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

Transport & connectivity to GVCs  
15 November 2016  
UN House  
Beirut, Lebanon

**INFORMATION NOTE**

**I. BACKGROUND**

Global trade is increasingly driven by global value chains (GVCs) as evidenced by the fact that trade in intermediate goods and services now accounts for around 60 percent of global trade. The share of developing countries in global value added has been on the rise and improved from 20 percent in 1990 to 30 percent in 2000 and to over 40 percent today.

The importance of the global value chains is related to their role in achieving developmental gains since they present a possible venue for developing countries to improve their income levels.

Transport is an important determinant of trade cost and trade volume. It is one of the main drivers of competitiveness and participation particularly in GVCs since trade in intermediate products is more sensitive to transport cost than trade in final products.

In its effort to support Arab countries economic growth and further integration at the global and regional level through streamlining trade procedures and enhancing efficiency of transport and logistics, ESCWA is organizing an Expert group Meeting to discuss issues related to transport efficiency and infrastructure and its role in fostering connectivity to GVCs in the Arab region.

**II. OBJECTIVE**

The EGM aims to discuss the various dimensions of transport role in trade and in particular its role including the role of logistics and trade facilitation in fostering connectivity to GVCs. The meeting will focus on various issues related to connectivity to GVCs and will attempt to shed light on some success stories from the region in improving the performance of their transport sectors and logistical services to reap the benefit from further integration in the most growing mode of global trade

**III. PARTICIPANTS**

The meeting will bring together some experts in the field of transport and logistics services from the region and from outside the region.

**All participants are kindly asked to confirm their participation by completing the registration form and sending it back to Ms. Hana Saad at [saad@un.org](mailto:saad@un.org) by 25 October 2016.**

#### IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

The meeting will be held on 15 November 2016 at UN House in Beirut, Lebanon. The meeting will be conducted in English.

#### V. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Participants are required to secure their own visa for entry to Lebanon. Participants should check with the Embassy of Lebanon in their country of residence to see if a visa is necessary and to secure their visa prior to departure if needed. Related information is also available on the World Travel Guide via the following link: <http://www.worldtravelguide.net>.

Air travel reservations and ticketing for sponsored participants will be arranged by ESCWA. Roundtrip tickets will be issued in economy class on the most economic route in accordance with United Nations travel rules and regulations. Participants attending the meeting at their own cost are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

Sponsored participants will receive a daily subsistence allowance (DSA), as per the United Nations travel rules and regulations, for up to two nights to cover the cost of their hotel, meals and incidental expenses during the course of the meeting. A fixed terminal expenses allowance (US\$ 152) will also be provided to cover airport transfers.

Sponsored participants are kindly requested to present the following documents to the ESCWA representative at the registration desk on the day of the meeting: **original passport, copy of airline ticket and original boarding pass**. Review of these documents is necessary to allow for the issuance of DSA.

#### VI. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondences related to the meeting should be addressed to:

**To:**

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