



ESCWA
for Regional Integration

Information and Communication Technology Division

Round Table on ICT as an Enabler for Economic Development

29-30 April 2004

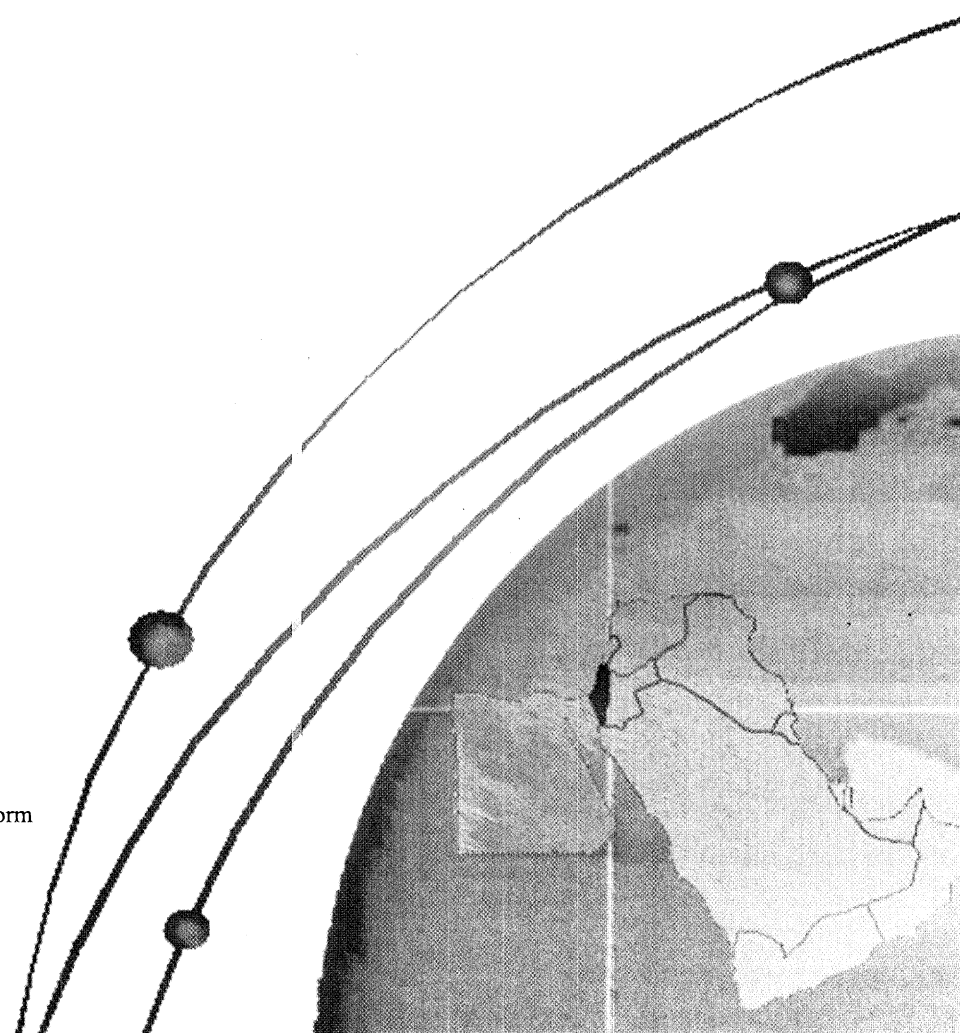
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ESCWA EXPERIENCE IN TRADE FACILITATION

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ESCWA experience with trade facilitation

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Roundtable on ICT as an enabler of economic development
29-30 April 2004, Beirut, ESCWA

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Presentation Outline

- ❖ ESCWA Trade Facilitation (TF) Objective
- ❖ ESCWA Trade Facilitation Approach
- ❖ Statement of the member countries on ITSAM
- ❖ Improvement of infrastructure
- ❖ Improvement of operations, logistics and procedures
- ❖ National Transport and Trade Facilitation Committees (NTTFC)
- ❖ Interregional and sub-regional projects
- ❖ Summary of ESCWA experience in trade facilitation

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ESCWA Trade Facilitation Objective

Improvement of efficiency and safety of the door-to-door movement of international goods (trade) from, to, and across the ESCWA region

ESCWA Trade Facilitation Strategy

- ❖ *Development of a regional multimodal integrated transport system (ITSAM)*
- ❖ *Improvements in infrastructure*
- ❖ *Improvements in trade flow operations, logistics and procedures throughout the supply (door-to-door) chain*
- ❖ *Institutionalization/revitalization of public/private sector interactions/partnerships*
- ❖ *Legal, regulatory & administrative reforms*

