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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

## **REPORT**

### **TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT BEIRUT, 17-19 MAY 2011**

#### **Summary**

The twelfth session of the Committee on Transport was held in Beirut from 17 to 19 May 2011 and discussed the items included on the session agenda. Discussions focused, inter alia, on the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region, road safety, facilitating transport and trade, sea and land-based transport, and follow-up to the implementation of recommendations made during the eleventh session of the Committee.

On the first day of the session, the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region held its first meeting. The Working Group discussed the meeting agenda prepared by the ESCWA secretariat and adopted a number of recommendations.

This report contains a brief account of the discussions that took place on each agenda item, in addition to the outcomes and recommendations adopted by the session. Some of those recommendations were of a general nature while others related to the topics set forth in the session agenda.

The report was adopted by the Committee at its final meeting, which was held on 19 May 2011.

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## **Introduction**

1. The Committee held its twelfth 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 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 within ESCWA.

2. The Committee wishes to thank H.E. 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 at that Ministry, for holding the current session. At the opening of the session, Mr. El Kayssi delivered a speech on behalf the Minister in which he welcomed the participants and thanked them for their confidence in Lebanon and for coming to Beirut to take part in the session. He underlined the importance of facilitating transport, and the steps that needed to be taken to achieve regional cooperation and integration. He also expressed the hope that the session would be successful.

### **I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT**

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

3. Adoption of the recommendations made at the first 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.

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

4. Member countries were invited to review the information contained in the report on the follow-up to the implementation of recommendations adopted during the eleventh session of the Committee, as set forth in document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/4(Part I)), to update that information as necessary and to submit it, together with any observations in that regard, to the secretariat by 30 June 2011. Should no observations be received from any country, the document will be considered to have been adopted.

#### **C. FOLLOW-UP TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPORT-RELATED ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ESCWA PROGRAMME OF WORK**

5. Member countries were invited to review the information contained in the report on progress achieved since the eleventh session of the Committee towards implementing transport-related activities within the framework of the ESCWA programme of work, as set forth in document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/4(Part II)), to update that information as necessary and to submit it, together with any observations in that regard, to the secretariat by 30 June 2011. Should no observations be received from any country, the document will be considered to have been adopted.

#### **D. COMPONENTS OF THE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE ARAB MASHREQ (ITSAM)**

6. The Committee on Transport issued the following recommendations with regard to certain components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq:

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

7. Participants called upon Oman to accelerate the steps it was taking to accede to that Agreement.

8. Participants called upon the United Arab Emirates to accelerate the steps it was taking to ratify that Agreement.

9. Participants requested countries that are parties to that Agreement to update the information contained in the questionnaire on the follow-up to that Agreement, and to submit that questionnaire to ESCWA by 31 August 2011.

#### *2. Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq*

10. Participants called upon countries that have still not signed the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq (Iraq, Oman and Qatar) to accelerate the steps they were taking to accede to that Agreement.

11. Participants called upon countries that have signed, but not 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*

12. Participants adopted a programme of work, as set forth in annex 2 of this report, with a view to implementing article 5, on coastal transportation, of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq.

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

13. Participants called upon 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 that process, to seek guidance to that end by referring to 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 to make use of the technical support provided by ESCWA with a view to establishing such committees.

14. Participants called upon countries that have already established national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade to accelerate steps to operationalize those committees, by formulating and adopting action plans for each committee, and by making use of the technical support provided by ESCWA with a view to drawing up action plans and operationalizing those committees.

15. Participants called upon member countries to continue their coordination and cooperation with the ESCWA secretariat with a view to drawing up national studies on the obstacles that impede the work of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade, and on clear and practical strategies to be taken in that regard.

16. Participants called upon national committees in member countries to cooperate and coordinate their activities through ESCWA with a view to sharing knowledge and expertise and learning from successful experiments.

17. With a view to ensuring that activities are not duplicated, participants called upon national committees in member countries to cooperate and coordinate their activities with other national committees that implement transport and trade-related activities.

18. Participants called upon the ESCWA secretariat to continue its work to prepare an overview of the progress made by member countries in facilitating transport and trade, as measured by internationally recognized indicators, along the lines of the overview, prepared by ESCWA, of transport and trade facilitation that was presented during the twelfth session on the Committee on Transport.

## 5. Road safety

19. Participants called upon member countries to treat road safety as a critical issue and to ensure that it was a key priority.
20. Participants called upon member countries to work and coordinate with the ESCWA secretariat in their efforts to implement the Decade of Action for Road Safety, and to draw up a time table for the implementation of the Moscow Declaration of 20 November 2009.
21. Participants called upon member countries to accelerate the process of setting up and operationalizing national committees, institutions or councils that bring together all stakeholders that are working to improve road safety.
22. Participants called upon member countries to remain conscious of the importance of increasing the financial and human resources available for efforts to improve road safety in the countries of the region.
23. Participants called upon ESCWA to continue to provide technical support to member countries with a view to helping them improve road safety.

