

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/C.5/2018/INF.1
16 October 2018
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Transport and Logistics
Nineteenth session
Beirut, 26-28 November 2018

**Information note***1. Background information*

The nineteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics is a continuation of the efforts made by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in the field of transport and logistics, given the sector's effective role in achieving regional integration.

At the current session, the Committee will review progress in the transport and logistics sector since its eighteenth session, which was held in Beirut on 20 and 21 December 2018. Several reports and technical papers will be presented to the Committee under various agenda items, notably on the following: (a) progress in the implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work, of technical cooperation activities and of recommendations made by the Committee at its eighteenth session; (b) progress in a project on geographic information systems (GIS) for transport networks between Arab countries; (c) assessing Arab economic integration: trade in services as a driver of growth and development; (d) logistics performance in the Arab region; (e) maritime transport in the Arab region: does liberalization matter; and (f) the technological revolution and its impact on the future of the transport sector in the Arab region.

A regional workshop on road safety management in Arab countries, organized in collaboration with the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety and the World Bank, will also be held at the session. It will focus on raising awareness of road safety management principles promoted by the United Nations and on reviewing international best practices in the field. The results of an ESCWA survey on the status of road safety management in Arab countries will be presented, building upon an ESCWA manual on road safety management systems that was adopted at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport. Participants include high-level officials from transport and interior ministries in Arab countries, who will review the status of road safety management and data, and agree on a unified road map for improving road safety in the Arab region.

Representatives of member States are invited to present progress achieved by their countries in the development of the transport and logistics sector since the eighteenth session of the Committee. The secretariat will organize a meeting to that end during the session.

2. Provisional agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda and annotations of the nineteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics will be presented to the Committee in document E/ESCWA/C.5/2018/L.1. The organization of work is set out in document E/ESCWA/C.5/2018/L.2.

3. *Documentation*

All documents related to the session are posted on the webpage dedicated to the session on the ESCWA website, available at <https://www.unescwa.org/events/committee-transport-and-logistics-19th-session>.

4. *Participants*

In view of the numerous transport-related issues and activities in the Arab region that arise from the various transport modes and systems and the many parties involved, it is recommended that Governments of member States form delegations that include specialists in various fields related to the topics of discussion. Concerned regional and international organizations and institutions and civil society organizations will also be invited to attend the session as observers.

5. *Date and venue*

The nineteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut from 26 to 28 November 2018. Registration of delegates will begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, 26 November 2018, and the opening session will start at 9.30 a.m. The session will conclude in the afternoon of Wednesday, 28 December 2017.

6. *Language*

Presentations and discussions will be in Arabic.

7. *Accommodation*

The ESCWA secretariat suggests that participants make reservations at hotels close to ESCWA headquarters in Beirut. Pick-up and drop-off services may be arranged directly with the hotel.

8. *Entry visas*

Participants can obtain entry visas to Lebanon through the Lebanese Embassy in their respective countries. They may attach the ESCWA invitation letter to the visa application. The secretariat may assist in obtaining entry visas for participants facing difficulties. Participants who need assistance in this matter should send a scanned colour copy of their passport containing all the required information to the secretariat by 31 October 2018.

9. *Correspondence*

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