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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

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



Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The Committee on Transport and Logistics will commence its session at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 December 2017, in the Conference Hall at United Nations House in Beirut. The representative of Saudi Arabia, the country which chaired the seventeenth session of the Committee, will make a welcome statement. The representative of the ESCWA executive secretariat will then deliver the inaugural speech.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia states: "Member States shall chair the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers".* Pursuant to that rule, Mauritania shall chair the eighteenth session of the Committee, succeeding Saudi Arabia, which chaired the seventeenth session from 23 January to 20 December 2017. The Committee shall then select two vice-chairs and a rapporteur from among representatives of member States.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which applies to subsidiary bodies states: "At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda". Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will be presented with the provisional agenda and annotations for this session in document E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/L.1 and the organization of work in document E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work in that or an amended form.

4. Progress achieved in the field of transport and logistics

The executive secretariat will present a report on the subject and facilitate briefings to be made by representatives of member States, as follows:

(a) Implementation of transport and logistics activities under the ESCWA programme of work (E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/3)

This report contains a review of the actions taken by the secretariat in the field of transport and logistics under the ESCWA programme of work and technical cooperation services it provided to member States upon their request since the seventeenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics from February to December 2017. Those activities aimed to enhance the role of transport in sustainable development and regional integration between Arab States.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of those activities and make comments and suggestions thereon.

(b) Action taken by member States (Briefings by States' representatives)

Representatives of member States will present latest developments and planned projects in the transport and logistics sector in their respective countries.

* ESCWA member States in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Yemen.

5. ESCWA vision for a multimodal transport system in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/4)

This report describes a three-year project proposed by ESCWA, to be undertaken in potential partnership with the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, with a view to formulating a mutually agreed upon strategic vision for a multimodal transport system in the Arab region which would promote regional integration and sustainable inclusive socioeconomic development in the Arab region, and tools for assessing investment needs, transport policy reform and environmental impact throughout the region.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the project and make comments thereon.

6. The role of transport in the connectivity to global value chains
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/5)

The secretariat will present a report on the efficiency of transport infrastructure and services for economic transformation in the Arab region, and their suitability in enabling connectivity to global value chains, based on available international indicators. The report explains the role of transport as a component of the Trade in Value Added (TiVA) project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Trade Organization, which develops estimates by constructing global input-output tables to reflect the increasingly global nature of production driven by global value chains.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments thereon.

7. Logistics Performance Index in the Arab region: components, methodology and scores
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/6)

The secretariat will present a report on the Logistics Performance Index (LPI), its components and the methodology used to prepare it. The report contains the scores recorded by Arab countries about their performance according to the Index and ways to improve LPI scores. The secretariat has prepared this report pursuant to a recommendation by the Committee on Transport and Logistics at its seventeenth session.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments thereon.

8. Implementation of trade facilitation measures in the Arab region
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/7)

The secretariat will present an overview of the state of implementation of trade facilitation measures in Arab States according to the Trade Facilitation and Development Agreement which provides for the establishment of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area. Information on the subject will serve as a base line for the follow-up on the progress to be achieved by Arab States in the area of logistics in the next few years.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the report and make comments thereon.

9. Road safety in the Arab States and challenges to implementing the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020
(E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/IG.1/8)

The secretariat will present the results of the field survey conducted as a mid-period review of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 which was proclaimed by the United Nations to improve road safety in the world. The survey compiled information on the state of safety in the Arab States and developments achieved in the period 2011-2015, and the challenges hindering the improvement of road safety.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the survey results and make comments thereon. They are also invited to make briefings on the status of road safety in their respective countries and the challenges hindering the implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety.

10. Major drivers of change in the transport and logistics sector and their impact on the Arab region
(Panel discussion)

The secretariat will moderate a high-level panel discussion with the participation of decision makers and experts in the field of transport and logistics in the Arab region to discuss the major global drivers of change in this field and their potential impact on the transport modes in the region and the options and opportunities to be explored with a view to embracing those changes and addressing challenges associated with them. Before the panel discussion, the secretariat will make a visual presentation on the internal and external factors impacting the development of the transport sector to foresee the prospects of major changes in the field of transport in the world in the period until 2030 and their impacts on the transport sector in the Arab region.

11. Date and venue of the nineteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics

Representatives of member States shall agree on the date and venue of the nineteenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics, which will be held in 2018.

12. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the representatives of member States may wish to discuss.

13. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on Transport and Logistics at its eighteenth session

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations of its eighteenth session for discussion and adoption.