### E. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

24. The Committee took note of the proposed programme of work for the 2012-2013 biennium in the field of transport, as set forth in document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/6).
25. Participants called upon the ESCWA secretariat to continue its efforts to implement the methodological framework for the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq, *inter alia*, 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. The ESCWA secretariat was also invited to prepare a review of steps taken in that regard.
26. The Committee asked member countries to submit two reports to ESCWA by 31 October 2011: the first on follow-up to the implementation of recommendations adopted at the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport; and the second on progress achieved in the field of transport in each country between 1 October 2010 and 30 September 2011.

## II. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

### A. GENERAL DISCUSSION ON TRANSPORT ISSUES IN THE ARAB MASHREQ: FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE HARMONIZATION OF INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND LEGISLATION IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR IN THE ESCWA REGION (Agenda item 4)

27. Under agenda item 4, a general discussion took place on transport issues in the Arab Mashreq, constituting the first meeting of the Working Group on that issue. The Working Group was established pursuant to a recommendation made in that regard by the Committee on Transport at its eleventh session, held in Beirut from 22 to 24 March 2010.
28. The ESCWA secretariat made a detailed presentation of the membership of the Working Group and submitted a provisional agenda to the Working Group's first meeting. Furthermore, with a view to promoting dialogue between member countries and the ESCWA secretariat, member country representatives who attended the session also commented on the agenda of the Working Group.

29. Following the introduction of members of the Working Group, elections were held for membership of the joint technical secretariat, which consists of two representatives from member countries and from the ESCWA secretariat. Jordan as the first country, in alphabetical order in Arabic, of ESCWA member countries, was then appointed to chair the Working Group. There was considerable debate with regard to agenda item 4, which regards the budget. In that connection, the ESCWA secretariat noted that the proposed funding mechanism comprised donations from member countries and in-kind contributions from the secretariat. A number of participants noted that several countries did not have sufficient resources available to enable them to make voluntary contributions to the Committee. A plan needed to be formulated, therefore, to secure the necessary funding. Local companies, sponsors and Arab funds were urged to contribute funding. In that connection, participants called upon ESCWA, rather than member countries, to engage with donors, since the status of ESCWA facilitated such engagement and increase the likelihood that funding requests would be approved. With regard to agenda item 5, regarding the preparation of analytical study on the status of organizational frameworks in government agencies working in the transport sector in ESCWA member countries, participants noted that this was a sensitive topic, and that further clarification was needed in terms of identifying the study's objectives, the authority that would prepare that study, and the methodology to be used. Each country had its own organizational framework, based on laws and legislation in force in its territory. To promote trade, coordination between organizational frameworks was needed, rather than efforts to standardize them. With regard to the venue and dates of the second meeting of the Working Group, participants agreed that, unless a member country offered to host it, that meeting should take place at the headquarters of the United Nations in Beirut. The meeting should, moreover, be held prior to the next session of the Committee on Transport so that the meeting could submit its report to the Committee.

30. Annex 1 of this report sets forth a summary of the first meeting of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region, together with that meeting's recommendations.

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

31. Agenda item 5 was discussed by the Committee pursuant to its perusal of two documents that were presented by the secretariat: document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/4(Part I)) on follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations adopted during the eleventh session of the Committee on Transport; and document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/4(Part II)), which reviews progress achieved in implementing transport-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work.

32. With regard to the first document, a presentation was made of all recommendations made and the steps taken to implement them. Those recommendations included, inter alia, the establishment of a working group on the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region. Countries that had still not established national committees to facilitate transport and trade were urged to accelerate that process and, in coordination with the Secretariat-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, to draft a regional agreement for the facilitation of transport and trade among the countries of the ESCWA region. In their comments on the document, participants noted that most member countries had established such committees, but that ESCWA missions should be undertaken to those countries to help them enhance those committees' work. The representative of the League of Arab States highlighted the most recent activities and studies carried out by the League on rail and road links and on road safety, and, with a view to strengthening coordination between the two organizations, called upon ESCWA to participate in workshops that would be held in that regard.

33. In the second document, the Committee reviewed the reports on the follow-up to the implementation of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq. These included reports on the Memorandum of Understanding on Marine Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq, and on National Committees for the

Facilitation of Transport and Trade, and on Road Safety. The committee also reviewed meetings held within the framework of technical cooperation, including the Expert Group Meeting on Financing Transport Infrastructure and Road Safety in the ESCWA Region, held in Bahrain on 1 February 2011, and the Expert Group Meeting on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the ESCWA Region, held in Beirut on 1 and 2 March 2011. Other ESCWA activities included: the preparation of a study on financing transport infrastructure projects in the ESCWA region; updating the maps in the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq, the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq, and the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq; and providing consultancy services in the field of transport when so requested by member countries.

