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## **REPORT**

### **WORKSHOP ON LAND TRANSPORT STATISTICS BEIRUT, 12-14 JULY 2005**

#### **Summary**

The Workshop on Land Transport Statistics, held in Beirut from 12 to 14 July, was organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG), that includes the European Statistical office (Eurostat), the European Conference of Ministries of Transport (ECMT) and the Economic Commission for Europe.

The goals of the Workshop were the following: (a) to improve the efficiency of persons involved in collecting, processing and publishing land transport statistics; (b) to standardize the concepts and definitions used in collecting and publishing land transport statistics; (c) to review and discuss the statistical requirements for implementation of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq and the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq; (d) to review the experiences of participating countries, exchange expertise, identify difficulties and attempt to find appropriate solutions.

The Workshop discussed the IWG Glossary for Transport Statistics and made a number of recommendations in which it was emphasized that land transport statistics should become a priority for the countries of the region.

This report contains a brief review of the most important points to arise during discussion and the most important recommendations that were made.

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## **Introduction**

1. In recognition of the increasingly important role of the land transport sector in the growth and development of ESCWA region national economies and the need to improve the quality and quantity of the statistics available in that field in order to make them an effective tool in drawing up national strategies and plans, ESCWA held the Workshop on Land Transport Statistics in Beirut from 12 to 14 July 2005.

### **I. WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Workshop made the following recommendations:

(a) ESCWA should be called upon to organize and hold further workshops and seminars on land transport statistics, as resources permit;

(b) ESCWA should be called upon to undertake, in cooperation and coordination with the League of Arab States, the translation into Arabic of the IWG Glossary for Transport Statistics (third edition), as financial resources permit. That should be in coordination with technical experts and land transport sector specialists of the Arab Union of Railways, the Arab Union of Land Transport and other regional unions working in the field;

(c) International organizations with expertise in the collection and processing of land transport statistics should be asked to cooperate with ESCWA in securing technical assistance for member countries;

(d) National institutions working in the field of land transport statistics should be encouraged to coordinate, with a view to collecting and publishing accurate and reliable statistics in that field in accordance with the agreed international standards. A standardized terminology should be adopted in order to make it possible to conduct accurate international comparisons;

(e) Coordination between the relevant ministries, railway organizations and national statistical offices in member countries is essential in order to meet the statistical requirements for implementation of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq and the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq;

(f) Emphasis should be placed on the need to improve methods of collecting land transport statistics by using regular surveys of all official and other sectors;

(g) In order to obtain reliable and accurate data an effective national mechanism should be created, with a view to ensuring full and serious cooperation between the national institutions on which transport sector surveys are conducted;

(h) Training sessions should be held in order to qualify national human resources to conduct surveys;

(i) Member countries should be called upon to provide appropriate computer programs for the processing and verification of the land transport statistical data collected during the regular surveys;

(j) The States of the region should be called upon to take positive steps to implement Council of Arab Transportation Ministers resolution 150, adopted at the session held from 11 to 25 October 1995, concerning the establishment of a database on the transport sector in Arab countries. In that regard, participants recommended that ESCWA should take the initiative in implementing the resolution in its member countries, in coordination with transport ministries, national statistical offices and the League of Arab States, and benefit from the experience of the Jordanian Ministry of Transport in that field;

(k) The issue of the database should be submitted to the forthcoming sessions of both the ESCWA Committee on Transport and the Statistical Committee for further consideration and agreement on an appropriate mechanism for implementation.

## **II. ISSUES CONSIDERED**

3. The Workshop was held over seven sessions, in the course of which a number of issues relating to the concepts and definitions used in land transport statistics and methods for collecting and processing statistical data in that field were considered. Participating experts presented 11 national reports on their countries' experience of developing land transport statistics and related problems. ESCWA presented two working papers, including the statistical requirements for implementing the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq and the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq. During discussions, a number of points were raised, the most important being the following:

(a) The situation in most countries of the region showed that support for coordination between national statistical offices and other national organizations that collect land transport statistics helps to remedy deficiencies in such statistics and guarantees accurate figures and data and comprehensive coverage;

(b) The concepts and definitions used in the countries of the ESCWA region in order to collect statistics on land transport should be standardized;

(c) Consideration should be given to the feasibility of designing a standard questionnaire for ESCWA member countries to use in collecting statistical data in that field;

(d) The experience of international and regional organizations with extensive expertise in the field of collecting and processing statistics on land transport should be exploited;

(e) Training courses should be held in order to equip local staff to conduct surveys;

(f) Encouragement should be given for the updating of statistical systems and computer programs for the collection and processing of land transport statistics.

