Research Assistant
Economic Development and Globalization Division

Ms. Dina Karanouh
Research Assistant
Transport Team
Economic Development and Globalization Division

Ms. Siham el-Sabee
Transport Team Assistant
Economic Development and Globalization Division

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Title	Item	Symbol
Information note		E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/INF.1
Provisional agenda and annotations	3	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/L.1
Organization of work	3	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/L.2
General discussion on transport issues in the Arab Mashreq: harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region	4	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/3
Review of action taken in the field of transport since the ninth session of the Committee on Transport	5	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/4
Follow-up to the implementation of recommendations adopted during the ninth session of the Committee on Transport	5 (a)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/4(Part I)
Progress made in the implementation of transport-related activities within the scope of ESCWA programme of work since the ninth session of the Committee on Transport	5 (b)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/4(Part II)
Follow-up to the implementation of the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq	6	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5
Adopted modifications to the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq	6 (a)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part I)
Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq	6 (b)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part II)
National committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in the countries of the ESCWA region	6 (c)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part III)
Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq	6 (d)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part IV)
Road safety	6 (e)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/5(Part V)
Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq	7	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/6
Draft programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of transport	8	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.1/7

Annex III



**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Economic Development and Globalization Division**

QUESTIONNAIRE

**ESTABLISHMENT AND ACTIVATION OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES
FOR THE FACILITATION OF TRANSPORT AND TRADE
IN ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES
(FEBRUARY 2009)**

General information

State:

**Name and position of the person responsible
for filling the questionnaire:**

Phone number and fax:

E-mail:

Date of filling the questionnaire:

Section I: Establishment of the National Committee

Section II: Activation of the National Committee

Section III: Good Practice Adopted by the National Committee and Suggestions for Development

For more information, please contact Mr. Nabil Safwat, Chief of the Economic Development and Globalization Division (EDGD) in ESCWA, on the following e-mail: safwatn@un.org, or Ms. Dina Karanouh, research assistant in the Transport Team of EDGD at ESCWA, on the following e-mail: karanouh@un.org.

Note: All questions contained in the questionnaire are to be answered in case the national committee for the facilitation of transport and trade has been established by the concerned State. In case it has not been established or steps for its establishment have not been finalized yet, questions are to be addressed according to what has already been achieved in this regard, in particular the part related to obstacles facing the establishment of the national committee.

Section I: Establishment of the National Committee

1. Forming the National Committee

1.1. During its formation, did the national committee for the facilitation of transport and trade include among its members all parties concerned? (please specify the party concerned and the representation ratio):

- Government, representation ratio: _____
- Private sector, representation ratio: _____
- Other parties (please specify): _____, representation ratio: _____

1.2. Does the committee comprise representatives at Government level?

- yes no

- If yes, does the Government representation in the committee include the following ministries?

(a) Ministry of Transport:

- yes no

- If yes, please specify related bodies:

- Institutions concerned with roads and bridges
- Seaports
- Civil aviation
- Public transport companies
- Other bodies (please specify):

(b) Ministry of Finance:

- yes no

- If yes, please specify related bodies:

- Customs department
- Tax department
- Public sector banks
- Public sector insurance companies
- Other bodies (please specify):

(c) Ministry of Foreign Trade:

- yes no

- If yes, please specify related bodies:

- Export promotion bodies
- Issuing bodies for import and export licenses and certificates of origin
- Laboratories
- Factories
- Other bodies (please specify):

(d) Interior Ministry (or equivalent):

yes no

- If yes, please specify related bodies:

- Security service
- Traffic service
- Police service
- Other bodies (please specify):

(e) Ministry of Agriculture

yes no

(f) Ministry of Industry:

yes no

(g) Ministry of Health:

yes no

(h) Ministry of Communications:

yes no

(i) Central Bank:

yes no

1.3. Does the national committee comprise representatives of the private sector?

yes no

- If yes, does the representation of the private sector include the following bodies:

(a) Merchant representatives:

yes no

- If yes, please specify related groups:

exporters importers other groups (please specify):

(b) Representatives of services providers:

yes no

- If yes, please specify related groups:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> transport agents | <input type="checkbox"/> freight agents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> workers in custom transactions clearance | <input type="checkbox"/> marine agents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tourism agents | <input type="checkbox"/> other groups (please specify): |

