



ESCWA and Port of Beirut

Technical Cooperation on Revisiting the Port Master Plan after the Tragic Blast of 4 August 2020

Inception Stakeholders Consultation Workshop

Port of Beirut Conference Hall

Thursday 17 September 2020, from 11 AM to 1 PM

Information Note

1. Background

The Port of Beirut, as most ports worldwide, was developed over decades, in several phases and following successive Master Plans, the last one dating back to 2018.

Following a typical methodology, this 2018 Master Plan was developed taking into consideration the inherited buildings, warehouses and other land occupations, considered as obstacles/constraints hindering plan design from achieving full port performance and optimal connectivity to land transport networks, which is one important element of a port's competitiveness.

The tragic blast that occurred on 4 August 2020 resulted in significant damages to the port premises (infrastructure, buildings and warehouses).

While there is an urgent need to start recovery and reconstruction to bring back the port to its previous operations, the resulting situation invites to rethink the future layout of the port on new bases, taking into consideration the potential to develop a new land use plan that adopts the most advanced port technologies and enhances future performance and competitiveness.

At the request of the Port of Beirut Management and Operating Committee, ESCWA is providing a study revisiting the 2018 Master Plan that takes into consideration the ground alteration



induced by the tragic blast and proposes principal guidelines on possible modifications of the Master Plan for better port performance.

The study will offer a comprehensive vision of land interaction between the port and its hinterland, taking into consideration the relative advantages of all Lebanese ports together and the need for an integrated strategy for their development.

The study is expected to include the following components:

- Review of all previous reports and studies on the development of the Port of Beirut and maritime transport in Lebanon in general.
- Assess the relative advantages of all Lebanese Ports: Tripoli, Beirut, Saida and Tyr.
- Assess the actual status of the Port of Beirut among other competing ports on the East Mediterranean.
- Conduct a survey among all stakeholders concerned by port performance and development in Lebanon (governmental and public bodies, private sector entities engaged in the whole supply chain cycle, international organizations, consultancy firms, NGOs, etc.), to depict their views on port level of performance and spaces for improvement.
- Establish a SWOT analysis of the Port of Beirut; which will be the base to determine the adequate alternative / option to enhance its competitiveness and its regional positioning.
- Elaborate the accurate scenario for the future development of the Port of Beirut, transforming the terrain alteration induced by the blast into an opportunity to enhance port performance and effectiveness as main maritime hub on the East of the Mediterranean, taking into consideration the complementarity with other



Lebanese ports to increase the joint competitiveness of all Lebanese ports operating together as a maritime cluster.

- Build the general concept and the principal guidelines for the adjustment and updating of the Master Plan, and the future perspectives to be considered for the future enhancement of PoB; including but not limited to:
 - better locations of the Port's facilities (yards, warehouse, buildings)
 - new plan of traffic circulation inside the port and a new accessibility plan from outside.
 - future opportunity for multimodal connectivity with the hinterland
 - better use of emerging and future technologies for port operation and handling.

The study will be conducted by ESCWA Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics, who will be assisted by a highly qualified external consultant on port and transport planning. Relevant ESCWA staff members will also provide additional expertise as required.

Work on the study started on 1 September 2020, for a duration of three months, and will be developed through desk and field research and implementation of three workshops of consultations with all stakeholders:

- Inception workshop after, around 15 September 2020, to discuss and validate the study approach and sources of information and data.
- Intermediate workshop, around 15 October 2020, to present and discuss the findings of the survey and to validate the outputs of the SWOT.
- Final workshop, around 15 November 2020, to present and comment on the draft final report.



The final report will be submitted to the Port authority by three months after the beginning of our work on the study, i.e. by the end of November 2020.

2. **Objectives of the Inception Workshop:**

The inception workshop will discuss and validate the study approach and sources of information and data with all stakeholders.

3. **Date and venue:**

The workshop will be implemented on Thursday 17 September 2020, in the Conference Hall of the ground floor of PoB Administration building, from 11 AM to 1 PM.

Remote participation is not provided for this workshop

4. **Language**

The Slides of the power point presentations will be prepared in English. The presentations and discussion will be in Arabic language. **No simultaneous translation.**

5. **Contacts:**

Dr. Yarob Badr

Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics
Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster
ESCWA
P.O. Box 11-8575
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel.: (+ 961) 76370602
Fax: (+ 961) 1 981510
E-mail: badr3@un.org

Mr. Toufic Georges Leteif

General Secretary
Director of Cabinet, Director of Public Relations and Media
Port of Beirut
P.O. Box 1490
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel.: (+ 961) 1 587075, Mobile: +9613746663
Fax: (+ 961) 1 585835
E-mail: touf.44@hotmail.com