## **III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **A. VENUE AND DATE OF THE WORKSHOP**

4. The Workshop on Land Transport Statistics was held over seven working sessions at United Nations House, Beirut, from 12 to 14 July 2005.

### **B. OPENING**

5. At the inaugural meeting the Director of the ESCWA Globalization and Regional Integration Division (GRID) welcomed ESCWA member country participants and the representative of IWG and thanked all those who had participated in the organization and preparation of the Workshop.

6. Ms. Mariam Al-Awadhi, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCWA and Head of the Inter-divisional Statistics Steering Committee, made an opening statement in which she welcomed the participants and said that the Workshop was an important step towards increasing levels of knowledge about land transport and building national capacities in the region in the field of statistics.

7. Mr. Hans Strelow, representative of IWG, made a statement in which he clarified the role and responsibilities of the Group and the organizations of which it is comprised.

### **C. PARTICIPANTS**

8. The Workshop was attended by representatives of statistical organizations and ministries of transport from 11 ESCWA member countries, namely, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

9. Representatives of the League of Arab States and the Islamic Development Bank and an IWG expert also attended the Workshop. Annex I of this report comprises a list of the participants.

#### D. DOCUMENTS

10. Annex II comprises a list of the papers submitted during the Workshop.

## Annex I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

##### Egypt

Ms. Thouraya Atta Hakim Salame  
General Director  
Statistics Department  
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and  
Statistics  
Cairo  
Phone: 202-4023031  
Fax: 202-4024099  
E-mail: [capmas\\_presaffr@yahoo.com](mailto:capmas_presaffr@yahoo.com)

##### Iraq

Ms. Basima Hanna Sebo  
Director of Transport and Communications  
Department  
Central Department of Statistics  
Ministry of Planning and Development  
Cooperation  
P.O. Box 8001  
Baghdad  
Phone: 0096418152393  
E-mail: [theplanningminister@yahoo.com](mailto:theplanningminister@yahoo.com)

##### Jordan

Mr. Mohammad Fathi Mohamad Rabah  
Mahmoud  
Statistician  
Department of Statistics  
Amman  
Phone: 0096265300700  
Fax: 0096265300710  
E-mail: [stat@dos.gov.jo](mailto:stat@dos.gov.jo)  
[Mohafmm2002@yahoo.com](mailto:Mohafmm2002@yahoo.com)

Mr. Laith Dababneh  
Director of Transport Department  
Ministry of Transport  
Amman  
Phone: 00962-6-5518111 Ext. 233  
Mobile: 00962796527500  
Fax: 00962-6-5527233  
E-mail: [Ldababneh@mot.gov.jo](mailto:Ldababneh@mot.gov.jo)

Ms. Evon Abutaieh  
Director of Information Technology  
Department  
Ministry of Transport  
Amman  
Phone: 00962-6-5518111  
Mobile: 00962-777-202102  
Fax: 00962-6-5527233  
E-mail: [eabutaieh@mot.gov.jo](mailto:eabutaieh@mot.gov.jo)  
[Evon2k@yahoo.com](mailto:Evon2k@yahoo.com)

##### Kuwait

Ms. Mona Issa Abed Alaziz Al-quattan  
Statistics Department  
Ministry of Planning  
Kuwait  
P.O. Box 15 al-safat  
Phone: 2428200 Ext. 1491  
Fax: 2406985  
E-mail: [qattanm@mop.gov.kw](mailto:qattanm@mop.gov.kw)

