



**Regional Workshop on Road Safety Management in the Arab Countries
United Nations House, Beirut, 27-28 November 2018**

INFORMATION NOTE

1. Background information

With more than 1.2 million fatalities and 50 million injuries every year, road traffic crashes remain the eighth leading cause of death globally, and the leading cause of death for young people aged between 15-29 years.¹ In fact, 90 per cent of road fatalities occur in low- and middle-income countries, which represent 82 per cent of the world's population and only 54 per cent of the world's registered vehicles.²

The United Nations boosted its commitment³ to preventing road traffic fatalities by launching the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 with resolution [64/255](#), which requested that the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations regional commissions prepare a plan of action of the Decade with the aim of reducing by half the expected number of road fatalities in 2020, through generalized activities in five main pillars related to: (a) road safety management; (b) safer roads and mobility; (c) safer vehicles; (d) safer road users; and (e) better response to post crashes. The resolution invites WHO and the United Nations regional commissions to coordinate regular monitoring towards meeting the target of the decade.

The United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pursuant to General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), which came into effect on 1 January 2016. Target 3.6 aims to halve the number of fatalities and injuries from road traffic crashes by 2020.

In resolution [70/260](#), the General Assembly sought to intensify both national and international collaboration to meet the two road safety-related targets in the 2030 Agenda. Recognizing the need to raise visibility and commitment, it welcomed the appointment of the first Special Envoy for Road Safety and requested the Secretary-General to consider establishing a road safety trust fund. In April 2018, in resolution [72/271](#), the General Assembly further welcomed the efforts of the Special Envoy, with secretariat support from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in effectively mobilizing sustained high-level commitment to road safety by advocating adherence to and raising awareness of the United Nations legal instruments on road safety, sharing good practices, including through participation in global and regional conferences and advocating for increased funds for road safety.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) began its efforts to coordinate and monitor progress towards the Decade target and organized a regional workshop on the implementation of the action plan for the United Nations Decade of Actions for Road Safety in the ESCWA region, in Amman, on 14 and 15 November 2012. The workshop reviewed the alarming situation of road safety in the Arab region and initiated the process of the implementation and activation of national structures for road

¹ WHO, *Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015* (Geneva, 2015).

² *Ibid.*, p. 4.

³ United Nations General Assembly resolutions on improving road safety since 2003 include resolutions [57/309](#), [58/9](#), [58/289](#), [60/5](#), [62/244](#), [64/255](#), [66/260](#) and [68/269](#).

safety management in line with the recommendations of the Global Plan of Action for the implementation of the Decade of Action.⁴

Furthermore, during the fifteenth session of the ESCWA Committee on Transport, held in Rabat on 27 and 28 January 2015, participants representing member States requested that the ESCWA secretariat prepare the guidelines for the implementation and activation of national structures dedicated to road safety management, such as national lead agencies, national road safety councils and national road safety technical committees. The Committee on Transport also requested the submission of the draft guidelines to member States prior to their approval at its sixteenth session in November 2015.

ESCWA further organized a regional workshop on road safety in Beirut on 27-29 May 2015, which took place concurrently with the third United Nations Global Road Safety Week. The workshop acknowledged the priority of road safety management and reviewed ESCWA draft guidelines for the implementation and/or activation of national systems for road safety management, which were then discussed and endorsed at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Transport, which was held in Cairo on 23 and 24 November 2015.

During the eighteenth session of the ESCWA Committee on Transport and Logistics, held in Beirut on 20 and 21 December 2017, a video message was addressed to the participants by the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Mr. Jean Todt, who stressed the seriousness of the road safety burden in the Arab region, which with 21 fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants is more than the world global average (17 fatalities per day) and exceeds four times the rate registered for the European Union (five per day). During the session, participants highlighted the confusion related to road safety management in the Arab region, manifested through the conflicting authorities responsible for the area, the lack of coherent coordination and the dearth of national leading institutions dedicated to road safety. Due to the importance of the issue, members of the Committee on Transport and Logistics recommended the organization of a regional workshop for deepening the analysis of the status of road safety in the Arab region and unveiling the challenges facing the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety and the road safety-related SDGs.

