



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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### Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Expert Group Meeting on Trade Facilitation  
and Electronic Commerce in the ESCWA Region  
Beirut, 8-10 November 2000

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION  
FOR WESTERN ASIA

17-11-2000

### PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

DOCUMENT SECTION

#### Day one: 8 November 2000

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8.30 - 9.30   | <b>Registration</b>   |
| 9.30 - 10.15  | <b>Opening statements</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Zeki Fattah, Chief, Economic Development issues and Policies Division.</li> <li>2. Sponsor organizations.</li> <li>3. Mr. Hazem El-Beblawi, Executive Secretary, ESCWA.</li> <li>4. Mr. Basel Fuleihan, Minister of Economy and Trade (Lebanon).</li> </ol>   |
| 10.15 - 10.45 | Coffee break  |
| 10.45 - 13.00 | Introductory remarks, Mr. Zeki Fattah<br><b>Session I</b><br><b>The international perspective of trade policy and E-commerce</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>E'ing Your Organisation: Surviving in the E-Trade Environment</b>, Mr. Ian Worrel (International Trade Center-ITC, Advisor on Trade Services, Department of Market and Product Development).</li> <li>2. <b>E-Commerce for Development: Prospects and Policy Issues with Emphasis on SMEs</b>, Mr. Maurizio Bussolo (Economist, OECD Development Center),</li> <li>3. <b>WTO and E-Commerce</b>, Ms. Lee Tuthil (World Trade Organization-WTO).</li> <li>4. <b>Trade Facilitation for SMEs</b>, Mr. Hans Hansel (Deputy Director, Trade Division, Economic Commission for Europe-ECE).</li> </ol> |
|               | <b>Discussion</b>   |
| 13.00 - 14.00 | Lunch   |

**Day one: 8 November 2000** (*continued*)

14.00 - 16.00

**Session II**  
**The pillars of E-commerce**

1. **Information and Communication Infrastructure of the ESCWA Region**, Mr. Abdulilah Dewachi (Regional Advisor, ESCWA).
2. **Security Issues in E-Commerce**, Mr. Abdulkarim Freihat (General Manager, Comnet, Jordan).
3. **Certification and Digital Signature**, Ms. Linda Karam (Attorney at Law, Computer Law Specialist, Lebanon).
4. **Payment Network and E-Commerce**, Mr. Antoine Raad (Deputy General Manager, IT Division, Credit Libanais, and Chairman of Net Commerce, Lebanon).
5. **The Role of ESCWA in Promoting Transport Facilitation in the Region**, Mr. Nabil Safwat, (Chief, Transport Section, ESCWA).

**Discussion**

16.00 - 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 - 18.00

**Session III**  
**The pillars of E-commerce** (*continued*)

6. **Arabization and Localisation of E-Commerce: Status and Requirements**, Mr. Mohammad Mrayati (Regional Advisor, ESCWA, Lebanon).
7. **Management Attitudes and E-Commerce**, Mr. Hussin Hijazi (Professor, Lebanese American University).
8. **Microsoft in E-Commerce: Impact on Buying and Selling Habits**, Mr. Charbel Fakhoury, (Business Development manager, Microsoft).

**Discussion**

**Day two: 9 November 2000**

9.00 - 10.30

**Session IV**  
**Status of E-commerce in selected ESCWA countries**

1. **Case Study on Egypt**, Ms. Magda Ismail (ESCWA Consultant).
2. **Case Study on UAE**, Ms. Rita Fakhoury (Economic Officer, ESCWA).

**Discussion**

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 - 13.00

**Session V**  
**Status of E-commerce in selected ESCWA countries** (*continued*)

**Day two: 9 November 2000** *(continued)*

4. **Case Study on Lebanon**, Mr. Antoine Feghali (ESCWA Consultant, Director, Timezero Interactive Technologies, Lebanon).
  5. **Electronic Banking in Lebanon**, Mr. Ali Nahle (IT Director, Banque Du Liban).
  6. **Case Study on Jordan**, Ms. Rita Fakhoury (Economic Officer, ESCWA).
- Discussion**

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 - 17.00

**Session VI**  
**Legal and regulatory aspects of E-commerce**

1. **Consumer Protection**, Mr. Ahmad Al-Samdan, (Professor, University of Kuwait).
2. **Computer Crimes**, Mr. Habib Moulla (Attorney-at-Law, UAE).
3. **International Disputes Resolution**, Mr. Younis Arab (Attorney-at-Law, Chairman of the Arab Center for Law Studies and High Technology, Jordan).
4. **Electronic Evidence**, Mr. Fawzi Khamis (Judge, Member in the Association for the Development of Informatics and Law in Lebanon-ADIL, Lebanon).

**Discussion**

17.00 - 17.30

Coffee break

17.30 - 19.00

**Session VII**  
**Legal aspects of E-commerce** *(continued)*

6. **Contracting in E-Commerce**, Mr. Wassim Harb (Honorary President of ADIL, Professor at the Lebanese University and La Sagesse University, Lebanon).
7. **National Legislation in Selected ESCWA Countries**, Mr. Husam Lutfi (Attorney-at-Law, Professor, University Beni Sweif, Egypt).

**Discussion**

19.00 - 21.00

Cocktail

**Day three: 10 November 2000**

9.00 - 11.00

**Session VIII**  
**Best practices of private firms**

1. **The Role of Chambers of Commerce and Industry**, Ms. May Dimashkieh Serhal (Director of the Research Department, General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries).
2. **NetCommerce and its Virtual Mall "Yalla! Shopping"**, Ms. Barea Sinno, (Assistant Manager, NetCommerce-Lebanon).
3. **The Experience of Bin Zayed Group in E-Commerce**, Sheikh Khaled Bin Zayed Al-Nehayan.

**Day three: 10 November 2000 (continued)**

4. **Aramex Experience**, Mr. Hazem Malhas (Chief Operating Officer, Aramex, Jordan).
5. **Chateau Kefraya Experience in E-Commerce**, Mr. Elie Saab (Financial and Administrative Manager, IT Manager, Chateau Kefraya, Lebanon), Mr. Philip Abi Rached (Principal Internet Analyst, Chateau Kefraya Representative in the United States).
6. **Experience of Alfutaim Trading in E-Commerce**, Mr. Saeed Al Barwani (E-Business Manager, Alfutaim Trading, United Arab Emirates).
7. **Experience of Egypt Home For IT in E-Commerce**, Mr. Ali Mehilba (Chairman, Egypt Home For IT, Egypt).

**Discussion**

11.00 - 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00

**Session IX**

**Closing session**

Panel discussion.

Conclusions and recommendations.