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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017  
IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT****Summary**

The proposed programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of transport presents a set of activities and outputs related to the expected accomplishments envisaged under subprogramme 3 on economic development and integration of the strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017.

The Committee on Transport is invited to review the proposed programme of work and present comments on the outputs, the extent to which they meet the priorities of member States and their relevance to the expected accomplishments in the field of transport under subprogramme 3. The Committee is also invited to discuss ways to concretely measure the indicators of achievement, in order to accurately monitor progress achieved in member States as a result of implementing the proposed outputs.

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## Introduction

1. The proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of transport was prepared on the basis of subprogramme 3 on economic development and integration of the strategic framework of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2016-2017.<sup>1</sup> The subprogramme places emphasis on promoting economic development and regional integration through policies and programmes related to infrastructure logistics; transport; trade; macroeconomic convergence; financing for development; economic governance and planning; and forecasting and modeling. It is implemented by the Economic Development and Globalization Division at ESCWA. Under this subprogramme, ESCWA undertakes research and policy analyses; provides policy advice and capacity-building to Governments of member States and regional institutions involved in the process of regional integration; and provides a platform for advocacy and knowledge-sharing.

2. This document presents a set of activities and outputs related to the expected accomplishments envisaged under subprogramme 3. The Committee on Transport is invited to review the proposed programme of work and make comments on the extent to which the proposed outputs meet the priorities and needs of targeted beneficiaries, namely the ministries and bodies concerned with transport in member States. The Committee is also invited to examine the relevance of those outputs to the expected accomplishments in the field of transport under subprogramme 3. Participants are finally invited to discuss ways to concretely measure the indicators of achievement in order to accurately monitor progress achieved in member States as a result of implementing the proposed outputs.

### SUBPROGRAMME 3: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION

#### A. OBJECTIVE

3. The objective of subprogramme 3 is to achieve a decent standard of living for all people in member States, through sustained, inclusive and integrated regional economic development.

#### B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

4. Aspects related to transport in the expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and outputs of subprogramme 3 are presented in bold characters in order to distinguish them from other areas covered by the subprogramme.

<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
<p>(a) Member States reform economic institutions and develop and implement policies based on principles of good governance in order to enable economic planning and policymaking in support of inclusive and sustainable development</p> <p><i>Strategic pillar: good governance and resilience</i></p> <p><i>Priority area: institutional development</i></p>	<p>(a) (i) Number of member States that commit to or pass regulatory reforms or legislation related to the improvement of governance in economic institutions</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2012-2013: 0 member States committed to or passed regulatory reforms</p> <p>Estimate for 2014-2015: 2 member States commit to or pass regulatory reforms</p> <p>Target for 2016-2017: 4 member States commit to or pass regulatory reforms</p>

<sup>1</sup> ESCWA, Revised draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017 (E/ESCWA/28/5). Available from [http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/sessions/editor/Download.asp?table\\_name=sess26\\_documents&field\\_name=ID&FileID=248](http://www.escwa.un.org/about/gov/sessions/editor/Download.asp?table_name=sess26_documents&field_name=ID&FileID=248).

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p>(b) Member States design and implement pro-poor, rights- and evidence-based economic plans and policies towards eradicating poverty and reducing income inequality</p> <p><i>Strategic pillar: inclusive development</i> <i>Priority area: social justice</i></p>	<p>(ii) Number of policies related to good economic governance adopted by member States with the assistance of ESCWA</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> 2012-2013: 0 policies adopted Estimate for 2014-2015: 2 policies adopted Target for 2016-2017: 3 policies adopted</p> <p>(iii) Number of member States that improve their rating on established national and/or international indicators for good economic governance, such as business environment scorecards, the Open Budget Index, or the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> 2012-2013: 0 member States improved their rating Estimate for 2014-2015: 3 member States improve their rating Target for 2016-2017: 6 member States improve their rating</p> <p>(iv) Number of member States that implement the models advocated by ESCWA to prepare national development strategies for evidence-based policy dialogue</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> 2012-2013: 0 member States implemented ESCWA models Estimate for 2014-2015: 2 member States implement ESCWA models Target for 2016-2017: 4 member States implement ESCWA models</p> <p>(b) (i) Number of member States that adopt plans and policies that promote new methods of monitoring poverty</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i> 2012-2013: 0 member States adopted such plans and policies Estimate for 2014-2015: 0 member States adopt such plans and policies Target for 2016-2017: 3 member States adopt such plans and policies</p>

