

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

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



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Progress in the field of transport and logistics since the eighteenth session of the Committee:
  - (a) Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work, of technical cooperation activities and of recommendations made by the Committee;
  - (b) Action taken by member States (briefings by State representatives);
  - (c) Project on geographic information systems (GIS) for transport networks between Arab countries.
5. Assessing Arab economic integration: trade in services as a driver of growth and development.
6. Logistics performance in the Arab region.
7. Maritime transport in the Arab region: does liberalization matter?
8. Round-table discussion: The technological revolution and its impact on the future of the transport sector in the Arab region.
9. Regional workshop: Road safety management in the Arab countries.
10. Date and venue of the twentieth session of the Committee.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Transport and Logistics at its nineteenth session.

## Annotations

### 1. Opening of the session

The Committee on Transport and Logistics will commence its session at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 26 November 2018, in the Conference Hall at the United Nations House in Beirut. The representative of the country that chaired the eighteenth session of the Committee will make a welcome statement. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat will then deliver the opening speech.

### 2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia 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. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers".\* The Committee shall also select two vice-chairs and a rapporteur from the representatives of member States.

### 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, which applies to subsidiary bodies 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/C.5/2018/L.1 and the organization of work in document E/ESCWA/C.5/2018/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work in that or an amended form.

### 4. Progress in the field of transport and logistics since the eighteenth session of the Committee (E/ESCWA/C.5/2018/3)

#### (a) Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work, of technical cooperation activities and of recommendations made by the Committee (E/ESCWA/C.5/2018/3(Part I))

The report presents transport and logistics activities undertaken by the secretariat under the ESCWA programme of work and the technical cooperation activities implemented following requests from members States. It also reviews progress in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at its eighteenth session.

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

#### (b) Action taken by member States (Briefings by State representatives)

Representatives of member States will present the latest developments in the transport and logistics sector at the national level, and review the implementation of recommendations addressed to member States made by the Committee at its eighteenth session.

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\* 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.

(c) Project on geographic information systems (GIS) for transport networks between Arab countries  
(E/ESCWA/C.5/2018/3(Part II))

The representative of the secretariat will present a progress report on the implementation of a project on GIS for transport networks between Arab countries and its future phases.

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

5. Assessing Arab economic integration: trade in services as a driver of growth and development

The representative of the secretariat will give a presentation on a report entitled “Assessing Arab economic integration: trade in services as a driver of growth and development”, which considers Arab States’ priorities and challenges in negotiations on trade in services. The report discusses the impact of liberalization of services and of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area agreement between Arab States and the European Union on numerous issues linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. It concludes that trade openness, despite its growth benefits, may result in additional pressures on natural resources, exacerbate income inequality, and increase pollution and aggravate its negative effects on social and economic issues.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report, available at <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/assessing-arab-economic-integration-trade-services-growth-development>, and make comments thereon.

6. Logistics performance in the Arab region  
(E/ESCWA/C.5/2018/4)

The document outlines logistics performance in the Arab region based on agreed international indicators. It considers key developments in the field, and identifies strengths and weaknesses in performance to highlight ways to increase logistics efficiency in the region.

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

7. Maritime transport in the Arab region: does liberalization matter?  
(E/ESCWA/C.5/2018/5)

The document highlights the importance of maritime transport in increasing competitiveness, and reviews the regulation and liberalization of the sector in the Arab region based on available liberalization indicators. It also presents the international and regional instruments available to Arab countries on maritime transport services, and provides a set of recommendations to enhance the sector’s role in the region.

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

8. Round-table discussion: The technological revolution and its impact on the future of the transport sector in the Arab region  
(E/ESCWA/C.5/2018/CRP.1)

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will present key features on the current technological revolution and the resulting structural transformations in the transport sector. The technological revolution provides numerous possibilities for the future of the transport sector, such as replacing fossil fuels with electricity directly generated from solar power, introducing high-speed railway systems, producing driverless vehicles, and combining advanced communication technologies with high-speed computing, the Internet, global positioning systems and smart phone applications to facilitate direct communication between transport service users and providers.

A round-table discussion will then be held on the regulatory and ethical implications of the technological revolution for the field of transport, including the following:

- (a) Regulatory measures needed to absorb the outcomes of the technological revolution and incorporate them in transport and logistics policies;
- (b) Social issues arising from the abolition of brokerage professions in shipping and clearance;
- (c) Ethical issues arising from redefining responsibility following the full automation of transport modes, especially driverless vehicles.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the document and express their views in the round-table discussion.

9. Regional workshop: Road safety management in the Arab countries  
(E/ESCWA/C.5/2018/CRP.2)

The workshop is organized in collaboration with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Mr. Jean Todt, and will focus on raising awareness on 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. The workshop will also consider ways to collect data on road accidents and their compatibility with internationally agreed principles, and the use of reliable data in developing policies and formulating long-term strategies and interim workplans to improve road safety in Arab countries under the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Workshop participants will include representatives of interior ministries in member States and several international and regional experts to tackle the topic from various perspectives.

Representatives of member States are invited to participate in the workshop, which will conclude with a set of recommendations and proposals for adoption by the Committee at its nineteenth session.

10. Date and venue of the twentieth session of the Committee

Representatives of member States shall agree on the date and venue of the twentieth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics, which will be held in 2019.

11. Other matters

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

12. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Transport and Logistics at its nineteenth session

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

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