34. Commentating on the activities undertaken, certain participants expressed the hope that ESCWA would step up the pace of its work and would hold Committee on Transport meetings that focused on the problems that member countries encountered, rather than merely reviewing documents on progress achieved, in view of the fact that there were no instruments available by which that progress could be measured on the ground.

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

1. *Memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of  
marine transport in the Arab Mashreq*

35. Under agenda item 6 (a), as set forth in document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1(Part I)), the Committee considered the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq, which had been adopted at the twenty-third session of ESCWA, held in Damascus from 9-12 May 2005, and had entered into force on 4 September 4 2006. At its tenth session, held in Beirut from 31 March to 2 April 2011, the Committee on Transport had recommended that a draft programme of work should be formulated with a view to implementing article 5 of that Memorandum of Understanding, which addresses the issue of coastal transportation. The secretariat then reviewed steps to assist countries in the ESCWA region to implement that article. The three following proposals were then made: to carry out a general review of the current status of coastal transportation in the ESCWA region; to upgrade and develop coastal transport in Memorandum of Understanding countries; to step up coastal transport between Memorandum of Understanding countries. A schedule was then established for the implementation of the programme of work; countries undertook to submit information on their coordination and cooperation to the ESCWA secretariat by 31 August 2011, so that implementation of the programme of work could begin.

36. Once delegations had been briefed on progress achieved vis-à-vis the Memorandum of Understanding, a thorough debate took place in which certain participants objected to the designation of “coastal transportation” as set forth in article 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding. Those participants questioned the legal scope of that phrase and expressed their view that it was unclear whether it referred to transportation between ports in different countries or between ports within the same country. They expressed particular reservations in that regard because, under national legislation, the transportation of goods between ports within a country by foreign-national entities was strictly prohibited. In response, the secretariat confirmed that the term “coastal transportation” had been the result of extensive debate, and that that term had been approved by the ESCWA office responsible for legal terminology; the expression “coastal transport” referred to transport between ports in different countries, whereas transport within a single country was called “internal transportation”. In that regard, reference was made to a map on which coastal transportation routes between different countries were clearly marked. The proposed schedule for the implementation of article 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding was also discussed; some delegates believed that proposed time period was very long, and noted that merely assessing the status quo was scheduled to take a year and a half. Meanwhile, to increase transportation and trade between ESCWA

countries, and achieve the desired goals by 2017, efforts must be redoubled and the pace of work accelerated. In that regard, the secretariat explained that the aim of the proposed schedule was to give member countries sufficient time to implement the programme of work, since changes in the region suggested that it was wise to proceed slowly. However, although consensus had been reached on the schedule, member countries could draw up a new schedule if they believed that they could implement the work in a shorter time period. The discussions also touched upon the fact that maritime trade should be treated as an industry, so that companies, particularly in Lebanon, could obtain loans, provided by governments to improve fleets and build modern ships, on favourable terms.

## *2. National Committees for the Facilitation of Transport and Trade*

37. Under agenda item 6, as set forth in document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1(Part III)), the Committee addressed the issue of national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade, which, in essence, aim to step up bilateral trade as well as trade with non-member countries. The secretariat presented a document that outlined the steps already taken and evaluated the establishment and operationalization of those committees. The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain were working to establish such committees; however, unlike other ESCWA member countries that had established such committees, Kuwait and Qatar had not provided any information in that regard to ESCWA. The secretariat reviewed the current status of the committees in each country, how they were funded, their meetings, and the most important activities they undertook. A comparison was then made between different country situations, based on the following trade facilitation indicators: logistics performance, cross-border trade and links with regular maritime transport networks. Lastly, the Committee reviewed the measures to be implemented at its current session, called upon member countries to redouble their efforts to establish and operationalize national committees and secure the necessary funding, and called upon ESCWA to provide countries with additional technical support.

38. Commenting on the presentation by the ESCWA secretariat, certain participants drew attention to the fact that most countries that had established national committees to facilitate transport and trade but that problems were encountered with regard to enhancing the role of those committees. It was stressed that the obstacles that prevented national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade from functioning effectively needed to be studied. Furthermore, studies drawn up in that regard must be facts-based and clear, so that they accurately reflected the extent to which those committees functioned. Certain delegates underlined that, in order to avoid duplication of work, coordination must take place between the work of national committees and other committees that undertook similar activities.

