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

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

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Strategic framework and proposed activities in the field of transport  
and logistics for the biennium 2018-2019**

**Summary**

The strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019 of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), which contains the strategies of its seven subprogrammes, was adopted by ESCWA at its twenty-ninth session, held in Doha from 13 to 15 December 2016.

The present document sets forth the section related to subprogramme 3 on economic development and integration of the strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019. It presents the objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, external factors and the strategy of subprogramme 3 that covers ESCWA activities in the fields of economic analysis, financing development, trade and transport. The ESCWA Economic Development and Integration Division is responsible for implementing subprogramme 3. The present document also sets out proposed activities in the field of transport and logistics for the biennium 2018-2019.

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### SUBPROGRAMME 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION

#### A. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

**Objective:** To achieve a basic standard of living for all people in member States, through sustained and more inclusive economic development within a more integrated region

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) More effective responses by member States to reduce poverty by adopting and implementing multidimensional poverty approaches	(a) (i) Increased number of member States that agree on a regional action plan addressing multidimensional poverty (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt policies to promote new methods of monitoring indicators related to multidimensional poverty and inequality (iii) Increased number of member States that adopt and implement inclusive plans and policies to address multidimensional poverty and inequality
(b) Increased effectiveness of member States in filling the financing gap and raising financial funds from traditional and innovative sources to meet the goals set in international development agendas	(b) (i) Increased number of member States that implement measures to mobilize financial resources for development according to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt regulatory reforms and legislation to enhance business environment
(c) Enhanced macroeconomic policy environment enabling regional integration, supported by policy assessment tools	(c) (i) Increased number of institutions that develop knowledge-based economic tools and strategies with the support of ESCWA (ii) Increased number of member States that develop and implement policies using ESCWA forecasting tools
(d) Increased application of principles of good economic governance to promote inclusive economic transformation and regional integration	(d) (i) Increased number of member States that use economic governance indicators to inform policymaking in the public and private sectors (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt policies for economic transformation and improved economic governance to facilitate development of viable regional value chains and connectivity to global value chains
<b>(e) Improved regional coordination among member States for cross-border infrastructure, especially in transport and trade facilitation</b>	<b>(e) (i) Increased number of member States that adopt and implement regional or bilateral cross-border trade and trade facilitation agreements, such as the Arab Customs Union, to enhance intraregional and interregional trade</b>

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
	<p>(ii) Increased number of member States that adopt and implement ESCWA recommendations to enhance the coordination of their macroeconomic and sectoral policies for trade promotion</p> <p><b>(iii) Increased number of member States that adopt the agreements of the Integrated Transport System between Arab States and create national committees for transport and trade facilitation</b></p>

## B. EXTERNAL FACTORS

Subprogramme 3 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States remain committed to increasing subregional and regional cooperation and integration; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in budgetary funding; (c) the political and security situation in member States and the region allows the implementation of the workplan; (d) up-to-date and reliable statistics are made available; and (e) Governments enjoy enough stability to pay due attention to such issues.

## C. STRATEGY

19.28 The Economic Development and Integration Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 3. During the biennium 2018-2019, ESCWA will assist member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and greater social justice. Using the tools that it has designed during the biennium 2016-2017 to monitor poverty, inequality and fiscal policy effectiveness, ESCWA will extend better advocacy and policy support services to member States. It will produce further evidence-based analytical reports and technical studies to identify gaps and solutions in those areas, with a view to achieving the SDGs, taking into account national and regional priorities. ESCWA will work in close collaboration with the League of Arab States to that end.

19.29 ESCWA will support member States to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. It will focus on mobilizing financial resources and designing appropriate financing policies to address socioeconomic development gaps and implement the SDGs.

19.30 The lack of participation in policy dialogue, particularly on government budget and fiscal policy, remains one of the impediments to social justice in the region. Evidence-based policy assessments are needed in order to prepare constructive dialogue on these issues. ESCWA will support national policymaking institutions and other stakeholders in the development of policy assessment tools based on economic models, to create an enabling macroeconomic environment for regional integration and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**19.31 ESCWA will carry out various types of activities aimed at promoting economic transformation and building the capacities of member States in that regard. It will work towards increased efficiency in the infrastructure and economic policy to facilitate the expansion of exports. This will help the private sector to enhance its competitiveness, produce higher-value goods and services, develop regional value chains and improve connectivity to global ones in areas where the region has comparative advantages, benefiting from its available natural, capital and human resources. In that context, ESCWA will assist member States in achieving higher complementarity by facilitating the exchange of production factors and coordination of economic policies.**

19.32 In order to provide an evidence-based advocacy for regional economic integration and identify focus areas for the Arab region, ESCWA will undertake rigorous quantitative analyses of the legal and institutional arrangements that are necessary for creating an environment that fosters regional economic integration and the achievement of regional development objectives, including high and labour-intensive economic growth rates.

D. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS  
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2018-2019

1. Report of the Committee on Transport and Logistics on its eighteenth session (2018).
2. Servicing the nineteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics (2018).
3. Report of the Committee on Transport and Logistics on its nineteenth session (2019).
4. Servicing the twentieth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics (2019).
5. Report on evaluating the implementation levels of international transport agreements signed by Arab States (2018).
6. Report on the status of negotiations on new transport agreements that include Arab States (2018).
7. Report on logistics performance in the Arab region (2018).
8. Report on evaluating the implementation levels of international transport agreements signed by Arab States (2019).
9. Report on the status of negotiations on new transport agreements that include Arab States (2019).
10. Report on progress in implementing the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Arab region (2019).
11. Report on logistics performance in the Arab region (2019).
12. Expert group meeting on implementing the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Arab region (2018).
13. Participation in the 2018 Global Trade Facilitation Conference by preparing a report on trade facilitation in the Arab region.
14. Contribution to the annual report of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on providing assistance in the field of transport (2018-2019).
15. Training workshops on logistics issues (2018-2019).
16. Project to launch an Arab customs union (2018-2019).

Annex

**LEGISLATIVE MANDATES**

**Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration**

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 68/199 International trade and development
- 68/200 Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries
- 68/201 International financial system and development
- 68/202 External debt sustainability and development
- 68/204 Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
- 68/222 Development cooperation with middle-income countries
- 68/269 Improving global road safety
- 68/279 Modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development
- 69/205 International trade and development
- 69/207 External debt sustainability and development
- 69/208 Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
- 69/213 Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development
- 69/227 Towards a New International Economic Order
- 69/235 Industrial development cooperation
- 69/313 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

- 2014/5 Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all
- 2014/11 Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 296 (XXVI) Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals
- 303 (XXVII) Towards enhancing the macroeconomic policy in ESCWA member countries
- 313 (XXVII) Frequency of sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region

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