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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Transport
Thirteenth session
Beirut, 24-26 April 2012

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

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5. Progress achieved in the field of transport since the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport:
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 - (b) Implementation of transport-related activities under ESCWA programme of work.
6. Progress achieved in implementing the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq: Overview.
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10. Other matters.
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ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport will commence at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 24 April 2012, at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations House, in Beirut. The representative of Kuwait, in his capacity as Chairperson of the twelfth session of the Committee, will make a welcome statement. Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCWA, will then deliver the inaugural speech. The session is expected to be held under the auspices of His Excellency Mr. Ghazi El Areeidi, Minister of Public Works and Transport in Lebanon.

2. Election of officers

Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia states: “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”.¹ Pursuant to that rule, Lebanon shall assume the chairmanship of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Transport. In keeping with the spirit of that rule, and with a view to ensuring continuity, the Committee has, in previous sessions, adopted the following procedure when selecting its two Vice-Chairmen and its Rapporteur:

- (a) The country that chaired the preceding session shall assume one position of 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 assuming the second position of Vice-Chairman.

The Committee may follow this procedure in the selection of officers for the thirteenth session. Accordingly, the representatives of Kuwait and Egypt shall assume the positions of Vice-Chairmen and the representative of Saudi Arabia shall assume the position of Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which applies to subsidiary bodies, states: “At the beginning of each session, once the Chairman has assumed his duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda”. Pursuant to that rule, the Committee will be presented with the provisional agenda and annotations for this session in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/L.1 and the organization of work in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work in that or an amended form.

¹ ESCWA member countries in the Arabic alphabetical order are as follows: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

4. General discussion on transport issues in the Arab Mashreq (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/3)

Under this item, the Committee will be presented with the following two reports:

- (a) Second Meeting of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Institutional Frameworks and Legislation in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/3 (Part I))

The general discussion on the harmonization of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the ESCWA region will be based on the report prepared by the technical secretariat of the Working Group in cooperation with ESCWA. The report presents a review of the status of institutional frameworks and legislation in the transport sector in the member countries, based on information collected from national reports that were prepared according to a model report developed by the technical secretariat of the Working Group in coordination with ESCWA.

- (b) Financing projects for building the infrastructure of selected components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/3(Part II))

The general discussion on financing projects for building the infrastructure of selected components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM) will be initiated on the basis of a working paper presenting the main outcome and recommendations of a study on the issue conducted by ESCWA in December 2011.

Interventions made by representatives of member countries under this item may include remarks on all agenda items, with a view to enhancing interaction between member countries and the secretariat.

5. Progress achieved in the field of transport since the twelfth session of the Committee on Transport (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/4)

Under this item, the Committee will be presented with the following two reports:

- (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its twelfth session (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/4(Part I))

The Committee will review action and measures taken in the field of transport in implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its twelfth session. The document submitted to the Committee under this item presents each recommendation made and the action taken to implement it. Representatives of member countries are invited to offer their comments and make observations on the needs of their countries with respect to the implementation of the recommendations.

- (b) Implementation of transport-related activities under ESCWA programme of work (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/4(Part II))

The Committee will review progress made in implementing transport-related activities undertaken since its twelfth session under ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011. Representatives of member countries are invited to take note of those activities and make proposals and recommendations.

6. Progress achieved in implementing the components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq: Overview (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/5)

Under this item, the Committee will review a report on the status of implementation of the following components of ITSAM: (a) Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq; (b) priority routes M40 and M45; (c) Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq; (d) Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq; (e) national committees for the facilitation of transport and trade; and (f) road safety.

7. Programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/6)

The Committee will take note of the programme of work of ESCWA for the biennium 2012-2013 in the field of transport, under subprogramme 3, economic development and integration, which falls under the responsibility of the Economic Development and Globalization Division.

8. Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of transport (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2012/IG.1/7)

The Committee will consider the proposed strategic framework of ESCWA for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of transport, under subprogramme 3. Representatives of member countries are invited to review the proposed strategic framework and present comments and recommendations.

9. Date and venue of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Transport

Representatives of member countries shall agree on the date and venue of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Transport, given that it convenes in the first quarter of 2013.

10. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the representatives of member countries may wish to discuss.

11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Transport on its thirteenth session

The Committee will consider the draft report on its thirteenth session, containing the recommendations, for discussion and adoption.