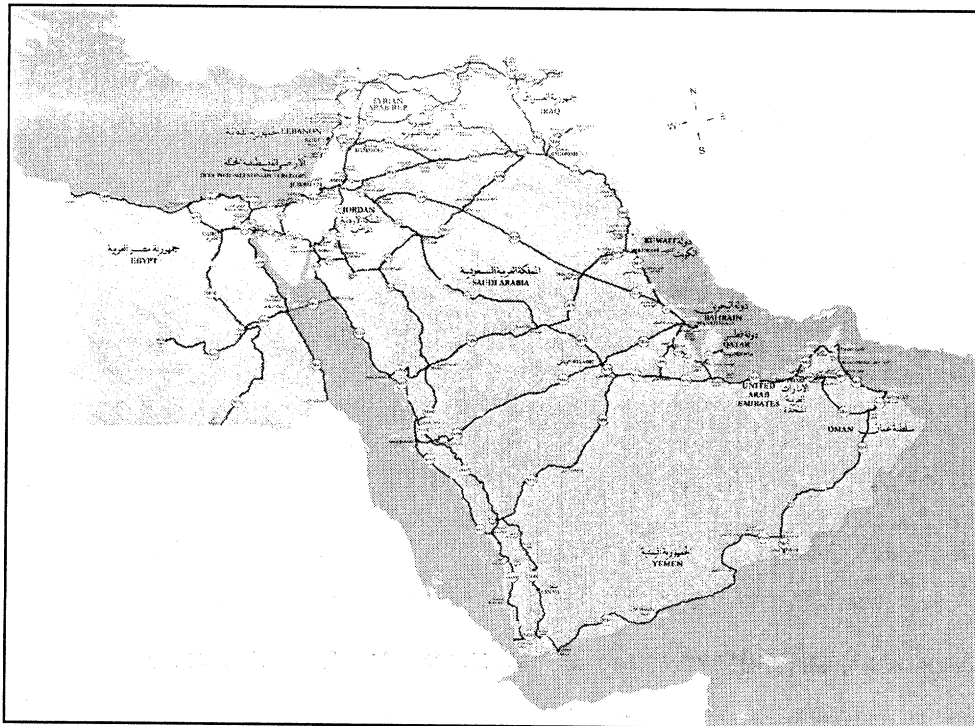
Statement of Member Countries on ITSAM

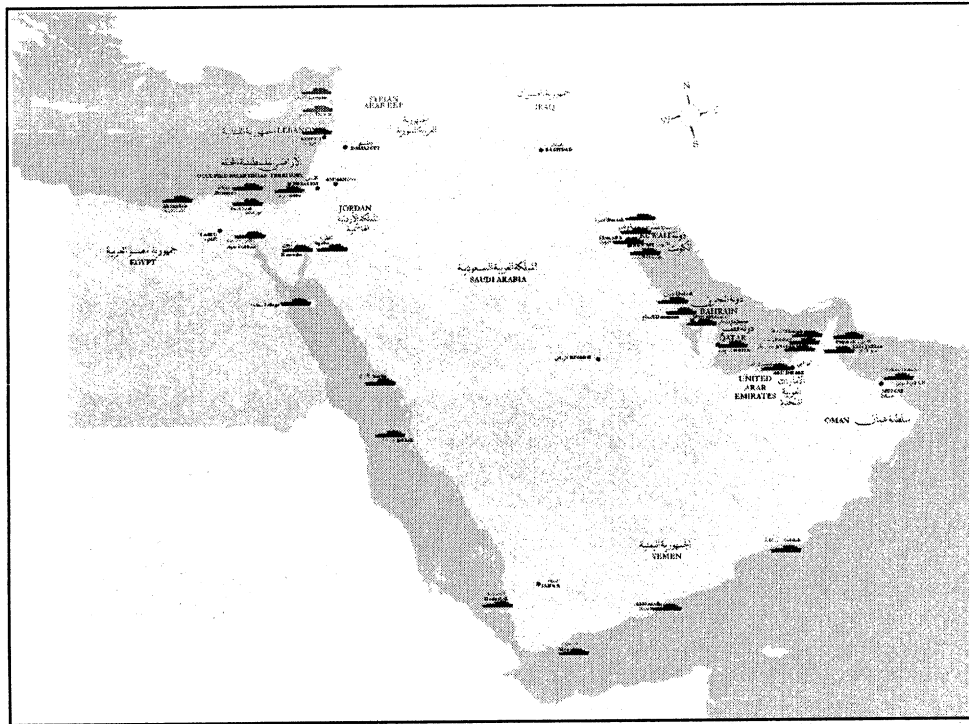
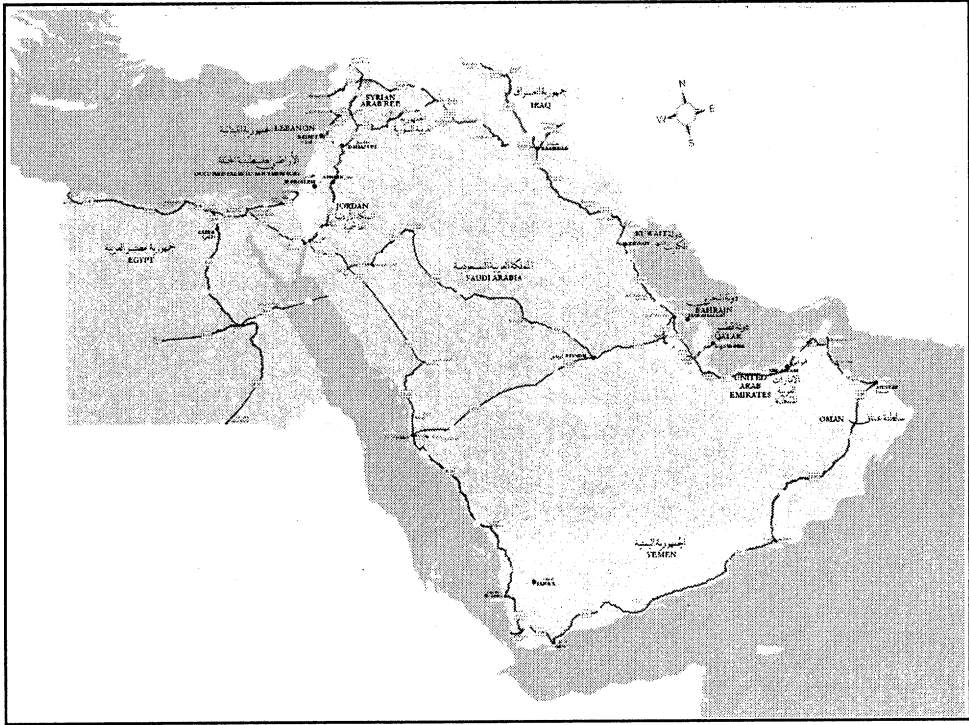
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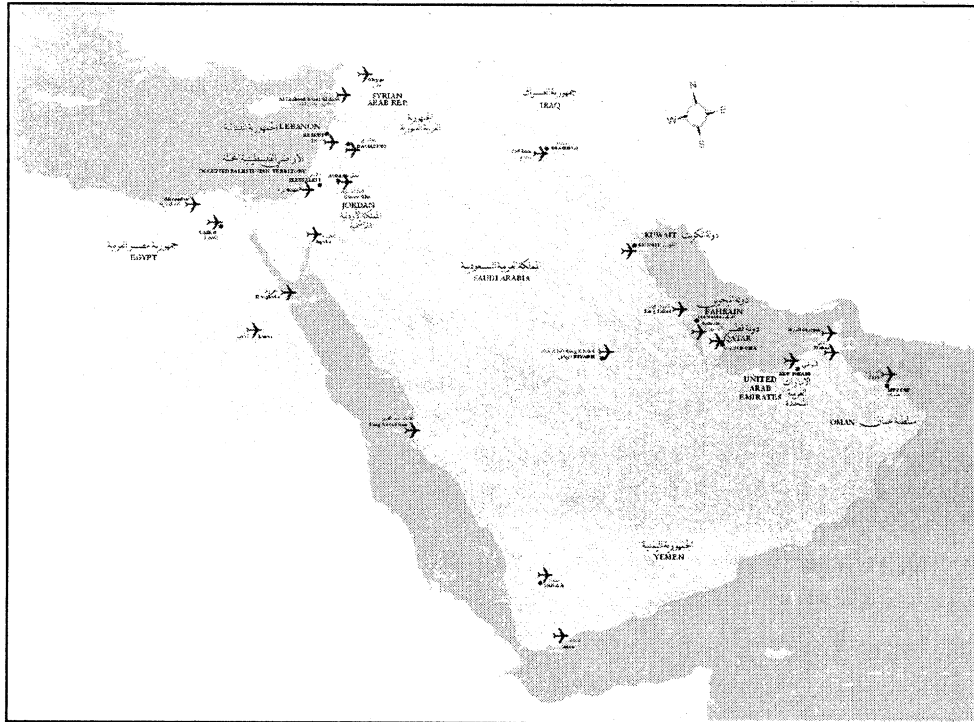
- ❖ Adoption of the regional integrated transport network
 - Roads
 - Railways
 - Seaports
 - Airports
- ❖ The start of work on the development of an integrated transport system to be known as the “ Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq” (ITSAM)