## *3. Road safety*

39. The Committee considered document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/5(Part III)), which reviewed progress achieved in implementing the Moscow Declaration, which had been adopted at the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety: Time for Action (Moscow, 19 and 20 November 2009), particularly with regard to the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, called for by the Conference and endorsed in General Assembly in its resolution 255/64 of 2 March 2010. The secretariat drew attention to the goals of the Decade of Action for Road Safety, which included developing and implementing sustainable road safety strategies and programmes, and strengthening the management infrastructure and capacity for technical implementation of road safety activities at the national, regional and global levels. Moreover, key areas were established for participating in, and coordinating the implementation of decade activities, namely road safety management, safer roads and mobility, safer vehicles, safer road users and post-crash response. The Committee then outlined agreed-upon steps to monitor progress towards the achievement of Decade goals, through monitoring indicators, tracking milestones linked to the Decade, and carrying out mid-term and end-term evaluation of the Decade. Lastly, the Committee reviewed steps necessary to begin implementation of the Decade; these included making the issue of road safety a top priority in the region, and allocating the necessary financial and human resources in that regard.

40. Following that presentation, participants discussed the need to clarify the role of ESCWA with regard to the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, and its coordination with the United Nations in that regard. Attention was drawn to the need to establish guidelines for the upcoming period and for ESCWA to work with member countries to help them implement the Decade work plan so that they could benefit, as much as possible, from relevant ESCWA expertise. The secretariat responded by stating that the primary role of ESCWA was to raise awareness, provide guidance and promote capacity-building. ESCWA was, moreover, a key partner in efforts to implement the activities of the Decade work plan.

41. Following a review of the documents submitted under agenda item 6, representatives of the International Road Transport Union, Jordan and Saudi Arabia made audiovisual presentations on issues pertaining to various aspects of transport, namely road safety, institutional frameworks, legislation, international roads and railways, and the facilitation of transport and trade.

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

42. Within the framework of subprogramme 3, Economic Development and Integration, the implementation of which is overseen by the Economic Development and Globalization Division of ESCWA, the Committee reviewed the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport, as set forth in document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/6).

**E. DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT  
(Agenda item 8)**

43. The Committee recommended that its thirteenth session should be convened in Beirut in the first quarter of 2012, provided that no member country expressed its wish to host that session.

**F. OTHER MATTERS  
(Agenda item 9)**

44. Under this agenda item, participants discussed holding Committee on Transport sessions every two years instead of annually, with a view to providing member countries with more time in which to implement the Committee's recommendations, to fully implement the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM), and to take steps needed to develop their domestic transport sectors. In that regard, the representative of Lebanon underlined the fact that that issue had been debated in the past and it had been agreed that the Committee should hold its sessions every year. The representative of Yemen supported that position. Following a vote on the matter, participants agreed that the Committee on Transport should continue to hold annual sessions.

**III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION  
OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT  
(Agenda item 11)**

45. In its final meeting, convened on 19 May 2011, the Committee on Transport adopted the report of its twelfth session, as set forth in document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/7).

**IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

**A. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SESSION**

46. The twelfth session of the Committee on Transport was held at the United Nations House in Beirut from 17 to 19 May 2011. Its work was divided into five meetings.

## B. OPENING

47. A reception was held prior to the opening of the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport to mark the start of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. It began with the screening of a documentary on the Decade that had been produced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

48. The actress Ms. Carmen Lebbos, who is collaborating with ESCWA to publicize the activities of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety, gave a speech in which she thanked those present for attending the reception and drew attention to the causes of road accidents; these included reckless driving, badly-maintained roads and manhole covers, unsafe road works, and vehicles not being serviced regularly. She then talked about ways to prevent traffic accidents. In that connection, strong political will was key, as was adequate funding for the urgent repair of roads, based on a clear and detailed framework. She concluded her speech by commending the efforts exerted by ESCWA to promote road safety, and called upon young people to drive responsibly and respect the rules of the road, so as to keep themselves and others safe. A video by Ms. Lebbos on road safety was then shown.

49. Mr. Abd El Hafeez El Kayssi, Director General of Land and Maritime Transport at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in Lebanon, made a statement on behalf of the Minister, Mr. Ghazi El-Areedi, in which he welcomed the participants to Beirut and commended the efforts exerted by ESCWA in various fields, particularly the transport field, by formulating legislative frameworks, memorandums of understanding and agreements. He drew attention to the fact that, in its work, the Committee on Transport addressed various aspects of transport, including infrastructure, legislation and institutional frameworks. The Committee also addressed the humanitarian and social aspects of transport, including, most importantly, road safety. He underlined the importance of modern road networks, and of drawing up national strategies to ensure that road users travelled safely. In that regard, efforts were needed to promote a culture of respect for regulations and the law, and awareness-raising campaigns and updated educational curriculums were needed to ensure that such a culture took root in younger generations' daily lives. He then touched upon other key items on the agenda, including, in particular, the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Marine Transport in the Arab Mashreq, and national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade. He ended his statement by expressing the hope that the session would be successful.

