

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL**

Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/C.5/2021/L.1  
1 November 2021  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

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

Committee on Transport and Logistics  
Twenty-second session  
Cairo, 6-7 December 2021



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.

**Follow-up issues**

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme plan in the field of transport and logistics, of technical cooperation activities and of recommendations made by the Committee at its twenty-first session.

**Transport and logistics under the COVID-19 pandemic**

5. Round-table discussion: developments in transport and logistics in Arab countries under the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. Impact of COVID-19 on the Belt and Road Initiative: the case of the Arab region.
7. Workshop: The challenges of switching to the electronic version of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention).
8. The Suez Canal and the impact of the Ever Given incident on transport and trade globally and in Arab countries.

**Transport, logistics and sustainable development**

9. Sustainable transport project.
10. Developments in road safety issues in Arab countries.

\*\*\*

11. Date and venue of the twenty-third session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics.
12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of recommendations made by the Committee on Transport and Logistics at its twenty-second session.

### **Annotations**

1. Opening of the session

The Committee on Transport and Logistics will commence its twenty-second session at 10 a.m. on 6 December 2021, in Cairo. The representative of the State that chaired the twenty-first session of the Committee will make a welcome statement, followed by an opening address by the ESCWA secretariat.

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 elect two vice-chairs and a rapporteur from 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 apply to subsidiary bodies, states: "At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Committee 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.5/2021/L.1 and the organization of work in document E/ESCWA/C.5/2021/L.2 or as amended.

### **Follow-up issues**

4. Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme plan in the field of transport and logistics, of technical cooperation activities and of recommendations made by the Committee at its twenty-first session (E/ESCWA/C.5/2021/3)

The Committee will review the activities implemented since its twenty-first session, held online from 24 November to 8 December 2020. Some of the activities were included in the ESCWA programme plan, some were implemented based on requests by member States for technical cooperation and some were undertaken by the secretariat based on recommendations of the Committee at its twenty-first session.

The Committee is invited to review these activities and express views on them.

---

\* The Committee shall consider the draft recommendations for discussion and adoption. ESCWA member States in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Yemen.

### **Transport and logistics under the COVID-19 pandemic**

5. Round-table discussion: developments in transport and logistics in Arab countries under the COVID-19 pandemic

As part of its session, the Committee will hold a round-table discussion during which representatives of member States will make brief statements on the latest developments in transport and logistics in their countries since the twenty-first session of the Committee, particularly with regard to the implementation of the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab States (ITSAS), as well as the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic in the transport and logistics sectors.

The aim of the discussion is to highlight the challenges faced by member States in the past year and the lessons they have learned in dealing with these challenges.

6. Impact of COVID-19 on the Belt and Road Initiative: the case of the Arab region  
(E/ESCWA/C.5/2021/4)

The Committee will review the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative in the foreseeable future and long term, its impact on projects and their increased cost and the response by China and Arab States to these changes.

The Committee is invited to examine these repercussions and express views on them.

7. Workshop: the challenges of switching to the electronic version of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) (E/ESCWA/C.5/2021/5)

As part of its twenty-second session, the Committee is holding a workshop on the challenges of switching to the electronic version of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets in Arab countries (TIR Convention). The workshop will address the extent to which it will facilitate bilateral trade if Arab States apply it to land corridors connecting them.

The Committee is invited to participate in the workshop and discuss the challenges of implementing the agreement.

8. The Suez Canal and the impact of the Ever Given incident on transport and trade globally and in Arab countries (introduction by the secretariat followed by a presentation by the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport)

The Committee will review the incident of the grounding of the Ever Given in the Suez Canal on 23 March 2021 and its impact on transport and trade globally and in Arab countries. The Committee will discuss the incident, based on an introduction by the ESCWA secretariat and a presentation by the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport.

The Committee is invited to take note of the impact of the incident on transport and trade.

### **Transport, logistics and sustainable development**

9. Sustainable transport project (E/ESCWA/C.5/2021/6)

The Committee will review a brief report of the results of a sustainable transport project in which ESCWA is participating with the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Its aim is to strengthen capacities of developing and middle-income countries (Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Paraguay and Serbia) for developing evidence-based transport

policies that contribute to achieving transportation-related Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, the Committee will review the results relating to States that have recently joined the project and the project's final report and recommendations.

The Committee is invited to give views on the project and make observations.

10. Developments in road safety issues in Arab countries (presentation by the ESCWA secretariat and E/ESCWA/C.5/2021/7)

The Committee will review the latest developments on the status of road safety in Arab countries, through a presentation on the final version of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030 and a presentation of developments regarding projects funded by the United Nations Road Safety Fund. The Committee will also review a project to establish an integrated Arab road safety observatory, against the background of document E/ESCWA/C.5/2021/7. The observatory aims to support Arab States in the process of developing and implementing evidence-based policies, strategies and action plans to improve road safety.

The Committee is invited to review the latest developments on road safety in the Arab region and the observatory project and to express its views.

\*\*\*

11. Date and venue of the twenty-third session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics

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

12. Other matters

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

13. Adoption of recommendations made by the Committee on Transport and Logistics at its twenty-second session

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations for discussion and adoption.

----