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p>(c) National policymaking institutions develop evidence-based tools to create decent and competitive jobs for men and women</p> <p><i>Strategic pillar: inclusive development</i></p> <p><i>Priority area: knowledge economy and employment</i></p>	<p>(ii) Number of pro-poor, rights- and evidence-based plans designed and implemented</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2012-2013: 0 plans designed and implemented</p> <p>Estimate for 2014-2015: 0 plans designed and implemented</p> <p>Target for 2016-2017: 3 plans designed and implemented</p> <p>(c) (i) Number of member States that design and incorporate an employment agenda into their national development planning mechanisms</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2012-2013: 0 member States designed and incorporated such agenda</p> <p>Estimate for 2014-2015: 0 member States design and incorporate such agenda</p> <p>Target for 2016-2017: 3 member States design and incorporate such agenda</p>
<p>(d) Member States and regional institutions develop policies and implementation mechanisms towards economic policy convergence</p> <p><i>Strategic pillar: regional integration</i></p> <p><i>Priority area: policy coherence</i></p>	<p>(ii) Number of member States requesting and receiving ESCWA support in developing knowledge-based economic strategies and policies to reduce unemployment</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2012-2013: 0 member States requested and received ESCWA support</p> <p>Estimate for 2014-2015: 2 member States request and receive ESCWA support</p> <p>Target for 2016-2017: 4 member States request and receive ESCWA support</p> <p>(d) Number of member States taking steps towards coordinating their fiscal and monetary policies</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2012-2013: 0 member States took such steps</p> <p>Estimate for 2014-2015: 2 member States take such steps</p> <p>Target for 2016-2017: 4 member States take such steps</p>
<p>(e) <b>Member States and regional institutions develop plans and policies for cross-border infrastructure, especially in transport and trade facilitation</b></p>	<p>(e) (i) <b>Number of member States that improve their major logistic performance indicators</b></p>

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
<p><i>Strategic pillar: regional integration</i>  <i>Priority area: agreements and strategies</i></p>	<p><b><i>Performance measures:</i></b>  <b>2012-2013: 0 member States improved their indicators</b>  <b>Estimate for 2014-2015: 2 member States improve their indicators</b>  <b>Target for 2016-2017: 4 member States improve their indicators</b></p> <p>(ii) <b>Number of member States that adopt or develop plans or programmes containing new measures in conformity with the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization</b></p> <p><b><i>Performance measures:</i></b>  <b>2012-2013: 0 member States adopted such plans</b>  <b>Estimate for 2014-2015: 2 member States adopt such plans</b>  <b>Target for 2016-2017: 4 member States adopt such plans</b></p> <p>(iii) <b>Number of instances whereby member States adopt the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM) agreements and establish national committees for transport and trade facilitation</b></p> <p><b><i>Performance measures:</i></b>  <b>2012-2013: 43 instances whereby member States adopted ITSAM agreements and established national committees</b>  <b>Estimate for 2014-2015: 46 instances whereby member States adopt ITSAM agreements and establish national committees</b>  <b>Target for 2016-2017: 48 instances whereby member States adopt ITSAM agreements and establish national committees</b></p>

### C. EXTERNAL FACTORS

5. Subprogramme 3 will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States remain committed to increasing subregional and regional cooperation and integration; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in budget funding; (c) the political and security situation in member States allows for the implementation of the work plan; and (d) up-to-date and reliable statistics are made available.

## D. STRATEGY

6. The Economic Development and Globalization Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 3. The legislative mandates for this subprogramme are provided by the 2013 Report of the Secretary-General on Global economic governance and development; the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017); the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development; the Monterrey Consensus; the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development; the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq; and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and ESCWA.

7. ESCWA will promote equitable growth and sustainability, regional integration and economic governance by supporting member States in reforming economic institutions and developing and implementing policies based on good governance; designing and implementing pro-poor, rights- and evidence-based economic plans and policies; working towards creating and improving access to decent and competitive jobs for men and women; fostering policies and implementation mechanisms towards economic policy convergence; and enhancing regional integration.

8. The main directives of the subprogramme in the biennium 2016-2017 are the needs and demands of the populations of the region. The primary concern of the Arab region is the promotion of decent employment opportunities in an equitable knowledge economy that is based on good governance and poverty eradication.

9. Regional integration accompanied by evidence-based planning is highly needed to enhance regional economic development. Efforts will focus on the implementation of intraregional and international agreements on trade and transport, and the establishment of well-coordinated fiscal, investment and monetary policies.