50. Dr. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary General and the Executive Secretary of ESCWA made a statement in which she drew attention to the huge number of people who were killed and injured on the roads, and to the substantial material losses that occurred as a result. This situation had impelled the five regional offices of the United Nations to cooperate with the World Health Organization and other stakeholders to improve road safety by preparing a work plan that set forth activities and awareness-raising campaigns to take place through the decade. Ms. Khalaf then reviewed the items on the agenda for the Committee's current session, and highlighted a number of successes achieved by ESCWA over the previous two years in the field of transport, particularly with regard to maritime transport and the facilitation of transport and trade. She ended her statement by expressing her thanks and appreciation to the participants, and by wishing them every success.

51. His Excellency, Mr. Ziad Baroud, Lebanese Minister of the Interior and Municipalities, delivered a statement in which he drew attention to the very high number of young people who died on the roads every day as a result of negligence or reckless driving. He said that such accidents left people physically disabled and resulted in material losses and that the road safety crisis in the Arab world was now as grave as the security crisis it faced, if not more so. He stressed the fact that prosecuting and fining drivers would not, by itself, put a stop to accidents, and said that it was important to promote a culture of road safety and to entrench that culture in the minds of citizens. Mr. Baroud drew attention to a number of elements that were needed to ensure that roads were safe, including traffic lights, protective walls and guard rails and appropriate lighting. He also drew attention to steps taken by the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities since he had been appointed Minister to address the long-term neglect that Lebanese roads had suffered.

Those steps included increasing the number of traffic police in the internal security forces and working with the Ministry of Works and Transport to draft updated legislation on transport that ensured that all key elements to ensure road safety were taken into consideration.

52. A ceremony then took place in which the Declaration on the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 was signed. The reception concluded with music sung by the ESCWA choir.

53. Mr. Saad El-Mousned, representative of Qatar, who had chaired the eleventh session of the Committee on transport, delivered a statement in which he welcomed the participants and thanked ESCWA for its ongoing attention to transport issues in the Arab Mashreq. He drew attention to a number of recommendations issued by the eleventh session of the Committee, and commended the steps that had been taken to implement them. These recommendations had included establishing the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region, urging countries that have not yet established national committees to facilitate transport and trade to accelerate that process, based on guidelines drawn up by ESCWA in 2003 in that regard, and, in coordination with the Secretariat-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, drafting a regional agreement for the facilitation of transport and trade among the countries of the ESCWA region. Mr. El-Mousned concludes his speech by wishing the participants in the session every success in their discussions.

#### C. ATTENDANCE

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

55. Attending as observers were representatives of Arab federations that are 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

56. Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA states: "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. Fahed El-Massoud, representative of Kuwait, assumed the chairmanship of the session. In conformity with procedures adopted in previous sessions of the Committee on Transport, the Committee elected Mr. Saad El-Mousned, representative of Qatar, and Mr. Abd El Hafeez El Kayssi, representative of Lebanon, as Vice-Chairs. Mr. Hassan Selim, representative of Egypt, was elected as Rapporteur.

57. The drafting committee was presided over by Mr. Hassan Selim, representative of Egypt and Rapporteur of the Committee, and included the representatives of Lebanon, Palestine and Saudi Arabia, and of the ESCWA secretariat.

#### E. AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

58. In its first sitting, the Committee adopted the agenda of the twelfth session, as set forth in document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/L.1). The adopted agenda was as follows:

- “1. Opening of the twelfth 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; first meeting of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region.
  5. Progress achieved in the field of transport since the eleventh session of the Committee on Transport:
    - (a) Follow-up on the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its eleventh session;
    - (b) Follow-up on the 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 (ITSAM):
    - (a) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport;
    - (b) National committees to facilitate transport and trade;
    - (c) Road safety.
  7. Programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport.
  8. Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport.
  9. Other matters.
  10. Adoption of the report on the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport”.
59. At the same sitting, the Committee agreed to the proposed organization of work as set forth in document (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/L.2).

#### F. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

60. Annex IV of this report includes the list of documents submitted to the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport.

## Annex I

### **SUMMARY OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE HARMONIZATION OF INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND LEGISLATION IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR IN THE ESCWA REGION**

(Beirut, 17 May 2011)

#### *1. Attendance*

- Mr. Aref El-Mansouri, Kingdom of Bahrain (Member of the Working Group secretariat);
- Mr. Mahmoud Izeddin, Mr., Hassan Ahmad Muhammad Selim, Egypt;
- Mr. Naim Hamdan, Jordan (Chair);
- Mr. Nabil Basha Mohammed, Kuwait;
- Mr. Hassan Chaaban, Lebanon;
- Ms. Nargis Abdullah Al-Marshoodi, Oman (Member of the Working Group secretariat);
- Mr. Ali Thaath, Palestine;
- Mr. Saad Ahmad El-Mousned, Mr. Muhamad Hamed Al-Mulla, Qatar;
- Mr. Youssef Ben Ismail Jadu, Mr. Monther Nasser Al-Rashed, Saudi Arabia;
- Mr. Ali Muhammad Mutafi, Mr. Essam Ahmed Shaker, Yemen;
- Ms. Mona Fattah, ESCWA secretariat.

