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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Committee on Transport  
Twelfth session  
Beirut, 17-19 May 2011

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2012-2013  
IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT**

**Summary**

This document contains proposals concerning the programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport. Proposals were drafted based on subprogramme 3 pertaining to economic development and integration of the strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013. The subprogramme 3 includes action taken by ESCWA in the fields of economic analysis, financing for development and trade and transport. The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Economic Development and Globalization Division.

The Committee is invited to review the components of the proposed programme of work, comment on the suggested activities and examine how they correspond to the priorities of member countries and are linked to the achievement of expected accomplishments in the field of transport in the framework of subprogramme 3. The committee is also invited to discuss means for measuring indicators of achievement in order to carefully monitor the progress made in the implementation of proposed outputs.

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## Introduction

1. The proposed programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2012-2013 was prepared on the basis of programme 18, economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013,<sup>1</sup> as modified by the United Nations Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fiftieth session (New York, 7 June – 2 July 2010). The revised draft strategic framework of ESCWA for the biennium 2012-2013 was endorsed earlier by ESCWA at its twenty-sixth session (Beirut, 17-20 May 2010).<sup>2</sup>

2. This document reproduces the overall orientation of programme 18 as set out in the strategic framework, before presenting the following details of subprogramme 3 under programme 18: the logical framework comprising the objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, performance measures; the strategy; external factors; and the outputs expected to be delivered by the subprogramme during the biennium 2012-2013.

3. In proposing the outputs of subprogramme 3, the secretariat has given due consideration to the following:

- (a) Emerging global and regional issues and mandates;
- (b) Outcome of ESCWA twenty-sixth session and recommendations made by its subsidiary bodies at their respective sessions;
- (c) Regional monitoring and reporting requirements of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- (d) Concluded agreements and strategic partnerships at global and regional levels;
- (e) Enhancing linkages between the normative, analytical and operational activities of ESCWA;
- (f) Good practice and lessons learned identified through the programme performance assessment for the biennium 2008-2009 and the programme budget exercise for the biennium 2010-2011.

4. ESCWA proposed programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013, which includes the seven subprogrammes, had been submitted to the Technical Committee at its fifth meeting held in Beirut on 6 and 7 April 2011. Recommendations made by representatives of member countries at the meeting were taken into account in the preparation of the proposed programme of work of subprogramme 3 contained in this document. Expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, strategy and outputs are in bold.

5. The Committee on Transport is invited to review the proposed outputs and provide guidance to the secretariat, based on the following criteria: (a) Linkage between proposed outputs and needs of intended beneficiaries, namely transport ministries and other specialized bodies in the ESCWA region; (b) contribution of proposed outputs to the implementation of expected accomplishments of subprogramme 3. It is also called to take in consideration discussions that shall take place during the current session, in particular under item 4 of the provisional agenda on the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region, and item 6 (c) on road safety in light of launching the Decade for Road Safety 2011-2020.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013, Programme 18, Economic and Social Development in Western Asia, A/65/6(Prog.18)*. Available at: <http://documents.un.org>.

<sup>2</sup> ESCWA, *Management Issues, Revised draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013, E/ESCWA/26/7*. Available at: <http://documents.un.org>.

**SUBPROGRAMME 3  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION**

A. OBJECTIVE

The objective of subprogramme 3 for the biennium 2012-2013 is to achieve economic development and accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through appropriate macroeconomic policies, adequate financing for development and the promotion of regional integration including transport and trade facilitation.

The programme of work has been formulated with reference to programme 18, subprogramme 3 of the United Nations strategic framework for the period 2012-2013.

B. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

| Expected accomplishments  | Indicators of achievement   |
|---|---|
| (a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate and implement policies and measures recommended in the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, taking into consideration the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis   | <p>(a) (i) Increased number of policies and measures adopted by member countries to implement the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, taking into consideration the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis, with ESCWA assistance, through training, advisory services and technical assistance</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i><br/>2008-2009: 15 policies/measures<br/>Estimate for 2010-2011: 18 policies/measures<br/>Target for 2012-2013: 21 policies/measures</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of policies and agreements adopted by member countries for promoting regional integration, with ESCWA assistance, through training, advisory services and technical assistance</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i><br/>2008-2009: N/A<br/>Estimate for 2010-2011: N/A<br/>Target for 2012-2013: 2 policies/agreements</p> |
| (b) <b>Enhanced capacity of member countries to continue the implementation of the international transport agreements concluded within ESCWA for the enhancement of regional integration, as well as the other various components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq including institutional frameworks, transport and trade facilitation and road traffic safety</b> | <p>(b) (i) <b>Increased number of actions taken by member countries to accelerate and enhance regional integration through the implementation of the United Nations international transport agreements concluded within ESCWA on road, railway and maritime transport</b></p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i><br/><b>2008-2009: 31 actions<br/>Estimate for 2010-2011: 32 actions<br/>Target for 2012-2013: 34 actions</b></p>  |

| Expected accomplishments  | Indicators of achievement   |
|---|---|
| (c) Enhanced capacity of member countries to negotiate and implement subregional, regional and multilateral trade agreements designed to increase international trade   | (ii) Increased number of policy measures taken by member countries, based on ESCWA recommendations, to facilitate intraregional transport and trade between member countries including the implementation of the Single Window Initiative, and the establishment and activation of the national transport and trade facilitation committees<br><i>Performance measures:</i><br>2008-2009: 9 policy measures<br>Estimate for 2010-2011: 10 policy measures<br>Target for 2012-2013: 11 policy measures |
|   | (iii) Increased number of measures taken by member countries, based on ESCWA recommendations, to improve road traffic safety<br><i>Performance measures:</i><br>2008-2009: 6 measures<br>Estimate for 2010-2011: 7 measures<br>Target for 2012-2013: 8 measures   |
|   | (c) (i) Increased number of requests for technical assistance, including advisory services in trade policy and negotiations, to which ESCWA is able to respond to positively<br><i>Performance measures:</i><br>2008-2009: 3 requests<br>Estimate for 2010-2011: 4 requests<br>Target for 2012-2013: 5 requests   |
|   | (ii) Increased percentage of follow-up survey responses where member countries acknowledged that they benefited from ESCWA analytical outputs and capacity-building services in trade policy and trade negotiations<br><i>Performance measures:</i><br>2008-2009: N/A<br>Estimate for 2010-2011: 20 per cent increase in number of positive responses<br>Target for 2012-2013: 30 per cent increase in number of positive responses   |
| (d) Enhanced capacity of member countries in the region in designing and implementing suitable macroeconomic policies and strategies for sustainable economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation | (d) (i) Increased percentage of stakeholders in the region that, through follow-up surveys, acknowledge benefits from ESCWA analytical outputs in the area of macroeconomic policies and development strategies in designing and implementing suitable macroeconomic policies and development strategies for sustainable economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation   |

| Expected accomplishments  | Indicators of achievement   |
|---|---|
|   | <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2008-2009: 50 per cent increase in number of positive responses<br/>           Estimate for 2010-2011: 55 per cent increase in number of positive responses<br/>           Target for 2012-2013: 60 per cent increase in number of positive responses</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of macroeconomic policies and development strategies adopted by member countries based on ESCWA analytical work in these areas</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2008-2009: N/A<br/>           Estimate for 2010-2011: N/A<br/>           Target for 2012-2013: 2 policies/strategies</p>  |
| <p>(e) Strengthened capacity of policymakers in member countries and other stakeholders to design and implement policies and instruments to achieve diversified economies and create effective national and regional value chains</p> | <p>(e) (i) Increased number of policy measures taken by member countries, based on ESCWA recommendations, to diversify their national economy and create effective value chains</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2008-2009: N/A<br/>           Estimate for 2010-2011: N/A<br/>           Target for 2012-2013: 2 policy measures</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of requests for technical assistance, including advisory services, in economic policy and strategic planning, that ESCWA is able to respond to positively</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>2008-2009: N/A<br/>           Estimate for 2010-2011: N/A<br/>           Target for 2012-2013: 2 requests</p> |

### C. STRATEGY

18.26 The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Economic Development and Globalization Division. The Millennium Development Goals, the revised Damascus Declaration on responding to the International Financial Crisis in the ESCWA Region, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Doha Development Agenda, the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq, and the relevant General Assembly and ESCWA resolutions provide the legislative authority for the subprogramme.

18.27 To enhance the capacity of member countries in accelerating the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, the subprogramme will continue to lead the coordination and production of a joint regional LAS-United Nations report on the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab region. The report

will be policy-oriented and will suggest practical policy recommendations for member countries that should assist them in accelerating the attainment of the goals by 2015.

18.28 To achieve its expected accomplishment in the financing for development area, the subprogramme will assist member countries to analyse and evaluate world and regional financial development and propose regional strategies and coordinated regional responses. Emphasis will be placed on the development of strategic partnerships with financial institutions and development funds to accelerate the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration. The subprogramme will also undertake normative and analytical studies to assist policymakers in member countries to deal with issues related to financial markets development, foreign direct investment, workers' remittances, debt management, official development assistance, regional integration and globalization.

**18.29 The subprogramme will focus on enhancing regional integration through building the capacities of member countries in accelerating the implementation of the United Nations international transport agreements concluded within ESCWA over the past 35 years for road, railway and maritime transport. Work will continue on the implementation of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq including transport and trade facilitation for enhancing regional integration and South-South cooperation. Special attention will be given to the implementation of the Single Window Initiative and the continued establishment and activation of the national transport and trade facilitation committees and related regional coordination. The subprogramme will also serve as a regional platform to raise awareness about road traffic safety issues.**

18.30 The subprogramme will continue to work to enhance international trade policy formulation for servicing productive capacity-building and utilization of domestic and regional markets, and intra- and interregional trade in line with regional economic agreements such as the Greater Arab Free Trade Area. It will continue to enhance the capacities of member countries in the subregional, regional and multilateral trade agreements designed to increase their international and intraregional trade and their integration into the multilateral trading system.

18.31 In the area of economic analysis, the subprogramme adopts a two-track strategy. The first track consists of:

(a) A continuous assessment of the region's macroeconomic performances for timely identification and analysis of socially inclusive macroeconomic policy issues;

(b) Economic research with modelling and forecasting techniques and normative approaches, including human rights-based approaches to development that are relevant to the regional context;

(c) Putting analytical emphasis on regional priorities such as poverty alleviation, socially inclusive macroeconomic policies consistent with long-term development goals, and employment creation, in particular among young people.

18.32 The second track will be implemented in parallel with the first, by utilizing analytical and normative outputs of the former in order to enhance technical awareness, capacity and networking on development and socially inclusive macroeconomic issues and policies in the region.

18.33 The analytical outputs of the subprogramme will be utilized in order to enhance technical awareness, capacity and networking on policies and strategies pertaining to achieving the objectives of the subprogramme. This will be carried out through organizing effective intergovernmental group meetings, expert group meetings, seminars, workshops, technical advisory services and the preparation of studies and reports. An increased interaction with global and regional stakeholders, and governmental and non-governmental bodies, will be sought to promote regional cooperation in the above-mentioned areas.

#### D. EXTERNAL FACTORS

Subprogramme 3 is expected to achieve its expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are willing to increase their subregional and regional cooperation and integration; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in funding; (c) the political situation in the region does not further deteriorate; (d) up-to-date and reliable economic and transport statistics are made available on youth unemployment and the MDGs; and (e) regional stakeholders have access to information technology facilities.

#### E. OUTPUTS

During the biennium 2012-2013, the following outputs are expected to be delivered under subprogramme 3:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) *ESCWA*

Parliamentary documentation:

- a. **Report of the Committee on Transport on its twelfth session (2012, expected accomplishment (b));**
- b. **Report of the Committee on Transport on its thirteenth session (2013, expected accomplishment (b));**
- c. Report of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the countries of the ESCWA Region on its seventh session (2012, expected accomplishments (a) and (c));
- d. Report on policy options for key macroeconomic issues (2012, expected accomplishment (d));
- e. Report on the progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab region (2012, expected accomplishment (d)).

(ii) *Committee on Transport*

- a. **Substantive servicing of meetings of the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Committee on Transport (6 meetings each in 2012 and 2013, expected accomplishment (b));**
- b. **Parliamentary documentation:**
  - i. **Follow-up report on the implementation of the United Nations international transport conventions concluded within the ESCWA region (2012, expected accomplishment (b));**
  - ii. **Report on the national transport and trade facilitation committees in the ESCWA region (2013, expected accomplishment (b)).**



(iii) *Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region*

- a. Substantive servicing of the meetings of the eighth session of the Technical Committee on Trade and Financing for Development (4 meetings) (2013, expected accomplishments (a) and (c));
- b. Parliamentary documentation:
  - i. Report on the implementation of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development (2013, expected accomplishment (a));
  - ii. Report on trade policy formulation servicing productive capacity (2013, expected accomplishment (c)).

