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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia****REPORT****WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOOD PRACTICES  
IN ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY  
MUSCAT, 28-29 NOVEMBER 2005****Summary**

The Workshop on the Implementation of Good Practices in Road Traffic Safety aimed at discussing specific good practices in traffic safety related to human behaviour; vehicles; road design; specific examples of both good and poor practices in selected ESCWA member countries; strategies for implementing good practices and for managing poor practices in road traffic safety in the ESCWA region; and preparations for the Global Road Safety Week in April 2007.

Specifically, discussions focused on the following: (a) introducing participants to internationally recognized good practices in road safety and the mechanisms required for introducing and implementing such practices in the ESCWA region; (b) highlighting the experiences of ESCWA representatives with regard to the implementation of both good and adverse practices in across the region; (c) and exchanging views in terms of improving the application of good practices and of finding solutions to overcome poor practices.

Recommendations were reached with regard to good practices in road safety; and a list of steps to be undertaken was approved.

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## **I. RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY THE WORKSHOP**

1. The major recommendations of the Workshop, which were adopted in Muscat on 29 November 2005, are as follows:

(a) ESCWA is invited to encourage cooperation in the region on the implementation and exchange of good practices in road safety; and to organize another workshop prior to the forthcoming Global Safety Week in April 2007 in order to review the results of these activities;

(b) Each member country is encouraged to prepare and present to this future workshop a plan of action to focus on the main causes of accidents in addition to a working paper to highlight the accomplishments in terms of reducing traffic accidents. These papers will enhance the exchange of effective measures and promote common activities;

(c) Specialized workshops and/or training courses for professionals need to be conducted across the ESCWA region in a number of fields, including, most prominently, road safety audits, databases training and e-learning training;

(d) There is a need for the establishment of an adequate benchmark on road safety performance and its outcome in terms of fatalities and injuries caused by traffic accidents in ESCWA member countries, based on the relevant definitions by the International Road Traffic and Accident Database (IRTAD);

(e) The exchange of experiences can be coordinated through project teams under the leadership of one of the ESCWA member countries and aimed at the following: (i) promoting the use of such safety measures as helmets, seat belts and children seats; (ii) developing and enforcing common regional campaigns on, among others, speed reduction, young drivers, pedestrian safety and seat belts, based on the successful application of a national campaign of one of the ESCWA member countries; (iii) safety management of roads at affordable cost through a common application of road safety audits, road safety inspections and black spot programmes; and (iv) promoting the education of children on traffic issues through e-learning;

(f) A working group needs to be established with the aim of collecting, analysing and reporting on the national road safety plans of member countries, and of proposing effective measures;

(g) ESCWA will prepare a website on the activities of member countries on road safety, provided that the necessary resources are made available;

(h) ESCWA needs to assist member countries to establish and activate national road safety committees.

2. The Workshop noted with appreciation the readiness of the International Touring Alliance/International Automobile Federation (AIT/FIA) to support the activities of the project and to offer their expertise to countries of the region aimed at facilitating international transport.

3. Additionally, the Workshop expressed its appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oman for hosting the meeting and to the secretariat of ESCWA for the organizing thereof.

## **II. ADOPTED ACTIVITIES**

4. The main conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop were reached in the course of the round-table discussion on good practices in road safety. These good practices were further expounded through a series of presentations, which included the screening of a range of relevant video films.

### III. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

5. The Workshop on the Implementation of Good Practices in Road Traffic Safety (Muscat, 28-29 November 2005) was organized jointly by ESCWA and FIA. The agenda and programme of the Workshop are attached in annex II.
6. The Workshop was attended by heads of traffic safety departments and other officials dealing with traffic safety issues, consultants and representatives of international safety bodies, representatives from civil society groups dealing with traffic safety in the ESCWA region and international consultants.
7. The Workshop was opened jointly by the Minister of Transportation and Communications in Oman, H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah al-Harthi; the leader of the transport team in ESCWA, Mr. Nabil Safwat; and the Director General of FIA, Mr. David Ward.
8. In his opening address, Mr. Nabil Safwat expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of the Interior and to the Government of Oman for hosting the meeting, and stressed the importance of road safety for all countries. He pointed out that the United Nations remains seized of the matter of road safety and has undertaken many measures aimed at solving this challenge, particularly in the light of the growing number of accidents and injuries and their link to bad practices in road safety. Moreover, he affirmed that the issue remains a priority for ESCWA as underscored by several resolutions adopted during the twenty-third session of the Commission. He praised the Government of Oman for introducing to the General Assembly draft resolution A/60/L.8 on improving global road safety. Finally, Mr. Safwat stated the objectives of the Workshop and thanked Oman for its outstanding support in this area.
9. Mr. Wahid Kharoussi, an expert from Oman, discussed the global impact of road safety and cited alarming figures and statistics. He explained the sequence of events that resulted in various General Assembly resolutions, and thanked ESCWA and FIA for co-organizing the Workshop in Oman in recognition of that country's leading role in General Assembly resolutions on road safety.
10. Mr. Bassam Anani of the transport team in ESCWA detailed the current situation of traffic safety in selected ESCWA member countries; summarized the traffic safety laws applied in each country; and highlighted both the positive and the negative aspects of each relevant law. Moreover, he offered some suggestions aimed at improving road traffic safety.
11. Representatives of ESCWA countries described road traffic safety in their countries and explained the applied laws, activities and efforts by their respective Governments with regard to improving traffic safety.
12. The representative of Oman explained the e-learning programme that is being prepared by the Directorate of General Curriculum and Training in the Ministry of Education in Oman, and which is set to be incorporated into the curricula of schools and universities. This programme introduces road safety within other subjects and across various courses, with the aim of building direct awareness of good practices in road safety.
13. Mr. David Ward, the General Director of FIA, focused on the use of seat belts and other good practices in road safety. He highlighted the Costa Rica Safety Awareness Campaign, which is supported by FIA, as a successful case study that resulted in the increase in the widespread use of seat belts in that country and in new safety legislation and severe fines for non-adherence.
14. In his presentation, Mr. Mahmoud Al-Katib, a consultant for ESCWA, explained the development of road safety strategy in general and presented the strategy for the city of Riyadh as a case study. He pinpointed the need for road safety in Riyadh, in the context of similar needs of many cities across the region; gave statistics on accidents, risks, costs, injuries and fatalities; and outlined the development phases of the road safety strategy that was applied in Riyadh, and the subsequent improvements that were reaped.
15. Mr. Peter Elsenaar of Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) gave an overview of road safety in the Middle East, including the challenges and statistical results of injuries and casualties; introduced the plans

