

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Dist.
LIM TED
E/ESCWA/GRID/2008/IG.1/L.1/Add.1
15 January 2008
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Transport
Ninth session
Beirut, 26-28 February 2008

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. *Opening of the ninth session of the Committee on Transport*

The ninth session of the Committee on Transport will commence at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 26 February 2008, in Beirut.

2. *Election of officers*

In accordance with the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, section V, rule 18, "Member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations.* Unless the Commission decides otherwise, those bodies shall elect all their other officers". Oman therefore assumes the chairmanship of the ninth session of the Committee on Transport. In keeping with the spirit of that rule, and with a view to ensuring continuity, the Committee on Transport has in previous sessions, the most recent of which, the eighth session, was held in Beirut from 27 to 29 March 2007, adopted the following procedure when selecting its two Vice-Chairmen and its Rapporteur:

- (a) The country that chaired the preceding session shall assume the position of one Vice-Chairman;
- (b) The second position of Vice-Chairman shall be assumed by the country next in alphabetical order to the country chairing the current session;
- (c) The position of Rapporteur shall be assumed by the country next in alphabetical order to the country acting as Vice-Chairman.

That procedure will be followed in the selection of officers for the ninth session. Accordingly, the representatives of Iraq and Palestine shall assume the positions of Vice-Chairmen and the representative of Qatar shall assume the position of Rapporteur.

* The Arabic alphabetized list of ESCWA member countries is as follows: Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

3. *Adoption of the agenda*

Pursuant to the provisions of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, rule 8, which apply to subsidiary bodies, "At the beginning of each session, once the Chairman has assumed his duties in accordance with rule 12, the [Committee] shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda". The provisional agenda for this session is contained in document E/ESCWA/GRID/2008/IG.1/L.1. The Committee shall adopt the agenda in that or an amended form.

4. *Proposed organization of work*

The Committee will be presented with E/ESCWA/GRID/2008/IG.1/L.2, which contains the proposed organization of work, to be adopted in the form in which it is submitted, or with amendments included.

5. *General discussion of transport issues in the Arab Mashreq: draft agreement on international multimodal transport of goods in the Arab Mashreq*

This item has been set aside for the interventions of member countries with a view to strengthening interaction between member countries and the executive secretariat of ESCWA. Interventions may include remarks on any of the ninth session agenda items and, in particular, relating to the draft agreement on the law on international multimodal transport of goods in the Arab Mashreq. The Committee will be presented with E/ESCWA/GRID/2008/IG.1/3, which contains a review and explanation of the stages involved in preparing the draft agreement on international multimodal transport of goods in the Arab Mashreq. The Committee will also be presented with E/ESCWA/GRID/2007/10/L.1, the document that contains the final draft of the agreement, which includes comments on the first and second drafts and those made during the Expert Group Meeting on International Multimodal Transport in the ESCWA Region, which was held in Cairo from 4 to 6 September 2007. The ESCWA secretariat hopes that the representatives of member countries will approve the draft agreement, in preparation for its adoption and signature at the ministerial level during the twenty-fifth ESCWA session, which is expected to be held from 19 to 22 May 2008.

6. *Review of transport-related action taken since the sixth session of the Committee on Transport*

The Committee will be presented with E/ESCWA/GRID/2008/IG.1/4, which comprises two parts:

(a) Follow-up of implementation of the recommendations of the eighth session of the Committee on Transport

The Committee will be presented with E/ESCWA/GRID/2008/IG.1/4(Part I), which contains the recommendations made at the eighth session of the Committee on Transport and the progress made in implementing those recommendations. This section contains two reports on the principal issues related to the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM), namely:

(i) The Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq

The Committee will be presented with two documents, namely, E/ESCWA/GRID/2008/IG.1/4(Part I)/Add.1, which includes a report of the follow-up on implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq, and E/ESCWA/GRID/2008/IG.1/4(Part I)/Add.2, which includes a report on the follow-up of implementation of priority routes M40 and M45.

Other activities related to the principal ITSAM-related issues will be discussed, including the following:

(ii) The Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq

Member countries will review the latest developments relating to the follow-up of the implementation of the Agreement.

(iii) National committees for the facilitation of transport and trade in the countries of the ESCWA region

Each member country will present a review of the latest developments in establishing and activating their national committees.

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq

Member countries will review the latest developments in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq.

(v) Regional road transport information system

Member countries will review the latest developments in completing the data required for establishing the international road network.

(vi) Road safety

Each member country will present a review of the latest developments in respect of road safety issues.

Action Required: To take note of action that has been taken in the implementation of the recommendations of the eighth session of the Committee on Transport and other related activities, and advise the secretariat on the completion of follow-up to the implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq and the detailed plan of action for establishing priority routes M40 and M45, and on the needs of member countries in respect of the implementation of all the requirements for ITSAM, in accordance with the relevant resolutions.

(b) Progress made in implementing regular budget transport-related activities in the 2006-2007 biennium; consultancy services and technical cooperation; and extrabudgetary activities

For the purposes of information and follow-up, the Committee will be presented with E/ESCWA/GRID/2008/IG.1/4(Part II), which contains a summary of the most significant achievements realized by ESCWA in the field of transport in the 2006-2007 biennium.

7. *Amendments proposed to the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq*

Yemen has proposed amendments to some routes that are part of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq. The Committee will be presented with E/ESCWA/GRID/2008/IG.1/5, which contains those proposals for discussion and, if deemed suitable, adoption.

8. *Draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in the field of transport*

For the purposes of information, discussion and appropriate follow-up, the Committee will be presented with E/ESCWA/24/6(Part III), which contains the draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in the field of transport, part of subprogramme 3: development and economic integration, which will be implemented by the ESCWA Globalization and Regional Integration Division. That subprogramme is part of programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the United Nations for the biennium programme of work 2008-2009.

9. *Draft strategic framework and draft programme of work in the field of transport for the biennium 2010-2011*

10. *Date and venue of the tenth session of the Committee on Transport*

The Committee will determine the date and venue of the tenth session of the Committee on Transport, to be held in the first quarter of 2009.

11. *Other business*

This agenda item permits members of the Committee to introduce and consider any other issues as they see fit.

12. *Adoption of the report of the Committee of Transport on its eighth session*

The Committee will consider and subsequently adopt its draft report, contained in E/ESCWA/GRID/2008/IG.1/L.6, which includes recommendations.