##### Lebanon

Mr. Radwan Fares  
Economist  
Central Department of Statistics  
Beirut  
Phone: 01-373167, 01-373169  
Fax: 01-373162  
E-mail: [srmj-3@hotmail.com](mailto:srmj-3@hotmail.com)

Mr. Tony Assaf  
Head/Studies and International Agreements  
Division  
Ministry of Transport and Public Works  
Beirut  
Phone: 9611 372796  
Fax: 372796  
E-mail: [toniassaf@hotmail.com](mailto:toniassaf@hotmail.com)

Mr. Mosa Shalohop  
Ministry of Interior Affair  
Registration Vehicles Department  
Beirut  
Phone: 9611 690497

### Oman

Mr. Ibrahim Bin Saeed Alnehaei  
Chief of Economic Surveys Division  
Department of Statistics  
Ministry of National Economy  
Muscat  
P.O. Box 881  
Phone: 24698900-24698829  
Mobile: 99248299  
Fax: 00968-24604718  
E-mail: [mone@omantel.net.om](mailto:mone@omantel.net.om)

### Palestine

Mr. Maher AlShamee  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics  
Ramallah  
Phone: 0097022406340  
Fax: 0097022406343  
E-mail: [diwan@pcbs.pna.org](mailto:diwan@pcbs.pna.org)

### Qatar

Mr. Mohamed Saeed Almohamedi  
Statistics Department  
The Planning Council  
Doha  
P.O. Box 1855  
Phone: 009744381111  
Fax: 009744425555  
E-mail: [mmohannadi@planning.gov.qa](mailto:mmohannadi@planning.gov.qa)

### Saudi Arabia

Mr. Suliman Bin Mohamed Almosaiter  
Department of Statistics  
P.O. Box 3735  
Al-Riyadh  
Phone: 0096614014138  
Fax: 0096614059493, 0096614013778

Mr. Mohamed Bin Zeid Aldafas  
Central Department of Statistics  
P.O. Box 3735  
Al-Riyadh  
Phone: 0096614014138  
Fax: 0096614059493, 0096614013778  
E-mail: [aldafas@cds.gov.sa](mailto:aldafas@cds.gov.sa)

### Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Issam Mistmli  
Assistant Manager  
Department of Economic Services Statistics  
Damascus  
Phone: 00963113335830/3  
Fax: 00963113322292  
E-mail: [cbs@mail.sy](mailto:cbs@mail.sy)

### Yemen

Mr. Yehya Hasan Almahthari  
Central Department of Statistics  
Ministry of Planning and International  
Cooperation  
Sana'a  
P.O. Box 14343  
Phone: 00967250618/9 - 250108  
Mobile: 71885895  
Fax: 00967250664  
E-mail: [csol@y.net.ye](mailto:csol@y.net.ye)

## B. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### Arab League

Ms. Huda Abu Allail  
Statistics and Database Division  
Land Transport Department  
Arab League  
Cairo, Egypt  
Phone: 202-3580375  
Fax: 202-5740331  
E-mail: [hoda\\_allail@hotmail.com](mailto:hoda_allail@hotmail.com)

Mr. Abdelaziz Salaheddine Bassiouny  
Tourist, Transport and Electricity Department  
Arab League  
Cairo, Egypt  
Phone: 202-5750511  
Fax: 202-5740331  
E-mail: [aebassiouny@yahoo.com](mailto:aebassiouny@yahoo.com)

Islamic Development Bank

Mr. Abdullatif Bello  
Group Leader  
Statistics Group in the Economic Policy and  
Strategic Planning Department  
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
Phone: 96626467429  
Fax: 96626467478  
E-mail: [Abello@isdb.org](mailto:Abello@isdb.org)

C. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Inter-Secretariat Working Group (IWG-Trans)

Mr. Hans Strelow  
Eurostat (BECH A3/093)  
Jean Monnet Building - Kirchberg  
L-2920 Luxembourg  
Luxembourg  
Phone: 352430134580  
Fax: 3524301 32289  
E-mail: [Hans.Strelow@cec.eu.i](mailto:Hans.Strelow@cec.eu.i)

