

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/7
14 February 2012
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Transport
Thirteenth session
Beirut, 24-26 April 2012

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**PROPOSED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015
IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT****Summary**

The proposed strategic framework of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2014-2015, which encompasses the strategy for its seven subprogrammes, will be submitted to the upcoming twenty-seventh session of the Commission to be held from 7 to 10 May 2012, for review and endorsement.

This document presents the part related to subprogramme 3, economic development and integration, of ESCWA strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015. It lays out the objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, external factors and strategy for subprogramme 3 which covers the activities of ESCWA in the fields of economic analysis, financing for development and trade and transport. The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Economic Development and Globalization Division.

The Committee is invited to review the proposed strategic framework and provide comments thereon.

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SUBPROGRAMME 3: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION

A. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Objective: To achieve a decent standard of living for all people in Western Asia, through sustained growth and human security within a more integrated region in line with the overall strategic objectives of ESCWA.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened capacity of member countries to develop inclusive and equitable socio-economic conditions through pro-poor growth policies focused on employment generation and inclusive and equitable financial policies	(a) (i) Number of member countries adopting inclusive and fair macroeconomic framework, with ESCWA assistance (ii) Number of policies and measures adopted by member countries with ESCWA assistance to implement the Monterrey Consensus
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to develop knowledge-based economies with a view to sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation through effective macroeconomics as well as promoting economic diversification and competitiveness for decent job creation	(b) (i) Number of member countries that request ESCWA support in developing national strategies for knowledge-based economy and competitiveness
(c) Enhanced capacity of member countries to coordinate their social and economic policies, and ensure the implementation of regional economic agreements to achieve the potential for intraregional integration	(c) (i) The establishment of a regional coordination platform for macroeconomic policy, with ESCWA support (ii) Increase in number of member countries implementing regional agreements, with ESCWA assistance
(d) Enhanced regional integration of member countries through developing and harmonizing the physical and legislative regional infrastructure including the frameworks associated with the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq	(d) Number of countries adopting the transport agreements and/or establishing national transport and trade committees
(e) Enhanced capacity of public institutions to create an enabling environment for development through nationally led and owned good governance practice for the implementation of enhanced macroeconomic management with the full engagement of civil society organizations and the private sector	(e) Number of member countries requesting ESCWA support in governance reforms in line with macroeconomic changes

B. EXTERNAL FACTORS

18.44 Subprogramme 3 will achieve the expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries remain committed to increasing subregional and regional cooperation and integration; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary funding; (c) the political situation in the region allows the implementation of the work plan; and (d) up-to-date and reliable statistics are made available.

C. STRATEGY

18.45 The responsibility for implementing subprogramme 3 lies with the Economic Development and Globalization Division. The Millennium Development Goals, the revised Damascus Declaration on Responding to the International Financial Crisis in the ESCWA Region, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Doha Development Agenda, the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq, and the relevant General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ESCWA resolutions provide the legislative authority for the subprogramme.

18.46 To achieve equitable growth and sustainability, the subprogramme will work with rigor to support member countries to strengthen their national capacity to develop inclusive and equitable socio-economic conditions through pro-poor growth policies focused on employment generation and inclusive and equitable financial policies; and to develop knowledge-based economies with a view to achieving sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation through the adoption of effective macroeconomics and the promotion of economic diversification and competitiveness for decent job creation ensuring a more equitable distribution of benefit of growth. The expected results of subprogramme 3 in the biennium 2014-2015 will be reflected in the number of member countries that will adopt an inclusive and fair macroeconomic framework and those that will request ESCWA support in developing national strategies for knowledge-based economy and competitiveness.

18.47 To achieve its expected accomplishments on regional integration, namely accomplishments (c) and (d), subprogramme 3 will support member countries to continue the implementation of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq, including transport and trade facilitation for enhancing regional integration and South-South cooperation. Special attention will be given to the creation of a platform for developing innovative infrastructure finance.

18.48 The subprogramme will also contribute to the achievement of ESCWA objective on good governance and resilience by means of enhancing the capacity of public institutions in member countries towards an enabling environment for development and peace through nationally led and owned good governance practice for productive public institutions, civil society organizations and private sector. The number of member countries requesting ESCWA support in governance reforms in line with macroeconomic changes will indicate the positive role played by subprogramme 3 in this regard during the biennium 2014-2015.

18.49 The subprogramme will achieve its main objective and eventually its five major expected accomplishments through conducting and delivering innovative research, multidisciplinary integrated policy advice, capacity-building, support implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

18.50 The subprogramme will work closely with stakeholders in member countries, including governments, development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector. Such innovation as developing advanced modelling techniques is key to ensuring the success of the subprogramme.

Annex**LEGISLATIVE MANDATES***Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration**General Assembly resolutions*

64/188	International trade and development
64/191	External debt sustainability and 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
65/145	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
65/178	Agriculture development and food security

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/4	Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger
2007/36	United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development
2008/18	Promoting full employment and decent work for all
2009/30	A strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up
2011/38	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

ESCWA resolutions

270 (XXIV)	Macroeconomic policy for financial stability
279 (XXIV)	Follow-up to implementation of components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq
290 (XXV)	Call for regional action to accelerate implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in Western Asia
296 (XXVI)	Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals
