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

Committee on Transport  
Twelfth session  
Beirut, 17-19 May 2011

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS**

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6. Progress achieved in implementing the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq:
  - (a) Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq;
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8. Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Transport on its twelfth session.

## ANNOTATIONS

### 1. Opening of the session

The twelfth session of the Committee on Transport will commence at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, 17 May 2011, at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations House, in Beirut. The representative of Qatar, in his capacity as Chairperson of the eleventh session of the Committee, will make a welcome statement. Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, will then deliver the inaugural speech. The session is expected to be held under the auspices of His Excellency Mr. Ghazi El Areeidi, Minister of Public Works and Transport in Lebanon.

### 2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia states: "Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of 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".<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to that rule, Kuwait assumes the chairmanship of the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport. In keeping with the spirit of that rule, and with a view to ensuring continuity, the Committee on Transport has, in previous sessions, adopted the following procedure when selecting its two Vice-Chairmen and its Rapporteur:

- (a) The country that chaired the preceding session shall assume one position of Vice-Chairman;
- (b) The second position of Vice-Chairman shall be assumed by the country next in alphabetical order to the country chairing the current session;
- (c) The position of Rapporteur shall be assumed by the country next in alphabetical order to the country assuming the second position of Vice-Chairman.

The Committee may follow this procedure in the selection of officers for the twelfth session. Accordingly, the representatives of Qatar and Lebanon shall assume the positions of Vice-Chairmen and the representative of Egypt shall assume the position of Rapporteur.

### 3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Terms of Reference and 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 Chairman has assumed his 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 for this session in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/L.1 and the organization of work in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work in that or an amended form.

### 4. General discussion on transport issues in the Arab Mashreq: First Meeting of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/3)

The general discussion at this session will address the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region. It will constitute the first meeting of the

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<sup>1</sup> ESCWA member countries in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

Working Group that was established for that purpose pursuant to a recommendation made by the Committee at its eleventh session (Beirut, 22-24 March 2010). At that session, the Committee recommended the adoption of the proposal for the establishment of a working group on the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region, after incorporating the agreed amendments thereto.<sup>2</sup> Subsequently, member countries informed the secretariat of their candidates for membership of the Working Group. The functions of the Working Group as listed in the document shall constitute proposed items for discussion and a plan of action for the Working Group.

Interventions made by member country representatives under this item may include remarks on all agenda items, with a view to enhancing interaction between member countries and the secretariat.

5. Progress achieved in the field of transport since the eleventh session of the Committee on Transport (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/4)

Under this item, the Committee will be presented with the following two reports:

(a) Follow-up on the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its eleventh session (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/4(Part I))

The Committee will review action and measures taken in the field of transport in implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its eleventh session. The document submitted to the Committee under this item presents each recommendation made and the action taken to implement it. Representatives of member countries are invited to offer their comments and make observations on the needs of their countries in respect of the implementation of the recommendations.

(b) Follow-up on the implementation of transport-related activities under ESCWA programme of work (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/4(Part II))

The Committee will review progress made in implementing transport-related activities undertaken since its eleventh session under ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011. Representatives of member countries are invited to take note of those activities and make proposals and recommendations.

6. Progress achieved in implementing the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM) (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/5)

Under this item, the Committee will review the following reports related to three components of ITSAM:

(a) Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/5(Part I))

The Committee will review the progress achieved in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq.

(b) National committees for the facilitation of transport and trade (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/5(Part II))

The Committee will review the progress achieved in establishing and activating national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade;

<sup>2</sup> ESCWA, Report of the Committee on Transport on its eleventh session, Annex 1, E/ESCWA/EDGD/2010/IG.1/8/Report. Available in Arabic at: <http://css.escwa.org.lb/EDGD/1043/1.pdf>.

(c) Road safety (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/5(Part III))

In this report, the Committee will review the progress achieved in implementing Moscow Declaration which was adopted at the First Global Conference on Road Safety: Time for Action (Moscow, 19-20 November 2009), in particular with respect to the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 called for by the Conference. The Decade was proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/255 of 2 March 2010. The report also contains the outcome and recommendations made by the Expert Group Meeting on Financing Infrastructure and Road Safety in the ESCWA Region, which was organized by ESCWA in Manama, from 1 to 3 February 2011.

The Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 for the ESCWA region will be launched in the morning of the first day of the session, Tuesday 17 May 2011, prior to the opening of the session.

7. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2011/IG.1/6)

In this report, the Committee will review the proposed outputs under subprogramme 3, Economic Development and Integration, for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport. The responsibility for implementing the transport-related outputs lies with the Economic Development and Globalization Division at ESCWA.

8. Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport

Representatives of member countries shall agree on the date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport, given that it convenes in the first quarter of 2012.

9. Other matters

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

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Transport on its twelfth session

The Committee will consider the draft report on its twelfth session, containing the recommendations, for discussion and adoption.

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