D. ESCWA SECRETARIAT

Ms. Thouka Al-Khalidi  
Chief, Globalization and Regional Integration  
Division  
Phone: 009611978351  
Fax: 009611980510  
E-mail: [alkhalidi@un.org](mailto:alkhalidi@un.org)

Mr. Houssam Al Zoubi  
Statistical Assistant  
Globalization and Regional Integration Division  
Phone: 009611978348  
Fax: 009611981510  
E-mail: [alzoubi@un.org](mailto:alzoubi@un.org)

Ms. Fathia Abdel Fadil  
Team Leader, Statistics Team  
Globalization and Regional Integration Division  
Phone: 009611978359  
Fax: 009611981510  
E-mail: [abdelfadil@un.org](mailto:abdelfadil@un.org)



Annex II

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Symbol	Title
E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/WG.2/L.1	جدول الأعمال المؤقت
E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/WG.2/INF.1	مذكرة توضيحية
E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/WG.2/CP.1	ورقة قطرية حول إحصاءات النقل البري في اليمن
E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/WG.2/CP.2	ورقة قطرية حول إحصاءات النقل البري: التجربة الفلسطينية
E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/WG.2/CP.3	ورقة قطرية حول إحصاءات النقل البري في الجمهورية العربية السورية
E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/WG.2/CP.4	ورقة قطرية حول إحصاءات النقل البري بالجهاز المركزي للتعبئة العامة والإحصاء، جمهورية مصر العربية
E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/WG.2/CP.5	ورقة قطرية حول إحصاءات النقل البري في دولة قطر
E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/WG.2/CP.6	ورقة قطرية حول إحصاءات النقل البري في دولة الكويت
E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/WG.2/CP.7	ورقة قطرية حول إحصاءات النقل البري في المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية، دائرة الإحصاءات العامة
No symbol	إحصاءات النقل البري في المملكة العربية السعودية
No symbol	إحصاءات النقل البري في الجمهورية العراقية
No symbol	إحصاءات النقل البري في سلطنة عمان
No symbol	إحصاءات السكك الحديدية الإسكوا
No symbol	إحصاءات النقل البري، الإسكوا
No symbol	Road Transport Statistics
No symbol	European Transport Statistics IWG Trans and Energy and Transport Statistics Unit
E/ESCWA/SCU/2005/WG.2/3	Eurostat and the Search of A Common Statistical Framework
No symbol	A. Railway Transport-Common Questionnaire: i. Infrastructure ii. Transport Equipment iii. Enterprises, Economic Performance and Employment iv. Traffic v. Transport Measurement vii. Rail Accidents

Symbol	Title
No symbol	B. Road Transport-Common Questionnaire: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="632 277 847 304">i. Infrastructure</li> <li data-bbox="632 331 1059 358">ii. Transport Equipment (vehicles)</li> <li data-bbox="632 385 1321 412">iii. Enterprises, Economic Performance and Employment</li> <li data-bbox="632 439 767 465">iv. Traffic</li> <li data-bbox="632 492 970 519">v. Transport Measurement</li> <li data-bbox="632 546 807 573">vii. Accidents</li> </ol>
No symbol	C. Inland Waterways Transport-Common Questionnaire: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="632 669 847 696">i. Infrastructure</li> <li data-bbox="632 723 1401 788">ii. Transport Equipment (vessels) Registered in the Reporting Country</li> <li data-bbox="632 815 1321 842">iii. Enterprises, Economic Performance and Employment</li> <li data-bbox="632 869 970 896">iv. Transport Measurement</li> </ol>
No symbol	D. Oil Pipeline Transport-Common Questionnaire: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="632 987 847 1014">i. Infrastructure</li> <li data-bbox="632 1041 943 1068">ii. Transport Equipment</li> <li data-bbox="632 1095 1326 1122">iii. Enterprises, Economic Performance and Employment</li> <li data-bbox="632 1149 767 1176">iv. Traffic</li> <li data-bbox="632 1202 975 1229">v. Transport Measurement</li> </ol>