

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

Committee on Transport and Logistics
Eighteenth session
Beirut, 20-21 December 2017

**Information note***1. Background information*

The eighteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics is a continuation of the efforts made by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in the field of transport and logistics, given the effective role of transport in achieving regional integration.

At this session, the Committee will review the progress made in that regard since its seventeenth session, which was held in Cairo on 23 and 24 November 2015. Several reports and technical papers will be presented to the Committee on the various agenda items, namely on the following: (a) actions taken by ESCWA in the field of transport and logistics under its programme of work and technical cooperation activities; (b) the ESCWA vision for a multimodal transport system in the Arab region; (c) the major drivers of change in the transport and logistics sector and their impact in the Arab region; (d) the role of transport in the connectivity to global value chains; (e) the Logistics Performance Index, its components, methodology and scores in the Arab region; (f) the status of implementation of trade facilitation measures in the Arab region; (g) the road safety in the Arab States and challenges to implementing the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

Representatives of member States are also invited to present, in a panel discussion organized by the secretariat, the progress achieved by their countries in the development of the transport and logistics sector since the seventeenth session of the Committee.

2. Agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda and annotations of the eighteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics will be presented to the Committee in document E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/L.1. The organization of work is outlined in document E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/L.2.

3. Documentation

All documents related to the session are posted on the webpage dedicated to the session on the ESCWA website, available at <https://www.unescwa.org/events/committee-transport-logistics-18th-session>.

4. *Participants*

In view of the numerous transport-related issues and activities in the region that arise from the variety of transport modes and systems and the many parties involved, it is recommended that the relevant authorities in member States form delegations that include specialists in the various fields related to the topics of discussion. Concerned regional and international organizations and institutions and civil society would also be invited to attend the session as observers.

Participating governments (with the exception of one delegate each from Mauritania, Palestine, the Sudan, and Yemen) shall be responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives, in accordance with United Nations practice, which also applies to participating organizations.

5. *Date and venue*

The eighteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics will be held at the United Nations House, in Beirut, on 20 and 21 December 2017. Registration of delegates will begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 December 2017, and the opening session will start at 10 a.m. The session will conclude at 1 p.m. on Thursday, 21 December 2017.

6. *Language*

Presentations and discussions will be made in Arabic.

7. *Accommodation*

The ESCWA secretariat suggests that participants make reservations in a hotel nearby the ESCWA headquarters. The secretariat has prepared a list of hotels that offer discounted rates to participants in ESCWA meetings. The list is available at https://iseek-beirut.un.org/system/files/document_link/hotels_list_apr2017.pdf. To benefit from the discounted rates, delegates should mention that they are participating in the session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics which is organized by ESCWA. Pick-up and drop-off services may be arranged directly with the hotel.

8. *Entry visas*

Participants may obtain entry visas to Lebanon through the Lebanese Embassy in their respective countries. It is recommended to attach the invitation letter sent by ESCWA to the visa application. The secretariat may assist in obtaining entry visas for participants who are unable to do so in their home countries. Participants who need assistance in this matter should send a scanned copy, in colour, of their passport containing all the required information to the secretariat before 20 November 2017.

9. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be addressed to the following ESCWA officials:

Mr. Adel al-Ghaberi
First Economic Officer
Economic Development and Integration Division
Tel.: + 961-1-978457
Fax: + 961-1-981510
E-mail: al-ghaberi@un.org

Ms. Hanaa Saad
Administrative Assistant
Economic Development and Integration Division
Tel.: + 961-1-978452
Fax: + 961-1-981510
E-mail: saad@un.org
