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Committee on Transport
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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda

**REVIEW OF TRANSPORT-RELATED ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE FIFTH
SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT**

**FOLLOW-UP OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT**

Summary

At its fifth session, which was held in Beirut from 2 to 4 March 2004, the Committee on Transport made a number of recommendations. The table set forth below details the progress that has been made in implementing those recommendations and related activities. It also includes proposals for steps to be taken to ensure continuity in following up the implementation process.

A. THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ROADS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>(a) Prompt action should be taken to manufacture and erect signs on the international roads, beginning with the network of inter-city connections to which no alterations would be made in the near future. Such work should be completed by the end of 2004;</p>	<p>On 4 May 2004, ESCWA sent a letter to member countries concerning the prompt implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq and the manufacture and positioning of international road signs. Set forth below are the developments in that regard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jordan</i>: In February 2004, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing manufactured 222 signs which have been positioned on the international roads in the country. • <i>United Arab Emirates</i>: No response. • <i>Bahrain</i>: No response. • <i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>: Work has begun on manufacturing 1,000 international road signs. • <i>Iraq</i>: No response. • <i>Oman</i>: No response. • <i>Palestine</i>: No response. • <i>Qatar</i>: No response. • <i>Kuwait</i>: Ratification to the Agreement is currently being processed through the official channels. • <i>Lebanon</i>: Signs are being produced. • <i>Egypt</i>: Action is being taken to manufacture and position the signs. • <i>Saudi Arabia</i>: The Ministry of Transport has agreed to use the signs in accordance with the classifications agreed upon for roads to which no alterations will be made and with respect to projects that are currently being carried out. Implementation has begun and the positioning of signs is expected to be completed before the end of 2004. 	<p>• <i>Jordan</i>: The completion of international road sign positioning was celebrated on 13 April 2004 under the aegis of the Minister of Transport, who attended in person, as did the Executive Secretary of ESCWA, at the head of an ESCWA delegation. At the celebrations, 100 copies of the coloured maps showing the International Road network in the Arab Mashreq were distributed, together with a further 100 copies of the action plan for implementation of the Agreement which was adopted by ESCWA in 2004, and 20 copies of the Agreement itself.</p> <p>• <i>Egypt</i>: Preparations are being made to celebrate the beginning of implementation of the Agreement on 2 February 2005.</p>	<p>Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The members of the Committee may recommend a schedule for celebrations in all countries, similar to those which took place in Jordan and are planned in Egypt, to mark the initiation of work to implement the Agreement. • The members of the Committee may make a recommendation concerning the importance of positioning international road signs on all the principal entry and exit roads to international roads, with the name of the countries which the axis will connect. For example, on the north-south M-45 axis in Amman could be written "Saudi Arabia – Yemen", and on the east-west M-40 axis at the Verdun Bridge, "Palestine – Jordan – Iraq".

A. THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ROADS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ (continued)

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>(b) E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/1 containing the draft action plan for implementation of the Agreement should be adopted once all the amendments agreed by the Committee have been made thereto, for work to begin on implementation in accordance with the timetable set forth in the document;</p> <p>(c) Countries which have signed but not yet ratified the Agreement should promptly complete ratification procedures and lodge instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Countries which have not signed are urged to complete the relevant procedures forthwith;</p>	<p>Implementation stages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yemen</i>: Road signs are currently being manufactured and their positioning is expected to be completed before the end of 2004. • The action plan was adopted at the fifth session of the Committee on Transport, after the agreed amendments had been made thereto and it had taken the form in which it appears in E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/1/Rev.1. Implementation has begun in accordance with the schedule set out in annex II of that document. <p>The following developments have taken place in this respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jordan</i>: The instrument of ratification was deposited on 18 January 2002. • <i>United Arab Emirates</i>: The Agreement was signed on 10 May 2001; ratification procedures are as yet incomplete. • <i>Bahrain</i>: The Agreement was signed on 8 March 2002; ratification procedures are as yet incomplete. • <i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>: The instrument of ratification was deposited on 21 July 2003. • <i>Iraq</i>: The Agreement was signed on 19 December 2002; ratification procedures are as yet incomplete. • <i>Oman</i>: Accession procedures are as yet incomplete. • <i>Palestine</i>: The Agreement was signed on 10 May 2001; ratification procedures are as yet incomplete. 		

A. THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ROADS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ (continued)

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>(d) In view of the importance of keeping pace with developments and technological advances in the world and in order to implement the Agreement in the briefest possible period, member countries should accelerate implementation of the proposed action plan before the expiry of the maximum period allowed for under the Agreement.</p>	<p>Implementation stages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qatar: The instrument of ratification was deposited on 28 June 2002. • <i>Kuwait:</i> Accession procedures are as yet incomplete. • Lebanon: The instrument of ratification was deposited on 10 May 2003. • Egypt: The instrument of ratification was deposited on 5 May 2004. • Saudi Arabia: The instrument of ratification was deposited on 26 July 2004. • Yemen: The instrument of ratification was deposited on 15 November 2002. <p>The following developments have taken place in this respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan: The Ministry of Public Works and Housing is considering the roads and their design and will execute them in accordance with the most up-to-date specifications and international guidelines. It will, similarly, carry out the necessary maintenance and strengthen road safety elements on roads in the country. • United Arab Emirates: No response. • Bahrain: No response. • Syrian Arab Republic: No response. • Iraq: No response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to accelerate implementation of the Agreement, ESCWA proposes that two principal routes should be selected and implementation focused on those routes as a priority. It has formulated a selection procedure and prepared a draft resolution on the issue, which is annexed to this document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESCWA proposes that the Committee should discuss the draft resolution that appears in annex I of this document, concerning the identification of the routes to which priority should be given in implementing the Agreement, and should adopt the resolution in the form in which it appears or subsequent to making any amendments that the members of the Committee consider appropriate, with a view to presenting the resolution for adoption to the twenty-third ESCWA session, which is to be held in May 2005.

A. THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ROADS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ (continued)

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Oman</i>: No response. • <i>Palestine</i>: No response. • <i>Qatar</i>: No response. • <i>Kuwait</i>: No response. • <i>Lebanon</i>: No response. • <i>Egypt</i>: No response. • <i>Saudi Arabia</i>: implementation is being carried out in accordance with the plan of action. • <i>Yemen</i>: Action is being taken. 		

B. THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL RAILWAYS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>(a) The eight member countries that have signed the Agreement should accelerate completion of their ratification procedures and lodge the instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations;</p> <p>(b) The five member countries that have yet to sign the Agreement are urged to sign it promptly at United Nations Headquarters in New York, where it will be open for signature until 31 December 2004, and thereafter to complete ratification procedures. The countries concerned are Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.</p>	<p>The following developments have taken place in this respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan: The instrument of ratification was deposited on 16 April 2004. • United Arab Emirates: The Agreement was signed on 14 April 2003; ratification procedures are as yet incomplete. • Bahrain: The Agreement was signed on 17 April 2003; ratification procedures are as yet incomplete. • Syrian Arab Republic: The Agreement was signed on 14 April 2003; ratification procedures are as yet incomplete. • Palestine: The Agreement was signed on 14 April 2003; ratification procedures are as yet incomplete. • Lebanon: The instrument of ratification was deposited on 26 April 2004. • Egypt: The instrument of ratification was deposited on 5 May 2004. • Iraq: No response. • Oman: No response. • Qatar: No response. • Kuwait: The Agreement was signed on 10 May 2004; ratification procedures are as yet incomplete. • Saudi Arabia: The Agreement is being considered. • Yemen: The Agreement was signed on 14 April 2003; approved by the Council of Ministers and transmitted to the Council of Deputies for final ratification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursuant to a request from the Council of Arab Transportation Ministers, an economic feasibility study was carried out on linking Asia and Africa via Sinai. • Guidelines were prepared for an economic feasibility study on a rail link between the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), pursuant to a request from the GCC general secretariat, which submitted the guidelines to the Islamic Development Bank with a view to obtaining the necessary funding. ESCWA hopes that the GCC secretariat will in the near future inform it of the current status of the study. 	<p>Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The members of the Committee may urge countries to expedite ratification of the Agreement, in order to ensure that it enters into force as soon as possible, thereby allowing an action plan for implementation to be formulated and begun.

C. NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR THE FACILITATION OF TRANSPORT AND TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ESCWA REGION

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>(a) The Committee expressed its appreciation of the endeavours exerted by a number of ESCWA member countries with a view to establishing and activating national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade and urged the secretariat of ESCWA to address member countries regarding the acceleration of the measures necessary for the establishment and activation of such committees;</p>	<p>On 27 August 2004, ESCWA sent a letter to member countries concerning the implementation status of the recommendations made by the Committee on Transport at its fifth session with respect to the establishment and activation of the national committees. It subsequently sent a second letter on the same issue on 16 November 2004. Set forth below is a summary of the current situation in member countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan: The national committee was established pursuant to the decree issued by the Prime Minister dated 20 February 2003. • <i>United Arab Emirates:</i> No response. • <i>Bahrain:</i> No response. • Syrian Arab Republic: The national committee was established pursuant to the decree issued by the Prime Minister dated 9 February 2003. • <i>Iraq:</i> No response. • Oman: The national committee has been established. • Palestine: A decree concerning the establishment of the national committee was issued in December 2002. • <i>Qatar:</i> No response. • <i>Kuwait:</i> No date has been set for the establishment of the national committee. 		

C. NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR THE FACILITATION OF TRANSPORT AND TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ESCWA REGION (*continued*)

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>(b) The ESCWA secretariat should, while respecting the particularities of each member country, provide them with technical assistance as needed in establishing and activating national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade, including by holding national workshops and attending preparatory meetings on the establishment of such committees and the meetings of committees that have been established.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lebanon:</i> Action is being taken to establish the committee. • <i>Egypt:</i> The national committee was established pursuant to the decree issued by the Prime Minister dated 10 November 2004. • <i>Saudi Arabia:</i> The matter is being considered. • <i>Yemen:</i> The national committee was established in 1999. A bill on the national committee for the facilitation of transport and trade has been prepared with a view to the promulgation of a new decision on the committee. <p>Technical assistance has been provided in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jordan:</i> A national workshop on trade and transport facilitation was held in Amman on 24 and 25 March 2004. • <i>Syrian Arab Republic:</i> On 25 October 2003, ESCWA undertook an official mission to the Ministry of Economy and Trade for a meeting of heads of subcommittees with the head of the national committee. A national workshop on trade and transport facilitation was held in Damascus on 25 and 26 August 2004. 		

C. NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR THE FACILITATION OF TRANSPORT AND TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ESCWA REGION (<i>continued</i>)			
Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
	<p data-bbox="371 1059 582 1630">• <i>Lebanon:</i> ESCWA provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Economy and Trade and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport with respect to a draft Prime Minister's decree regarding the establishment of the national committee. A national workshop on trade and transport facilitation was held in Beirut on 8 and 9 November 2004.</p> <p data-bbox="598 1059 774 1630">• <i>Egypt:</i> From 25 to 28 October 2004, ESCWA undertook an official mission to the Ministry of Transport in order to provide technical support in the preparation of a draft Prime Minister's decree regarding the establishment of the national committee.</p> <p data-bbox="790 1059 933 1630">• <i>Yemen:</i> ESCWA provided technical support to the Ministry of Transport with respect to a draft Prime Minister's decree regarding the establishment of the national committee. That committee is expected to be established soon.</p>		

D. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MARITIME TRANSPORT IN THE ARAB MASHREQ

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>(a) The draft memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation in the field of maritime transport in the Arab Mashreq should be approved in the amended form in which it appears in E/ESCWA/TRANS/2002/4/Rev.5 and sent to member countries for their consideration and approval by 30 June 2004 at the latest, with a view to submission of the memorandum to the twenty-third ESCWA session, to be held in April 2005, and its subsequent adoption and signature.</p>	<p>The following developments have taken place in this respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jordan</i>: The date on which the draft may be expected to be adopted depends on the responses and comments of member countries. It is suggested that once all comments have been taken into consideration and the necessary amendments made to the draft memorandum, ESCWA should send a letter to member countries requesting them to adopt the draft. • <i>United Arab Emirates</i>: No response. • <i>Bahrain</i>: No response. • <i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>: No response. • <i>Iraq</i>: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESCWA sent the draft memorandum to member countries in order to enable them to consider its adoption. Countries should supply ESCWA with the geographical locations and amended data and information on sea ports by 22 March 2004. • In the light of the aforementioned comments and proposals made by member countries, the draft memorandum has been amended and taken the form in which it appears in E/ESCWA/TRANS/2002/4/Rev.5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation in the field of maritime transport in the Arab Mashreq should be adopted after the introduction of all the amendments approved by the sixth session of the Committee on Transport, prior to the submission to the twenty-third ESCWA session, to be held in May 2005, for adoption and signature.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The situation in Iraqi ports should be brought into line with the provisions of article 4 concerning maritime ports, and there is a need to determine port fees and charges that reflect the cost of services. An attempt should be made to simplify and standardize procedures relating to operations in maritime ports. - A paragraph should be added to article 8 concerning the establishment of regional centres to monitor the marine environment and maritime safety and security and to combat marine pollution. 		

D. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MARITIME TRANSPORT IN THE ARAB MASHREQ (continued)

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>(b) ESCWA should be informed of the geographical locations of and given revised data on the maritime ports included in the annex to the memorandum by no later than 30 June 2004</p>	<p>Implementation stages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Oman</i>: No response. • <i>Palestine</i>: No response. • <i>Qatar</i>: No relevant comments. • <i>Kuwait</i>: The memorandum is still being considered. • <i>Lebanon</i>: The amended form of the draft memorandum, as it appears in E/ESCWA/TRANS/2002/4/Rev.5, has been approved. • <i>Egypt</i>: Proposals for amendments to some of the terms in article 1. • <i>Saudi Arabia</i>: No comments. • <i>Yemen</i>: The draft was adopted during the Expert Group Meeting on Maritime Transport in the ESCWA Region: Prospects for Cooperation, which was held in Beirut from 30 November to 2 December 2004. <p>The following developments have taken place in this respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jordan</i>: On 13 May 2004, the Ministry of Transport sent the information required and the CD. • <i>United Arab Emirates</i>: No response. • <i>Bahrain</i>: No response. 	<p>Progress made in implementing related activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft memorandum, in the form in which it appears in E/ESCWA/TRANS/2002/4/Rev.5, was submitted to the Expert Group Meeting on Maritime Transport in the ESCWA Region: Prospects for Cooperation, which was held in Beirut from 30 November to 2 December 2004. Participants proposed amendments to the draft and recommended that it should be sent to member countries for consideration before being submitted to the sixth session of the Committee on Transport. 	<p>Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation</p>

D. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MARITIME TRANSPORT IN THE ARAB MASHREQ (continued)

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
	<p>Implementation stages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Syrian Arab Republic:</i> The data and information requested on Syrian sea ports has been received. • <i>Iraq:</i> On 29 September 2004, the Embassy of Iraq in Lebanon sent a map showing the Iraqi sea ports and supplied information on those ports, attached to the response to the recommendations of the fifth session of the Committee. • <i>Oman:</i> The data and information requested on Omani sea ports has been received. • <i>Palestine:</i> No response. • <i>Qatar:</i> The data and information requested on Qatari sea ports has been received. • <i>Kuwait:</i> No response. • <i>Lebanon:</i> The data and information requested on Lebanese sea ports has been received. • <i>Egypt:</i> The data and information requested on Syrian sea ports has been received. • <i>Saudi Arabia:</i> The data were sent on 27 July 2004. • <i>Yemen:</i> A copy of the data requested on sea ports was attached to the response of the Ministry of Transport and Marine Affairs on 27 October 2004. 		

E. REGIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT INFORMATION SYSTEM

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>(a) Member countries should, by 30 June 2004 at the latest, complete and update data relating to the system, using the model for data entry on the CD with which they were provided by ESCWA;</p>	<p>The following developments have taken place in this respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jordan</i>: The CD containing information on international road transport was given to ESCWA at the fifth session of the Committee on Transport, which was held in Beirut from 2 to 4 March 2004. • <i>United Arab Emirates</i>: No response. • <i>Bahrain</i>: No response. • <i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>: No response. • <i>Iraq</i>: No response. • <i>Oman</i>: No response. • <i>Palestine</i>: No response. • <i>Qatar</i>: No response. • <i>Kuwait</i>: Coordinated action on this issue is being taken by the relevant parties in the country. • <i>Lebanon</i>: No response. • <i>Egypt</i>: No response. • <i>Saudi Arabia</i>: In view of the volume and variety of data, in addition to the length of the huge network in the country, work is yet to be completed. • <i>Yemen</i>: Once the data forms had been completed, the CD was sent to ESCWA on 17 November 2004. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of the database on roads and railways has been completed. • A database on regional transport is being completed in ESCWA using geographical data systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee may urge those member countries which have not supplied the information requested to send that information as soon as possible.

E. REGIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT INFORMATION SYSTEM (*continued*)

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>(b) Member countries should, by 31 December 2004 at the latest, complete the data on routes and international road network connections that is requested in table 1 of E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/1, which contains the draft action plan for implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq;</p>	<p>The following developments have taken place in this respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jordan</i>: No response. • <i>United Arab Emirates</i>: No response. • <i>Bahrain</i>: No response. • <i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>: No response. • <i>Iraq</i>: No response. • <i>Oman</i>: No response. • <i>Palestine</i>: No response. • <i>Qatar</i>: No response. • <i>Kuwait</i>: No response. • <i>Lebanon</i>: No response. • <i>Egypt</i>: No response. • <i>Saudi Arabia</i>: The requested information will be sent before the date specified. • <i>Yemen</i>: No response. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee may emphasize the need to send the data that is requested in table 1 of E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/1/Rev.1 as soon as possible.

F. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>(a) The proposed strategic framework should include the field of air transport;</p> <p>(b) Member countries are encouraged to provide ESCWA, by no later than 15 April 2004, with any other suggestions relating to the proposed strategic framework for the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007. Should no such suggestions be received, it will be taken that member countries approve the strategic framework in the form in which it appears in E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/IG.1/6, amended in order to include the issue of air transport.</p>	<p><u>Implementation stages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 has been amended to include the issue of air transport. No additional comments were received from member countries by the date specified in the recommendation. The final form of the strategic framework was approved in the form in which it appears in E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/IG.1/6. 	<p>Progress made in implementing related activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESCWA formulated the proposed programme of activities for the biennium 2006-2007 in accordance with the proposed strategic framework for the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 in the field of transport. It will be discussed under agenda item 7 of the sixth session of the Committee on Transport. 	<p>Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document E/ESCWA/GRID/2005/IG.1/4 containing the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 should be adopted in the form in which it is presented or after the making of any amendments that the Committee thinks appropriate.

G. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Text of recommendation	Implementation stages	Progress made in implementing related activities	Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation
<p>Member countries are urged to provide ESCWA, by no later than 30 September each year, with an annual report on the progress made in implementing Committee on Transport recommendations and developments relating to the transport sector in each country. For its part, ESCWA should provide member countries with a periodic report on the progress made by the countries of the region in general in implementing those recommendations and such developments.</p>	<p>Implementation stages</p> <p>On 27 July 2004, ESCWA sent a letter to member countries urging them to provide it with the requested report as soon as possible and no later than the end of September 2004. A further letter was sent on the same matter on 16 November 2004. To date, member country reports have been received as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jordan</i>: A detailed report was sent in September 2004. • <i>United Arab Emirates</i>: No response. • <i>Bahrain</i>: No response. • <i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>: No response. • <i>Iraq</i>: A report was sent with the response on 29 September 2004. • <i>Oman</i>: No response. • <i>Palestine</i>: No response. • <i>Qatar</i>: No response. • <i>Kuwait</i>: The report was sent on 24 November 2004. • <i>Lebanon</i>: No response. • <i>Egypt</i>: No response. • <i>Saudi Arabia</i>: The report was sent on 14 October 2004. • <i>Yemen</i>: The report will be sent soon. 		<p>Proposals for continued follow-up of implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee may urge member countries to provide ESCWA with the report requested as soon as possible before the end of September each year. • The Committee may agree on the form and content of the report, in accordance with the model given in annex II of this report.