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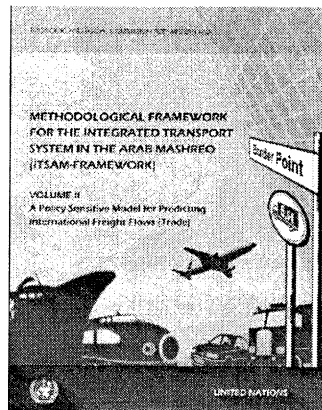






Development of ITSAM

- ❖ Regional Network
(ITSAM- NETWORK)
- ❖ Information System
(ITSAM –INFOSYS)
- ❖ Methodological Framework
(ITSAM-FRAMEWORK)



Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq

- ❖ Adopted by All 13 ESCWA members on 10 May 2001
- ❖ Signed by 11 ESCWA members
- ❖ Ratified by Five ESCWA members and entered into force on 19 Oct'03
- ❖ Contents of the Agreement:
 - Articles of the agreement
 - Technical terminology
 - Annex 1: International road network
 - Annex 2: Technical specifications
 - Annex 3: Signs and signals

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR THE ARAB MASHREQ

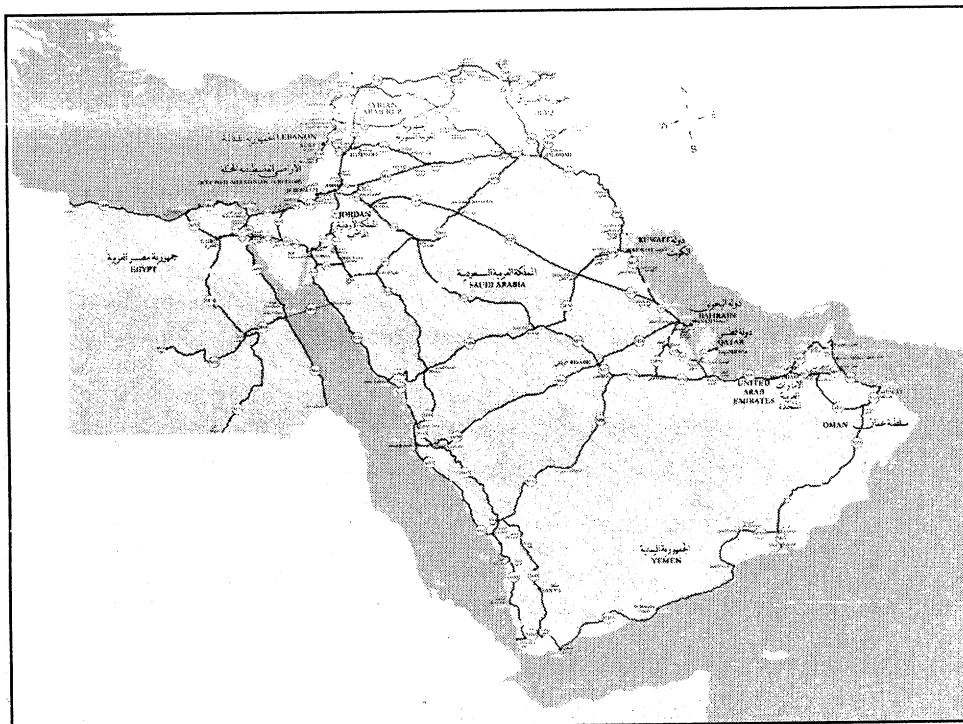
AGREEMENT ON
INTERNATIONAL ROADS
IN THE ARAB MASHREQ



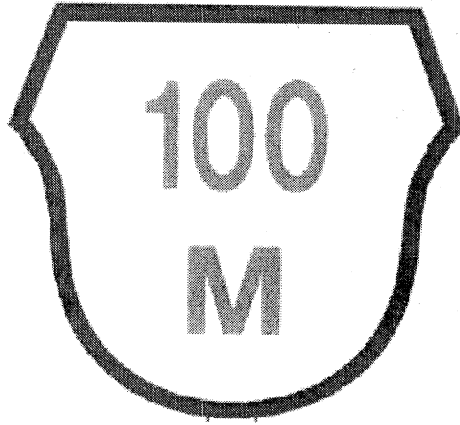
UNITED NATIONS

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لائحة التعريف بالطرق الدولية في المشرق العربي