and strategies of GRSP aimed at improving road safety through its partnerships and contribution with United Nations entities, other international organizations and companies, and governmental and non-governmental associations; and distributed manuals from GRSP on good practices in road safety. Equally from GRSP, Ms. Samar Aburaad outlined further the work of the Partnership and evaluated the awareness campaign in Australia as a case study, thereby showing the positive impact of such campaigns and underscoring the recommendations of GRSP in this field. Moreover, she emphasized the importance of a crash database and black spot treatment in safety strategies and planning, and provided the case of Fiji as an example.

16. Mr. Junaid Razzak, chief of emergency medicine in the Agha Khan University in Pakistan, presented an outline of the required data for road traffic safety, including factual details needed for the collection of realistic figures on crashes, deaths and injuries in order to establish an effective system for road safety.

17. Ms. Lina Shbeeb, a consultant for ESCWA, focused on the road traffic safety situation in Jordan, and listed some facts on traffic accidents in the country and the challenges faced by the Ministry of Interior in this regard. Her presentation included a series of photographs illustrating recent pedestrian footbridges built recently to minimize crossing risks on highways; examples on some of the rules in traffic safety that are included in the education curriculum in Jordan; and figures on pedestrian crossings, including why pedestrians failed to use footbridges and level of traffic knowledge of students at different ages. She concluded that road traffic safety curriculum needed to be implemented, constantly monitored and continuously updated.

18. Mr. Hashim Madani, a consultant for ESCWA, summarized the good practices and main indicators related to traffic safety in the Gulf subregion, including general background and targets both at a global and subregional level. He listed the statistical figures of accidents, casualties and injuries in those countries, compared to those of other countries; highlighted the good and bad practices in road safety in the countries of the Gulf subregion; and offered a list of practical recommendations aimed at improving road traffic safety.

19. In his second presentation, Mr. Bassam Anani recapitulated the results of a questionnaire on the use of seat belts and other good practices in road safety that was completed by seven ESCWA member countries, and discussed each question, result and remark made by the respondents.

20. A final round-table discussion was led by Mr. Safwat and involved several of the above-mentioned experts and consultants. This discussion resulted in the recommendations of the Workshop as set forth above.

21. Furthermore, participants at the Workshop were sensitized on the importance of good practices in road traffic safety and on the need to improve them at a national level.

Annex 1\*

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\* This annex is issued as presented by the Division concerned.

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## Annex II

### **AGENDA AND PROGRAMME**

#### Monday 28 November 2005

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Registration of participants
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Item 1 Opening of the Workshop (Speeches from ESCWA, FIA and the Minister of Transportation and Communications in Oman)
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Coffee break
- 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Item 2 Presentation by ESCWA: Overview of traffic situation in the ESCWA region (Bassam Anani, ESCWA)
- Item 3 Country presentations of good practices and traffic safety
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Lunch break
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Item 4 Manuals of selected international accepted good practices (IFRC)
- 4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Coffee break
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Discussions on the manual, entitled “Global Road Safety Week”
- Close of day 1*

#### Tuesday 29 November 2005

- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Item 5 Good practices in road safety strategy
- Overview of usage of seat belts and child constraints seats (FIA)  
Road safety database (Junaid Razzak)
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Coffee break
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Item 6 Case studies of implementation of good practices in Jordan (ESCWA consultant)
- Case studies of implementation of good practices in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- Presentation on seatbelt usage in ESCWA countries (Bassam Anani, ESCWA)
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Lunch break
- 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Item 7 Round-table discussions (Moderator: Mr. Nabil Safwat) (Panel: ESCWA, FIA, IFRC and TRL)
- 4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Coffee break
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Strategy and recommendations for future work
- Close of day 2*

Annex III

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

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Title
Draft agenda and programme
Information note
Registration form
Manual of road safety best practices, Global Road Safety Partnership

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