The working group is responsible for the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region through presenting recommendations to the ESCWA Committee on Transport with respect to the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the countries of region. The working group includes representatives from member countries and the ESCWA secretariat.

#### *2. Agenda*

1. Introduction of the Working Group members.
2. Election of Group secretariat.
3. Election of the Chair of the Working Group for 2011.
4. Proposals regarding the budget.
5. General discussion on the preparation of an analytical study of organizational structures of government agencies operating in the transport sector in ESCWA member countries.
6. The role of ESCWA and the requirements of its secretariat.
7. Topics and proposals for discussion.
8. Date and venue of the second meeting of the Working Group.
9. Recommendations of the first meeting.

#### *3. Discussion*

The Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region held its first meeting at United Nations House in Beirut on the morning of Tuesday, 17 May 2011, within the framework of the agenda of the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport (Beirut, 17 to 19 May 2011).

Firstly, the members of the Working Group attending the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport (Beirut 17 to 19 May 2011) introduced themselves to each other. Mr. Naim Hamdan, representative of Jordan was nominated Chair of the Working Group for the first year, effective from the start of the Working Group's work. Members of the Group secretariat were nominated as set forth in the list of names above.

An extensive debate took place with regard to the agenda proposed by the ESCWA secretariat, and the following recommendations were adopted:

#### *4. Recommendations*

(a) Request Working Group members to submit national reports on the status of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector, following the model prepared by the Working Group secretariat in coordination with ESCWA, by September 2011.

(b) Request the Working Group secretariat to work with the ESCWA secretariat with a view to drawing up draft terms of reference for evaluating the status of institutional frameworks in the transport sector in the ESCWA region, with the aim of submitting those terms of reference to the Working Group at its next meeting so that they can be debated and adopted.

(c) Request the ESCWA secretariat to draft a budget that sets forth all expenses expected to be incurred by the Working Group, and to submit that draft budget to the Chair and Working Group secretariat so that it can be reviewed and adopted, prior to its submission to the thirteenth session of Committee on Transport.

(d) Request the ESCWA secretariat to cooperate and coordinate activities with the Working Group secretariat with a view to securing the funding required by the Working Group, by appealing to development banks and private-sector partners.

(e) Request the Working Group secretariat to work with ESCWA to organize the Working Group's second meeting (establishing a date that is mutually acceptable for both ESCWA and the Working Group) and to set that date sufficiently in advance of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport.

## Annex II

### **PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED WITH A VIEW TO IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 5 OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MARITIME TRANSPORT IN THE ARAB MASHREQ**

#### **I. SUMMARY OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 5 OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

The list below outlines the steps required for the implementation of article 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding, categorized according to three key aspects, namely:

- (a) General review of the current status of coastal transportation in the ESCWA region;
- (b) Upgrading and developing coastal transportation in Memorandum of Understanding countries;
- (c) Stepping up coastal transportation among Memorandum of Understanding countries.

The proposed plan of action is outlined below:

#### **II. DETAILS OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 5 OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MARITIME TRANSPORT IN THE ARAB MASHREQ**

##### **A. GENERAL REVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF COASTAL TRANSPORTATION IN THE ESCWA REGION**

ESCWA, in cooperation with member countries, carries out evaluations of the current status of coastal transportation in the region, based on the eight following points:

1. Laws on coastal transportation.
2. Services.
3. Coastal transportation companies.
4. The role of the public sector.
5. Current cooperation between the public and private sectors in the field of coastal transportation.
6. Infrastructure (ports, vessels and fleets).
7. Procedures for the movement of persons and goods.
8. Coastal transportation movements.

##### **B. UPGRADING AND DEVELOPING COASTAL TRANSPORTATION IN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING COUNTRIES**

Upon completion of an overall assessment of all aspects of coastal transportation, highlighting relevant strengths and weaknesses, plans must be drawn up to promote steady integrated development in that regard, by promoting technical cooperation and coordination between countries region and ESCWA. Those plans should cover the following areas:

1. Developing countries' legislation on coastal transportation.
2. Improving services and operating mechanisms.
3. Updating mechanisms for the establishment of coastal transportation companies, and updating relevant union and federation frameworks.
4. Developing the role of the public sector in the field of coastal transportation.

5. Enhancing cooperation between the public and private sectors in the field of coastal transportation.
6. Establishing and updating coastal transportation infrastructure.
7. Developing coastal transportation fleets.
8. Simplifying and easing port clearance and customs formalities for goods and persons.

