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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Transport and Logistics
Twentieth session
Amman, 9-10 December 2019



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

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2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Follow-up issues

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5. Developments in the field of transport and logistics in Arab countries: briefings by State representatives.

Transport, logistics and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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7. Trade costs in the Arab region.
8. Transformation towards the digital economy and its impact on the transport and logistics sector.

The Belt and Road Initiative and the Arab region

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10. Date and venue of the twenty-first session of the Committee.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Transport and Logistics at its twentieth session.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The Committee on Transport and Logistics will commence its twentieth session at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 9 December 2019, at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman. The representative of Yemen, the State that chaired the nineteenth 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.5/2019/L.1 and the organization of work in document E/ESCWA/C.5/2019/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work in that or an amended form.

Follow-up issues

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work, of technical cooperation activities and of recommendations made by the Committee at its nineteenth session (E/ESCWA/C.5/2019/3)

The Committee will review activities undertaken since the nineteenth session, which was held in Beirut from 26 to 28 November 2018, including activities under the ESCWA programme of work, technical cooperation activities implemented following requests from members States and actions taken by the secretariat in implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its nineteenth session.

The Committee is invited to take note of the activities and make comments thereon.

5. Developments in the field of transport and logistics in Arab countries (Briefings by State representatives)

Representatives of member States will present the latest developments in the transport and logistics sector at the national level since the nineteenth session of the Committee, in particular developments related to the implementation of the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab States (ITSAS).

* 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.

Transport, logistics and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

6. Round-table discussion 1: Road safety and the challenges related to the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 (E/ESCWA/C.5/2019/CRP.1)

In this first round-table discussion, participants will review the latest road safety indicators in Arab countries compared with results achieved at the global level. They will also discuss opportunities to finance road safety activities through the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund, in the light of regional priorities. These discussions will pave the way for the third Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, to be held in Stockholm on 19 and 20 February 2020, and facilitate harmonizing positions of Arab States.

Representatives of member States are invited to participate in the round-table discussion.

7. Trade costs in the Arab region (E/ESCWA/C.5/2019/4)

The Committee will discuss trade costs in the Arab region and their role in facilitating or thwarting the competition process. Discussions will draw on quantitative indicators prepared by the ESCWA secretariat, knowing that this is the first time that such indicators are calculated for the Arab region at the macro and sectoral levels. To deepen understanding, specific case studies will be explored.

The Committee is invited to comment on ways to enhance the competitiveness of Arab countries in the area of trade.

8. Transformation towards the digital economy and its impact on the transport and logistics sector (*Presentation by the ESCWA secretariat*)

The Committee will examine tangible impacts of the digital economy on services in the transport and logistics sector. It will explore the needed shift in the governance of this sector in the Arab countries to keep pace with global and regional changes in demand on transport and logistics, linked to developments in the digital economy.

The Committee is invited to comment on means to improve the governance of the transport and logistics sector in Arab countries to keep pace with the transformation towards the digital economy.

The Belt and Road Initiative and the Arab region

9. Round-table discussion 2: The Belt and Road Initiative: what is in it for the Arab region? (E/ESCWA/C.5/2019/CRP.2)

This second round-table will be dedicated to discussing the Belt and Road Initiative and its potential impact on the Arab region. Participants will review the opportunities and challenges that this initiative creates for the Arab countries, in particular to their competitiveness in trade and transport. The discussion brings together experts and representatives of Arab States who will explore experiences from Arab and non-Arab contexts.

Representatives of member States are invited to express their views during the round-table discussion.

10. Date and venue of the twenty-first session of the Committee

The Committee shall agree on the date and venue of its twenty-first session.

11. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the Committee may wish to discuss.

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

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