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International Road Sign in Jordan



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Study on the Facilitation of the International transport of goods in the ESCWA region, 2000



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Transport&trade facilitation study (2000)

Study organization

- ❖ **Volume I:** Summary, results and recommendations
- ❖ **Volume II:** Description of the procedures for international freight transport in Lebanon
- ❖ **Volume III:** Description of the procedures for international freight transport in Jordan
- ❖ **Volume IV:** Description of the procedures for international freight transport in Syria
- ❖ **Volume V:** Description of the procedures for international freight transport in the United Arab Emirates
- ❖ **Volume VI:** Description of the procedures for international freight transport in Egypt

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Import Procedures (Steps and Signatures, 2000)

Ports Steps	Beirut Lebanon	Aqaba Jordan	Lattakia Syria	Alexandria Egypt	Dubai Emirates
Agent&Customs	7	5	8	7	2
Agent& Others	7	6	6	8	3
Customs	10	10	13	13	4
Port	5	6	7	6	3
Shipping agent	5	5	5	5	2
Control authority	2	1	2	3	1
Carrier	3	3	2	3	3
Total Steps	39	36	43	45	18
Total Signatures	18	16	24	24	4

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Imports Procedures (Clearance Time, 2000)

Port Country	Beirut Lebanon	Aqaba Jordan	Lattakia Syria	Alexandria Egypt	Dubai Emirates
Clearance Time	5-7 days red line	4-6 days red line	5-6 days	3-10 days	4-6 hours

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Major Problems

- ❖ **High cost of logistics and procedures**
- ❖ **Excessive delays**
- ❖ **Illegal practices and corruption**
- ❖ **Lack of predictability of delays and costs**

Some Major Causes of trade barriers

- ❖ **Lack of clarity/transparency of procedures**
- ❖ **Direct transactions with several employees**
- ❖ **Numerous manual paperwork and many errors**
- ❖ **Many control entities with different policies and procedures**
- ❖ **Lack of coordination among various parties**
- ❖ **An average of 40 steps and 20 signatures for import**
- ❖ **Unclear standards for the valuation of goods**

Trade Facilitation Recommendations

- 1- Simplification of procedures**
- 2- Transparency**
- 3- Integrity of practices**
- 4- Automation and ICT**
- 5- Institutional reform**
- 6- Regulatory reform**
- 7- Valuation and classification of commodities**
- 8- Improved performance levels**
- 9- Implementation of multimodal transport**
- 10- Accession to existing conventions and formulate new ones**
- 11- Enhancement of the role of ESCWA**

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Starting Point for Trade Facilitation

Establishment of National Transport and Trade Facilitation Committees (NTTEFC)

Simplification then automation

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Establishment of National Transport and Trade Facilitation Committees

- ❖ **NTTFC in Jordan (February 2003)**
- ❖ **NTTFC in Syria (March 2003)**
- ❖ **NTTFC in Palestine (December 2002)**
- ❖ **NTTFC in Yemen (1999; to be updated)**
- ❖ **NTTFC in Oman (2003)**
- ❖ **NTTFC in Bahrain (in progress)**
- ❖ **NTTFC in Saudi Arabia (in progress)**
- ❖ **NTTFC in Lebanon (in progress)**

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Capacity building in trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean

- ❖ **United Nations Regional Commissions involved:**
 - **Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Coordinator**
 - **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**
 - **Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**
- ❖ **Project Duration: (2002-2004)**
- ❖ **Project Budget : US\$ 600,000**
- ❖ **Funded from UN Development Account**

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Capacity building in developing interregional land and land-sea transport linkages

- ❖ **United Nations Regional Commissions involved:**
 - **ECE**
 - **ESCWA (Co ordinator)**
 - **ECA**
 - **ESCAP**
 - **ECLAC**
- ❖ **Project Duration: (2002-2006)**
- ❖ **Project Budget : US\$ 1,250,000**
- ❖ **Funded from UN Development Account**

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Summary of ESCWA experience in trade facilitation

- ❖ **Development of ITSAM**
 - **Network**
 - **Information System**
 - **Methodological framework**
- ❖ **Implementation of agreements on international roads and railways in the region**
- ❖ **Establishment of national transport and trade facilitation committees**
- ❖ **Implementation of trade facilitation recommendations including automation and ICT**
- ❖ **Cooperation with UN regional commissions and other relevant entities**

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