(iv) *Ad hoc expert groups*

Nine expert group meetings on the following topics:

- a. Assessment of the progress made by ESCWA member countries in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the preparation for the 2013 International Conference on Financing for Development (2012, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. High priority issues of financing for development: regional cooperation (2013, expected accomplishment (a));
- c. **Transport and trade facilitation in the ESCWA region (2012, expected accomplishment (b));**
- d. **Trade and development in the ESCWA region: South-South cooperation (2013, expected accomplishment (c));**
- e. Regional economic situation and policy assessment including diversification (2 meetings) (2012-2013, expected accomplishment (d));
- f. Trends, challenges and emerging issues in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (2 meetings) (2012-2013, expected accomplishment (d));
- g. Regional integration: an economic perspective (2013, expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d));
- h. Global economy, regional integration and national trade policies (2012, expected accomplishment (c));
- i. Diversified economic policy formulation and its positive impact in the ESCWA region (2013, expected accomplishment (e)).

(b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*(i) *Recurrent publications*

- a. Progress report on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development (2012, expected accomplishment (a));

- b. Regional Millennium Development Goals Report (2013, expected accomplishment (d));
- c. Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region (2 issues) (2012-2013, expected accomplishment (d)).

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications*

- a. High Priority Issues of Financing for Development: Post-financial Crisis, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Debt and Development (2012, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Foreign Direct Investment Report (2013, expected accomplishment (a));
- c. **Transport and Trade Facilitation: Behind Border Facilitation – Procedures and Possible Actions (2012, expected accomplishment (b));**
- d. Trade and Development in the ESCWA Region: Regional Cooperation – WTO and Market Access (2012, expected accomplishment (c));
- e. Enhancing Fiscal Capacity to Attain the Millennium Development Goals (2012, expected accomplishment (d));
- f. Regional Cooperation and the Millennium Development Goals (2012, expected accomplishments (a) and (d));
- g. Proposed Economic Diversification Policies and Strategies in the ESCWA Region (2013, expected accomplishment (e)).

(iii) *Technical material*

- a. Working paper series on: financing for development; trade; the Millennium Development Goals; and economic development (2012-2013, expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d));
- b. Regional Economic Forecasts (2 issues) (2012-2013, expected accomplishment (d));
- c. Maintenance and update of ESCWA homepage on economic development and integration (2012-2013, expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d));
- d. Establishing and updating a web page on Arab Millennium Development Goals (2012-2013, expected accomplishment (d)).

(iv) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits*

- a. **Booklet on trade facilitation initiatives in the region (2013, expected accomplishment (c));**
- b. Information kit on the status of implementation of trade agreements in the ESCWA region (2013, expected accomplishment (c));
- c. Fact sheet on trade indices and indicators in the ESCWA region (2012, expected accomplishment (c)).

*(v) Contribution to inter-agency meetings and joint outputs*

- a. Regional input to the annual publication of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) *World Economic Situation and Prospects* (2 contributions) (2012-2013, expected accomplishment (d));
- b. Contribution to the annual report *Aid for Trade Statistics* published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2012-2013, expected accomplishment (c));
- c. Organizing a meeting for the Thematic Working Group on Arab Millennium Development Goals (ESCWA, United Nations agencies and League of Arab States) (2012-2013, expected accomplishment (d)).

*(vi) Special events*

- a. Launching of the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region (2012-2013, expected accomplishment (d));
- b. Launching of the Regional Millennium Development Goals Report (2013, expected accomplishment (d)).

*(c) Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary)**(i) Training courses, seminars and workshops*

Training workshops on bilateral investment agreements, FDI outflows, double taxation avoidance, and debt management for government officials in the ESCWA region (Development Account) (2012-2013, expected accomplishment (a)).

*(ii) Field projects*

- a. Strengthening the capacity to negotiate bilateral investment treaties in the ESCWA region (Development Account) (2010-2013, expected accomplishment (a));
- b. Facilitating effective integration of developing countries in the global economy through Aid for Trade schemes (Development Account) (2011-2012, expected accomplishments (a) and (b)).

*(d) Conference services and administration oversight*

Discretionary self-assessment of subprogramme 3 (2012, related to all expected accomplishments).

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