10. To achieve the above, ESCWA will develop and use economic analysis and forecasting tools, such as macroeconomic models that enable sound policy recommendations; conduct the research needed for the preparation of flagship publications; and provide technical assistance and capacity-building based on the individual needs of member States.

11. Work will be carried out in close coordination with relevant stakeholders in member States, particularly Governments, development partners, including international financial institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector. Existing and new partnerships with other regional commissions, United Nations agencies, the League of Arab States, regional and international organizations and academic institutions will be strengthened.

## E. OUTPUTS

12. During the biennium 2016-2017, the following outputs are expected to be delivered under subprogramme 3. The outputs related to transport are presented in bold in order to distinguish them from the other expected accomplishments:

(a) *Servicing intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (twenty-ninth session)*

Parliamentary documentation:

- a. Report of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development on its eleventh session (2016, expected accomplishment (e));
- b. **Report of the Committee on Transport on its seventeenth session (2016, expected accomplishment (e)).**

(ii) *Committee on Transport*

a. **Servicing the meetings of the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Committee on Transport (2016 and 2017, expected accomplishment (e));**

b. **Parliamentary documentation:**

**Implementation of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM) (2016 and 2017, expected accomplishment (e)).**

(iii) *Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development*

a. Servicing the meetings of the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development (2016 and 2017, expected accomplishments (d) and (e));

b. Parliamentary documentation:

i. **Promoting trade in services in the Arab region (2016, expected accomplishment (e));**

ii. Regional financial integration (2017, expected accomplishment (d)).

(iv) *Ad hoc expert groups*

Five expert group meetings on the following topics:

a. Identification and evaluation of non-tariff measures in the Arab region (2016, expected accomplishment (e));

b. **Transport connectivity and regional value chains (2016, expected accomplishment (e));**

c. **Deepening regional economic integration through the liberalization of trade in services in the Arab region (prospects, requisites and implications) (2016, expected accomplishment (e));**

d. Evaluation and monitoring of macroeconomic policies coordination (2016, expected accomplishment (d));

e. Preparing Arab countries for the tenth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference (2017, expected accomplishment (e)).

(b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget and extrabudgetary)*

(i) *Recurrent publications*

a. **Arab Economic Integration (2017, expected accomplishment (d));**

b. Annual report on the activities undertaken by the Arab Trade and Economic Integration Centre (ATEIC) (2016 and 2017, all expected accomplishments).



(ii) *Non-recurrent publications*

- a. **Promoting trade in services in the Arab region (2016, expected accomplishment (e));**
- b. Monitoring and evaluating the progress of the Arab Customs Union (2016, expected accomplishment (d));
- c. **Transport connectivity and regional value chains (2016, expected accomplishment (e));**
- d. **Implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in Arab countries in preparation of the Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization in 2017 (2017, expected accomplishment (e)).**

(iii) *Technical material*

Paper on identification and evaluation of non-tariff measures in the Arab region (2016, expected accomplishment (e)).

(iv) *Contribution to joint outputs*

Progress report on the collaboration with Arab regional organizations on regional integration issues (2017, all expected accomplishments).

(v) *Events*

- a. Launching the Arab Economic Integration Report (2017, expected accomplishment (d));
- b. Side event during the tenth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference to support Arab countries in the negotiation during the conference (2017, expected accomplishment (e)).

(c) *Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)*

*Advisory services*

- a. Fiscal implications of the Arab Customs Union and reforms to offset potential losses (2016-2017, expected accomplishment (d));
- b. Fiscal policy harmonization (2016-2017, expected accomplishment (d));
- c. **Implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement under the Bali Agreement (2016-2017, expected accomplishment (e)).**

Annex

**LEGISLATIVE MANDATES**

**Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration**

*General Assembly resolutions*

- 64/191 External debt sustainability and development
- 64/193 Follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of the 2008 Review Conference (Doha Declaration on Financing for Development)
- 64/255 Improving global road safety
- 65/10 Sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for poverty eradication and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
- 66/260 Improving global road safety
- 67/198 External debt sustainability and development
- 67/199 Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
- 67/230 The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order
- 67/289 The United Nations in global economic governance

*Economic and Social Council resolution*

- 2013/44 Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

*ESCWA resolutions*

- 296 (XXVI) Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals
- 303 (XXVII) Towards enhancing the macroeconomic policy in ESCWA member countries
- 313 (XXVII) Frequency of sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region

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