

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

Committee on Transport and Logistics  
Seventeenth session  
Cairo, 23-24 January 2017

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

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9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Transport and Logistics at its seventeenth session.

### **Annotations**

#### 1. Opening of the session

The Committee on Transport and Logistics will commence its session at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 23 January 2017, at the headquarters of the General Authority for Roads, Bridges and Land Transport of the Ministry of Transport, in Cairo. The representative of Egypt, the country which chaired the sixteenth session of the Committee, will make a welcome statement. The representative of the ESCWA executive secretariat will then deliver the inaugural speech. The session is expected to be held under the auspices of the Minister of Transport in Egypt.

#### 2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which applies to subsidiary bodies, states: "Member States shall chair the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations.<sup>1</sup> Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers." Pursuant to that rule, Saudi Arabia will chair the seventeenth session of the Committee, succeeding Egypt, which chaired the sixteenth session.

In order to ensure continuity, the Committee has adopted the following procedure to select its two vice-chairs and its rapporteur: the vice-chairs shall be the representative of the country that chaired the previous session and the representative of the country that will chair the subsequent session of the Committee according to the Arabic alphabetical rotation. The rapporteur shall be the representative of the country next in the alphabetical order to the country of the second vice-chair. Accordingly, the representatives of Egypt and Mauritania shall be the vice-chairs and the representative of Yemen shall be the rapporteur.

#### 3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia states: "At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda." Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will be presented with the provisional agenda and annotations for this session in document E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/L.1 and the organization of work in document E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work in that or an amended form.

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<sup>1</sup> ESCWA member States in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Yemen.

4. Progress achieved in the field of transport since the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/3)

The secretariat will present the following reports to the Committee:

(a) Implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its sixteenth session  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG. 1/3(Part I))

This report contains a review of the actions taken in the field of transport in implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its sixteenth session (Cairo, 23-24 November 2015). The document lists each recommendation and the related implementation actions.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress achieved and express the needs of their countries with respect to implementation.

(b) Implementation of transport-related activities under the ESCWA programme of work  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/3(Part II))

This report contains a review of the progress made in implementing the transport-related activities undertaken since its sixteenth session, under the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of those activities and make comments thereon.

(c) Follow-up on the implementation of components of the Integrated Transport System between the Arab States  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/3(Part III))

This report contains an overview of the progress achieved in the implementation of the following components of the Integrated Transport System between the Arab States (ITSAS):<sup>2</sup> Agreement on International Roads between the Arab States; (b) priority routes M40 and M45; (c) Agreement on International Railways between the Arab States; (d) Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation between the Arab States; (e) national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade; (f) road safety.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of this report and make comments thereon.

5. Transport and logistics in the Arab region  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/4)

The secretariat will present the following reports to the Committee:

(a) Connectivity to global value chains  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/4(Part I))

This document presents an overview of the global value chains basic concepts and their relevance to the global economy and the economies of developing countries, in particular Arab countries.

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<sup>2</sup> The Integrated Transport System between the Arab States (ITSAS) is the new name of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM). It was adopted upon the request of States members in the Committee on Transport to include countries of the Arab Maghreb, which have lately joined ESCWA.

It highlights the role of transport in strengthening those economies connectivity to the global value chains.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of this report and make comments thereon.

- (b) The ePlatform for the follow-up on the implementation of the components of the Integrated Transport System between the Arab States  
(Visual presentation)

In this visual presentation, the secretariat will summarize the amendments (including practical examples) made to the ePlatform it developed for the purpose of enabling concerned focal points in member States to update maps and data relevant to the transport networks that fall within the agreements and other components of the Integrated transport System between the Arab States (ITSAS). The presentation will also brief the Committee on the training session for focal points which is organized by the secretariat on 22 January 2017 (a day prior to the present session).

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the ePlatform in its amended version and make any comments which would require further amendments to be made by the secretariat.

- (c) Maritime transport in the Arab region  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/4(Part II))

This document presents information on the status of and recent developments in maritime transport in the Arab region. It highlights its relevance to Arab countries in strengthening intraregional trade, facilitating the transport of passengers and goods and improving international trade. The report concludes with recommendations on promoting the role of maritime transport in stimulating the economy.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments thereon.

- (d) The role of road transport within multimodal logistics chains  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/4(Part III))

This document tackles the role and costs of road transport within the chain of multimodal transport of goods. It highlights the importance of international transport agreements in facilitating road transport and contributing to reducing costs and stimulating Arab intraregional trade.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the document and make comments thereon.

- (e) The benefits of acceding to international transport agreements  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/4(Part IV))

This document presents an overview of the international transport agreements concluded under the umbrella of the United Nations. It highlights their objectives and economic and social benefits expected to be reaped by signing countries. The agreements overviewed include those that are part of the Integrated Transport System between the Arab States (ITSAS) which was developed by the secretariat, in addition to other international agreements aimed at facilitating transport and trade and the relevant legal and regulatory arrangements.

The secretariat invites the representatives of member States to take note of the report and make comments thereon. It also encourages the countries that have not yet acceded to those agreements to do so.

Also under this agenda item, the secretariat will moderate a discussion panel during which a presentation will be made on the relevance and role of international transport agreements in facilitating intra and interregional transport and trade, co-prepared with the International Road Transport Union.

6. Transport in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/5)

The secretariat will present the following reports to the Committee:

(a) Transport and the Sustainable Development Goals  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/5(Part I))

This report explains the direct link between a developed transport sector and sustainable development. It highlights the transport-related sustainable development indicators included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and their objectives.

The secretariat invites the representatives of member States to take note of the report and give their opinion on including a recurrent item on issues related to transport within national sustainable development plans on the agenda of the sessions of the Committee on Transport and Logistics.

(b) Incorporating transport in national sustainable development plans  
(Panel discussion)

The secretariat will moderate a panel discussion on the national sustainable development plans in the Arab countries and ways to incorporate in them the transport development plans.

The representatives of member States are expected to present the experience of their respective countries in that regard.

(c) Outcome of the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/5(Part II))

This document contains the remarks of the secretariat on the outcome document of the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport, which was held in Ashgabat, on 26 and 27 November 2016. It also highlights the issues discussed at, and recommendations made by the Conference.

The representatives of member States are invited to take note of those recommendations and agree on ways to implement them and on the support that the secretariat could provide in that regard.

7. Strategic framework and proposed activities in the field of transport and logistics for the biennium 2018-2019  
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2016/IG.1/6)

The Committee will consider the activities proposed to be implemented by the secretariat in the field of transport and logistics under subprogramme 3 concerning economic development and integration, of the strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019, which was adopted by member States at the ESCWA twenty-ninth ministerial session (Doha, 13-15 December 2016).

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the proposed activities and make comments and recommendations thereon.

8. Date and venue of the eighteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics

Representatives of member States shall agree on the date and venue of the eighteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics, given that it convenes in the second half of 2017.

9. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the representatives of member States may wish to discuss.

10. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Transport and Logistics at its seventeenth session

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations of its seventeenth session for discussion and adoption.

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