#### C. STEPPING UP COASTAL TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF THE ESCWA REGION

In this final stage of the plan of action to step up coastal transportation among countries of the ESCWA region, the steps set forth in the action plan are effectively applied by (1) harmonizing national laws; (2) harmonizing operating procedures; (3) harmonizing customs and port formalities; and (4) simplifying transport and transit procedures between countries of the region. Such steps facilitate implementation of tasks listed under Article 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq, namely:

(a) Encouraging coastal transportation movements between seaports and harbours and providing facilities and support for national coastal transport companies;

(b) Providing and developing coastal transport services and according them appropriate capacities and facilities;

(c) Facilitating the reception of coastal transport ships and vessels and providing them with the appropriate services and facilities in seaports and harbours;

(d) Simplifying and facilitating port and customs procedures and all other procedures relating to vessels and commodities involved in coastal transportation in ports and harbours.

### **III. TIMETABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION**

Implementation of the plan of action requires a timetable for carrying out three phases according to the following schedule:

1. Conducting an overall situation assessment of coastal transportation in the ESCWA region prior to the thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport.
2. Improving and developing coastal transportation between ESCWA member countries prior to the fourteenth session of the Committee on Transport.
3. Enhancing coastal transportation between countries of the ESCWA region prior to the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport.

### Annex III

#### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

##### A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

###### Kingdom of Bahrain

Mr. Aref Hassan El-Mansouri  
Head of Delegation  
Director of Human and Financial Resources  
Ministry of Transportation

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

Mr. Khalifa Hassan El-Amari  
Director, Public Transport Services  
Ministry of Transportation

###### Egypt

Mr. Hassan Ahmad Muhammad Selim  
Head of Delegation  
Deputy Chairman of the Transport Planning  
Authority  
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Mahmoud Izeddin  
Director  
General Authority for Roads, Bridges and Land  
Transport

###### Iraq

Ms. Noor Al-Haashimi  
Attaché  
Mission of Iraq, Baghdad

###### Jordan

Mr. Abdullah Al-Shawawra  
Head of Delegation  
Head of Road Freight Transport Department  
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Naim Khodr Hamdan  
Head of the Legal Affairs Unit  
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Abd Al-Ghani Al-Sa'aida  
Head of the Institutional Development  
Department  
Ministry of Public Works and Housing

###### Kuwait

Mr. Fahed Saad El-Massoud  
Head of Delegation, Head of the Land Transport  
Administration  
Ministry of Communications

Mr. Nabil Basha Mohammed  
Monitor  
Maritime Registration and Maritime Affairs  
Ministry of Communications

###### Lebanon

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

Ms. Elham Mansour el Khabbaz  
Chief of Tutelage and Land Transport Department  
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

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

Mr. Wafiq Nimr Abdallah  
Head of the Environmental and Road Traffic  
Safety Department  
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

Mr. Michel Kafouri  
Representative of the Minister of Health  
Ministry of Health

###### Oman

Mr. Hassan bin Sulaiman Al-Majini  
Head of Delegation  
Director, Department of Ports  
Ministry of Transport and Communications

Oman (continued)

Ms. Nargis Abdullah Al-Marshoodi  
Civil engineer  
Ministry of Transport and Communications

Palestine

Mr. Ali Abd Al-Hamid Sha'at  
Head of Delegation  
Deputy, Ministry of Transport

Mr. Yassir El-Khatib  
Director General, Licencing Authority,  
Ministry of Transport

Qatar

Mr. Saad Ahmad El-Mousned  
Head of Delegation  
Advisor, Office of the Director,  
Public Works Authority

Mr. Muhamad Hamed Al-Mulla  
Head of Delegation  
Expert in Economic Affairs,  
Economic and Trade Organizations Department

Mr. Jasem Bin Hamd Al-Thani  
Head of Cooperation Affairs  
Ministry of Business and Trade

Mr. Muhamad Salem el-Khalifa  
Head of Land Transport Unit  
Public Transport Authority

Mr. Muhammad Hassan Jaber Al-Jaber  
Consul  
Embassy of Qatar, Beirut

Saudi Arabia

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

Mr. Youssef Ismail Jadu  
Director General, Studies  
Ministry of Transport

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

Mr. Aayid Hadi Al-Atibi  
Director, Investment Regulations Department  
General Investment Authority

Mr. Zahem Fayhan El-Mutairi  
Planning Architect  
Ministry of Transport

Mr. Farid Abdallah Al-Qahtani  
Director, Coastal Transportation Department  
Ministry of Transport

Mr. David Farl  
Consultant  
General Investment Authority

Mr. Majed Ben Ramzi Atiya  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Beirut

The Sudan

Mr. Hady Al-Sadik Ali Numeiri  
Consultant, Vice Head of Mission

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Bashar Al-Asa'ad  
Head of Delegation  
Third Secretary  
Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic in Beirut

Ms. Maya Ali Al-Sakkaf  
Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic in Beirut

Yemen

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

Mr. Abdul Wahab El-Hakem  
Deputy, Road Sector  
Ministry of Public Works and Roads

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

Mr. Nasser Saleh El-Harbi  
Deputy, Ministry of Finance for Economic  
Units Affairs  
Ministry of Finance