In this context, ESCWA and the Special Envoy for Road Safety, in cooperation with UNECE and the World Bank, are organizing the Regional Workshop on Road Safety Management in the Arab Countries on 27 and 28 November 2018, as part of the activities of the nineteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics (Beirut, 26-28 November 2018). The workshop will gather high-ranking officials from the ministries of transport and the ministries of interior in the Arab region to review the status of road safety management and data systems in the region and to address the basic elements of a common regional action plan to improve the situation taking into consideration best worldwide practices and lessons learned from various experiences around the world.

2. Objectives

The workshop aims at achieving the following interrelated objectives:

- (a) Raise the awareness of road safety management among participants coming from various governmental bodies and agencies related to road safety and increase their knowledge in adopting evidence-based, holistic and systematic approaches to improve road safety;
- (b) Facilitate consensus among participants on actionable recommendations for:
 - Enhancing road safety management systems (institutional reforms of the governance bodies);
 - Improving data management (creation of proper road safety information systems at both national and regional levels);

⁴ Available at http://www.who.int/roadsafety/decade_of_action/plan/plan_english.pdf?ua=1.

- Applying other identified priority road safety actions (such as international agreements, funding for road safety, etc.);
- (c) Conclude on the main elements of a regional action plan to improve road safety management.

3. Participants

The workshop will be attended by two high-ranking officials from each member State in the region. One participant will represent the Ministry of Transport and the other will represent the Ministry of Interior.

The workshop discussions will be facilitated by international experts with confirmed knowledge and field experience, coming from reputable institutions, including UNECE, ESCWA, WHO, Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and the World Bank, with the participation of representatives of national and regional organizations and institutions in charge of transport and road safety, such as the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Arab Union of Land Transport (AULT), in addition to members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academia.

4. Accompanying exhibition

As part of the ESCWA action plan for the implementation of the Road Safety Strategy for the United Nations System and its Personnel, the workshop will be accompanied with an exhibition dedicated to raise awareness on road safety aspects among participants and ESCWA personnel, such as the use of seat belts and the effects of impaired and distracted driving. The exhibition will be organized in cooperation with the Lebanese National Road Safety Council (NRSC), the Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF), the University of Saint Joseph in Beirut (USJ), the Lebanese Red Cross and specialized governmental agencies and relevant road safety NGOs.

5. Date and venue

The Regional Workshop on Road Safety in the Arab Countries will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut, on 27 and 28 November 2018.

6. Tentative programme

Day1 – Tuesday, 27 November 2018

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| 9 a.m.–9.30 a.m. Session 1: Opening Speeches Master of Ceremony: Ms. Roula Milan ESCWA, EDID | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Film projection on road safety - Mr. Jean Todt, United Nations Special Envoy for Road Safety - Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Regional Director of the World Bank - Mr. Ramzi Salamé, NRSC, Lebanon - Mr. Mounir Tabet, Acting Executive Secretary of ESCWA - Opening of the accompanying exhibition on road safety |
| 9.30 a.m.–10 a.m. | Coffee break |
| 10 a.m.–11.15 a.m. Session 2: Overview of National Systems for Road Safety Management Moderator: Mr. Moctar Mohamed El Hacene, ESCWA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 5 Ws & Hs of National Systems for Road Safety Management (Mr. Yarob Badr, ESCWA) - Status of road safety management in the Arab region, ESCWA Survey (Mr. Fouad Ghorra, ESCWA) |

Day1 – Tuesday, 27 November 2018 (continued)