Annex I

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED FOR THE APPROVAL OF
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA
AT ITS TWENTY-THIRD SESSION**

The Committee on Transport recommends that the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia adopt the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Noting the adoption, pursuant to resolution 235 (XXI) of 11 May 2001, of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq and its entry into force on 19 October 2003, 90 days after the deposit of instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations by five member countries, a number which has since increased by two,

Noting also the action plan for implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq,^{*} which was adopted by the Committee on Transport at its fifth session, held in Beirut from 2 to 4 March 2004,

Further noting the significant steps that have been taken by some member countries towards implementing the Agreement in accordance with the adopted action plan and, in particular, with respect to the manufacture and positioning of international road signs on the routes included in the Agreement,

Affirming the importance of identifying the priority routes, in order to expedite implementation of the Agreement and achieve the maximum benefit therefrom for the majority of member countries,

Recognizing that this requires member countries to prepare a detailed programme of work for the projects that must be implemented once the priority routes have been identified,

1. *Decides* to adopt routes M-40 and M-45, included in the Agreement, and give them priority, for the reasons appended to this resolution;

2. *Calls upon* member countries in whose territories part of the priority routes are located to expedite the preparation of a detailed programme of work for the projects that must be implemented on those routes, and their cost, and to begin taking the measures necessary to develop the routes to meet Agreement specifications;

3. *Urges* member countries in whose territories part of the priority routes are located to facilitate the work of ESCWA experts in following up the development of work on those routes.

^{*} E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/1/Rev.1.

Annex to draft resolution

**JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE CHOICE OF ROUTES TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON
INTERNATIONAL ROADS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ**

With a view to activating implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq and, in particular, to facilitating the steps that must be taken to that end, which were set out in the action plan for implementation of the Agreement, namely: (a) public information aspects; (b) the international road sign; (c) identification of routes and their specifications; (d) signs and signals on routes; and (e) the technical specifications of routes, and with the aim of selecting routes to which priority should be given pending the application of the technical specifications set out in the Agreement to all routes, the following criteria have been adopted:

(a) The route should run through the largest possible number of member countries, with priority being given to those countries that have ratified or signed the Agreement;

(b) The route should link one region to another, namely, the beginning or end of the route should be outside the ESCWA region;

(c) The route should be complete, and no part should be in need of improvements that will take time and effort;

(d) Work should already have begun on the positioning of international road signs and on upgrading the route and changing existing signs, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement;

(e) One of the routes should be oriented north-south and the other east-west.

The following two routes fulfil the requirements set forth above:

North-south route

M45: Syrian Arab Republic – Jordan – Saudi Arabia – Yemen.

East-west route

M40: Iraq – Jordan – Occupied Palestinian Territories – western Mediterranean coast.

Annex II

**MODEL REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE ESCWA COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT
AND TRANSPORT-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS
IN [NAME OF COUNTRY]
SEPTEMBER 2004**

**I. FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT***

- A. THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ROADS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ
1. Number of signs that had been manufactured by 30 September 2004
 2. Number of signs that had been put in position by 30 September 2004
 3. Date by which it is expected that all signs will be in position
 4. Remarks
 5. Date of ratification of Agreement (or expected date of ratification or accession)
 6. Steps that have been taken to carry out the action plan for implementation of the Agreement, in accordance with the stages set out in figure 1 of the plan document
- B. THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL RAILWAYS IN THE ARAB MASHREQ
- Date of ratification of Agreement (or expected date of ratification or, in the case of countries that have not yet signed the Agreement, expected date of signature).
- C. NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR THE FACILITATION OF TRANSPORT AND TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ESCWA REGION
1. Actual or expected date of establishment of national committee
 2. Steps taken before 30 September 2004 to establish or activate the national committee
- D. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MARITIME TRANSPORT IN THE ARAB MASHREQ
1. Expected date for adoption of draft
 2. Remarks
 3. Expected date by which the data on sea ports requested in the memorandum will be conveyed
- E. REGIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT INFORMATION SYSTEM
1. Date by which the CD containing international road-related data will be conveyed
 2. Expected date by which will be conveyed the data requested in table 1 of the action plan for implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq
 3. Remarks

* See table attached for guidelines in writing this part of the report.

F. THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK PROPOSED FOR THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006-2007 IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT

1. It should include the field of air transport
2. No further proposals had been received as of 15 April 2004

G. REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORT-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

The annual report will be sent by 30 September 2004 at the latest.

Yes

No

If "no", please give date on which report will be sent and reason for delay.