Mr. Amin Mohsen Al-Hamdani  
Embassy of Yemen, Beirut

## B. UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

### World Health Organization

Mr. Samiin Sadiqi  
Resident Representative

Mr. Ziad Mansour  
Coordinator for Disease Prevention and Road  
Safety

## C. GOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES

### League of Arab States

Mr. Muahib Khilaf  
Transportation and Tourism Department

### Saudi Fund for Development

Mr. Fahd Abdullah Al-Bisaam  
Deputy Economic Researcher

### Council of Arab Economic Unity – General Secretariat

Mr. Mohammed Mohammed Al-Rabee  
Secretary-General

Mr. Abdullah Abdul Rahman Al-Rashoodi  
Assistant Civil engineer

### International Road Transport Union

Mr. Tilal Al-Wahibi  
Projects Officer

## D. GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

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

Mr. Adam Khadr Al-Mila  
Economics researcher

Mr. Rani Salim Dabaj  
Expert  
Joint Arab Marine Study and Research Centre

### Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal Group

Tariq Zahnan  
Financial and banking auditor

Mr. Marwan Jarkas  
Expert, Industrial Design  
Joint Arab Marine Study and Research Centre

### Arab Sea Ports Federation

Mr. Essam El-Din Badawi  
Secretary General

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

Mr. Ahmad Saad Rajab  
Member of the Federation

Mr. Hesham Muhammad El-Mutairi  
Manager, Office of the General Manager

Mr. Mohamad Kamel Salhab  
Chancellor, Lebanese-French University of  
Technology and Applied Sciences

Mr. Adel Mubarak El-Dea'a  
Maritime Officer

Mr. Ahmad Al-Rafi'ee  
Dean of the Faculty of Science and Arts  
Lebanese-French University of Technology and  
Applied Sciences

### Kuwait Ports Authority

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

Mr. Judallah Bik Al-Murabi  
Coordinator and General Director, Lebanese-  
French University of Technology and Applied  
Sciences

### Arab Federation of Shipping

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

Mr. Ahmed Adaam  
Consultant

Arab Federation of Chambers of Shipping

Mr. Elie Zakhour  
President of the Federation and of the  
International  
Chamber of Navigation, Beirut

Tijan Petroleum Company

Mr. Muataz Sofian Maki  
Marketing Director

E. PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE CEREMONY TO LAUNCH THE UNITED NATIONS  
DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY (2011-2020)

Embassy of Jordan, Beirut

Ms. Nisreen Al-Qasus

Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, Beirut

H.E. Mr. Rahma Hussein Al-Zaabi  
Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates

Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic, Beirut

Mr. Bashar Al-Asa'ad  
Advisor to the Ambassador

Embassy of the Sudan, Beirut

Mr. Hady Al-Sadik Ali Numeiri  
Consultant, Vice Head of Mission

Embassy of Iraq, Beirut

Ms. Noor Al-Haashimi  
Attaché

Embassy of Kuwait, Beirut

Mr. Jasem Al-Najim  
Consultant

Ministry of the Interior, Lebanon

H.E. Mr. Ziad Baroud,  
Minister of the Interior and Municipalities

Ministry of Health, Lebanon

Mr. Michel George Khouri  
Representative of H.E. the Lebanese Minister of  
Health  
Chief of the Health Department at the Ministry

Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Beirut

Mr. Majed Ben Ramzi Atiya  
First Secretary

Embassy of Yemen, Beirut

Mr. Amin Mohsen Al-Hamdani  
First Secretary

YASA

Mr. Ziad Aqal  
Director, YASA international for Public Safety

“Kun Haadi” Foundation

Ms. Mirna Manimna  
Public Relations Officer

“Lasa” Foundation

Mr. Ju Dakash  
Director, Lebanese Committee for the Prevention  
of Accidents at School

Emirates Driving Company

Mr. George Al-Zakhim  
Director, Institutional Communications  
Abu Dhabi

Media personalities

Ms. Carmen Lebbos  
Lebanese Actress

Mr. Muhamad Darwish  
Newspaper editor  
Hasan Sa'ab Institute for Media Studies

Ms. Aida Hussein  
Journalist  
Al-Rai Magazine

Annex IV

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

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Title	Item	Symbol
Information note		E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/INF.1
Provisional agenda and annotations	3	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/L.1
Organization of work	3	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/L.2
General discussion on transport issues in the Arab Mashreq: first meeting of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region	4	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/3
Progress made in the field of transport since the eleventh session of the Committee on Transport	5	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/4
Follow-up to the implementation of recommendations adopted during the eleventh session of the Committee on Transport	5 (a)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/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/2011/IG.1/4(Part II)
Progress achieved in implementing the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq	6	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/5
Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq	6 (a)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/5(Part I)
National committees for the facilitation of transport and trade	6 (b)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/5(Part II)
Road safety	6 (c)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/5(Part III)
Proposed Programme of Work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport	7	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/6

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