(c) Representatives of transport, management and operation companies:

yes no

(d) Representatives of private banks:

yes no

(e) Representatives of private insurance companies:

yes no

(f) Representatives of chambers of commerce and industry:

yes no

(g) Representatives of relevant unions, associations and syndicates:

yes no

2. Organizational Structure of the National Committee

2.1. Who presides over the national committee?

minister of transport minister of commerce minister of finance other (please specify):

2.2. How many vice-presidents are there in the national committee and what are their functional titles?

Number of vice-presidents:

Functional titles:

2.3. Does the national committee report to the prime minister?

yes no

- If no, please specify the authority to which the national committee reports:

2.4. Are the members of the national committee from the Government and are they at the level of deputy-minister?

yes no

- If no, please clarify:

2.5. How many members of the national committee are from:

the public sector:

the private sector:

other bodies (please specify the body and the number of members):

2.6. Was the national committee established by a decision from the council of ministers?

yes no

- If yes, please specify the decision issued as well as the date of issuance and provide the secretariat with a copy of the decision.
- If no, please specify the authority that issued the decision for the formation of the committee.

2.7. Was there a decision to re-constitute the national committee?

- yes no

- If yes, please specify the decision number as well as the date of issuance and provide the secretariat with a copy of the decision:

2.8. How frequently does the national committee meet in one year?

2.9. Does the committee have an executive secretariat?

- yes no

- If yes, is the executive secretariat dedicated to the committee work:

- entirely (please specify the number of full-timers)
- partly (please specify the number of part-timers)

2.10. To which extent is the national committee satisfied with the number of employees in its executive secretariat, their skills and their experience?

2.11. Is the budget allocated to the national committee considered sufficient?

2.12. What are the sources of financial and in-kind resources of the national committee and its executive secretariat?

- Government private sector technical assistance projects from international bodies
- other sources (please specify):

3. Formation of the Committee and Sub-committees

3.1. Have a committee and specialized sub-committees been established?

- yes no

- If yes, please specify:

- committee on transport and transportations committee on customs
- committee on commercial practice committee on communications
- committee on commercial information committee on banks and insurance
- other committees (please specify):

3.2. What are the criteria for membership in the committee and its sub-committees?

3.3. When does the task assigned to the committee or its sub-committees end?

3.4. Who are the representatives and members of the committee and its sub-committees?

3.5. Describe the work of the committee and its sub-committees:

3.6. Does the committee and its sub-committees seek assistance from regional and international organizations? How?

3.7. What are the sources of funding of the committee and its sub-committees?

- Government
- Private sector
- Technical support projects
- Other sources (please specify)

4. Obstacles Facing the Establishment of the National Committee

4.1. Have obstacles to trade and transport been identified in your country?

- yes no

- If yes, please attach a list of these obstacles.

4.2. Have there been any recommendations made to eliminate those obstacles?

- yes no

- If yes, please attach a list of those recommendations.

4.3. Was there a plan of action for the implementation of those recommendations?

- yes no

- If yes, please attach the relevant plan of action.

4.4. Has a plan of action been adopted?

- yes no

- If yes, what is the mechanism for implementation follow-up?

- If no, please clarify:

Section II: Activation of the National Committee

Please give a brief summary of the actions undertaken by the national committee and its sub-committees to facilitate transport and trade (study of current situation, putting a plan of action, follow-up to implementation of the plan of action, request of technical support from ESCWA etc.).

Does the committee present recommendations to the government regarding future investments?

What activities have been undertaken by the national committee to achieve its targets?

What activities does the national committee intend to undertake in the future?

Section III: Good Practice Adopted by the National Committee and Suggestions for Development

Please list the good practice adopted by the national committee that could benefit other countries.

Does the national committee have proposals for developing and improving its performance?

Please indicate obstacles that hinder or have hindered the work of the national committee and its sub-committees.

What issues does the national committee wish the ESCWA secretariat to address?

What are the recommendations proposed by your country to the secretariat to help establish the national committee or finalize its establishment process?

--

Please provide ESCWA with a copy of the decision issued to establish the national committee and attach the organizational structure of the national committee and sub-committees.