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| 11.15 a.m.–11.30 a.m. | Coffee break |
| 11.30 a.m.–13 p.m. Session 3: Group Discussions on the Institutional Reforms Needed to Improve Road Safety Management in the Arab Region Moderators: - Mr. Yarob Badr, ESCWA - Mr. Michalis P. Adamantiadis, EuroMed | - Background presentation on the Global Framework Plan of Action for Road Safety (Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski, UNECE) - Identification of priorities and elaboration of actionable recommendations for establishing or enhancing road safety management systems |
| 13 p.m.–14 p.m. | Lunch break and exhibition activities |
| 14 p.m.–15.45 p.m. Session 4: Strategies and Action Plans – Conditions for Success Moderator: Mr. Mahmoud Abdallat, AULT | - Policies, strategies and action plans: basic elements (Mr. Yarob Badr, ESCWA) - Example from the European region (Mr. Peter van der Knaap, SWOV, Netherlands) - Open Discussion |
| 15.45 p.m.–16 p.m. | Coffee break |
| 16 p.m.–17 p.m. Session 5: Open Discussion on the Status of National Strategies on Road Safety and the Way Forward Moderator: Mr. Wassim Raphael, USJ | - The discussion is expected to conclude on the status of national strategies with regard to: (a) the United Nations Decade of Action and the SDGs; and (b) regional priority areas; - Actionable recommendations for immediate and short-term regional priorities. |

Day 2 – Wednesday, 28 November 2018

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| 9 a.m.–10.45 a.m. Session 6: Road Safety Information Systems Moderator: Mr. Yarob Badr, ESCWA | - Improving road crash data collection systems and data sharing in the EuroMed region (Mr. Michalis P. Adamantiadis, EuroMed Transport Support Project) - Good practices national and regional observatories on road safety (Dr. Maria Segui Gomez, FIA) - Status of road safety information systems in the Arab region, Results of ESCWA Survey (Ms. Zahira Abounoas, USJ/ESCWA) - Way forward: ESCWA project for the establishment of an Arab road safety observatory (Mr. Adel Al Ghaberi, ESCWA) |
| 10.45 a.m.–11 a.m. | Coffee break |
| 11 a.m.–12.30 p.m. Session 7: Towards a Sustainable Enhancement of Road Safety in the Arab Region: The Role of United Nations Instruments Moderator: Mr. Ziad Aql, YASA | - Implementation of the United Nations road safety conventions and related actions (Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski, UNECE) - Open discussion on the value of international agreements for improvement at national and regional level |

Day 2 – Wednesday, 28 November 2018 (continued)

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| 12.30 p.m.–13.30 p.m. | Lunch break |
| 13.30 p.m.–15 p.m. Session 8: Panel & Discussion on Funding Issues Moderator: Mr. Ramzi Salamé, NRSC | Experts panel - Opening Statement on the value and role of the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund (Moderator) - Overview of new funding opportunities to improve road safety in the Arab countries (Mr. Ziad Nakat, World Bank Lebanon) - Islamic Development Bank Approach to support road safety initiatives (Mr. Omar Mehyar, IDB) General discussion |
| 15 p.m.–15.30 p.m. Session 9: Conclusions and the Way Ahead Moderator: Mr. Mahmoud Abdallat, AULT | The elements of a regional action plan to enhance road safety in the Arab region: compilation of actionable recommendations. - Mr. Ziad Nakat, World Bank, Lebanon - Ms. Priti Gautam, Office of United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety - Mr. Yarob Badr, ESCWA |

7. Accommodation

In order to facilitate the movement and transportation of participants during the workshop, ESCWA suggests that they make reservations at one of the hotels in Beirut with which the ESCWA secretariat has made arrangements at discounted rates. A full list of such hotels can be found at https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/events/files/hotels_list_august_2018.pdf.

8. Entry visas

Participants may obtain entry visas from the Lebanese embassy in their country. If necessary, ESCWA can assist in obtaining visas, provided a copy of the passport containing all the necessary information is submitted to ESCWA by 7 November 2018 at the latest.

9. Correspondence

All workshop-related correspondence should be addressed to:

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10. *Abbreviations*

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| AULT | Arab Union of Land Transport (Amman, Jordan) |
| AROSO | Arab Road Safety Organization |
| ESCWA | Economic and Social Commission for West Asia |
| FIA | Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (International Automobile Federation) |
| IDB | Islamic Development Bank |
| LAS | League of Arab States |
| NRSC | National Road Safety Council (Lebanon) |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SWOV | Institute for Road Safety Research (Netherland) |
| UNECE | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| USJ | Université Saint-Joseph (Saint Joseph University) (Lebanon) |
| WB | World Bank |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