II. TRANSPORT-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS IN [NAME OF COUNTRY]**

- A. ROAD TRANSPORT
- B. RAIL TRANSPORT (IF ANY)
- C. MARINE TRANSPORT AND PORTS
- D. AIR TRANSPORT AND AIRPORTS
- E. INTERNATIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY TRANSPORT
- F. INTERNATIONAL TRANSIT TRANSPORT
- G. LAWS AND REGULATIONS
- H. INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND TREATIES
- I. OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES AND ASPECTS:
 1. Training
 2. Privatization
 3. The application of modern techniques
 4. Other matters
- J. OTHER IMPORTANT PROJECTS
- K. FUTURE PLANS AND PROJECTS

** This part of the report contains a review and analysis of developments in the relevant country, with particular emphasis on the past five years and, in particular, 2004. It provides information, inter alia, on the size of transportation systems and fleets and the transport infrastructure.

**TABLE OF FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT**

Recommendation	Progress made
The Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq	
Prompt action should be taken to manufacture and erect signs on the international roads, beginning with the network of inter-city connections to which no alterations would be made in the near future. Such work should be completed by the end of 2004.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of signs that had been manufactured by 30 September 2004. - Number of signs that had been put in position by 30 September 2004. - Date by which it is expected that all signs will be in position - Remarks
Countries which have signed but not yet ratified the Agreement should promptly complete ratification procedures and lodge instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Countries which have not signed are urged to complete the relevant procedures forthwith.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date of ratification of Agreement (or expected date of ratification or accession)
In view of the importance of keeping pace with developments and technological advances in the world and in order to implement the Agreement in the briefest possible period, member countries should accelerate implementation of the proposed action plan before the expiry of the maximum period allowed for under the Agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The steps that have been taken to carry out the action plan in accordance with the stages set out in figure 1 of the plan
The Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq	
The eight member countries that have signed the Agreement should accelerate completion of their ratification procedures and lodge the instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date of ratification of Agreement (or expected date of ratification or, in the case of countries that have not yet signed, expected date of signature)
National committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in the countries of the ESCWA region	
The Committee expressed its appreciation of the endeavours exerted by a number of ESCWA member countries with a view to establishing and activating national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade and urged the secretariat of ESCWA to address member countries regarding the acceleration of the measures necessary for the establishment and activation of such committees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actual or expected date of establishment of national committee - Steps taken before 30 September 2004 with a view to establishing or activating the national committee.

Recommendation	Progress made
Memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation in the field of maritime transport in the Arab Mashreq	
The memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation in the field of maritime transport in the Arab Mashreq should be approved in the amended form in which it appears in E/ESCWA/TRANS/2002/4/Rev.5 and sent to member countries for their consideration and approval by 30 June 2004 at the latest, with a view to submission of the memorandum to the twenty-third ESCWA session, to be held in April 2005, and its subsequent adoption and signature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expected date for adoption of draft - Remarks
ESCWA should be informed of the geographical locations of and given revised data on the maritime ports included in the annex to the memorandum by no later than 30 June 2004.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date on which the requested information is likely to be sent
Regional road transport information system	
Member countries should, by 30 June 2004 at the latest, complete and update data relating to the system, using the model for data entry on the CD with which they were provided by ESCWA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date on which the CD containing the requested information is likely to be sent
Member countries should, by 31 December 2004 at the latest, complete the data on routes and international road network connections that is requested in table 1 of E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/1, which contains the draft action plan for implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date on which the date requested in table 1 of the document is likely to be sent - Remarks
Strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007	
Member countries are encouraged to provide ESCWA, by no later than 15 April 2004, with any other suggestions relating to the proposed strategic framework for the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007. Should no such suggestions be received, it will be taken that member countries approve the strategic framework in the form in which it appears in E/ESCWA/GRID/2004/IG.1/6, amended in order to include the issue of air transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The framework should include the issue of air transport - No additional proposals had been received by 15 April 2004
General recommendations	
Member countries are urged to provide ESCWA, by no later than 30 September each year, with an annual report on the progress made in implementing Committee on Transport recommendations and developments relating to the transport sector in each country. For its part, ESCWA should provide member countries with a periodic report on the progress made by the countries of the region in general in implementing those recommendations and such developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The annual report will be transmitted by 30 September 2004 at the latest <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If "no", please give date on which report will be sent and reason for delay.