

UNITED NATIONS

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



Transport Corridors Connecting Africa, Asia and Europe through the Arab Region: Priority Corridors and Facilitation Mechanisms

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Presentation Outline

- UNESCWA Region (Arab Mashreq)
- Some Major Transport Challenges in Arab Region
- UNESCWA Assistance in Transport Development Policy in the Arab Region (since 1998)
- Development of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM)
- UN Conventions on Roads, Rail and Maritime in Arab Mashreq
- Expansion to Connecting Arab Region
- Connecting Africa, Asia and Europe
- Transport and Trade Facilitation in Arab Mashreq
- Concrete Proposals for Priority Transport Corridors and TTF Facilitation Mechanisms



Some Major Transport Challenges in the Arab Region

➤ *Infrastructure*

- *Railway Missing links (61% non-existing)*
- *Railway Track gauge (Narrow gauge in several countries)*
- *Limited Connectivity Between Africa, Asia and Europe*

➤ *Flows, Operations and Procedures*

- *Intraregional trade among Arab countries is approximately 11%*
- *Border crossing formalities are cumbersome and time consuming*
- *Imports take on average 40 steps and 20 signatures*
- *Limited traffic between Arab Mashreq and Maghreb*

➤ *Legislative and Institutional frameworks*

- *No multimodal transport laws and operators*
- *Inactive public-private mechanisms for transport and trade facilitation*
- *No harmonized institutional and legislative frameworks*



UN ESCWA Region (Arab Mashreq)

(14 Arab Countries)

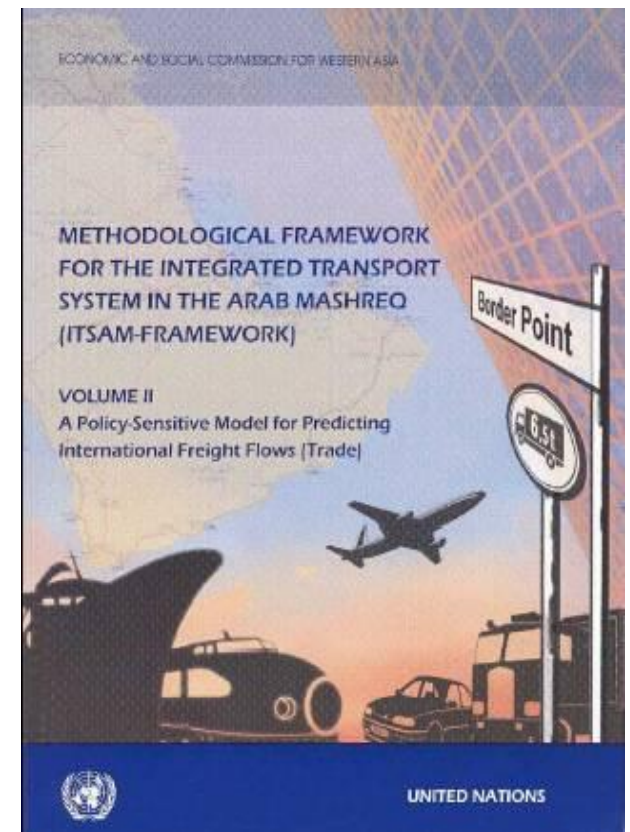
- **Bahrain**
- **Egypt**
- **Iraq**
- **Jordan**
- **Kuwait**
- **Lebanon**
- **Oman**
- **Palestine**
- **Qatar**
- **Saudi Arabia**
- **Sudan**
- **Syrian Arab Republic**
- **United Arab Emirates**
- **Yemen**

UNESCWA Assistance in Transport Development in the Arab Region (since 1998)

- Development of an Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM) in support of regional socioeconomic integration and development
- Transport Infrastructure Development
- Facilitation of the regional and interregional flows of goods and passengers
- Legal and administrative reforms
- ITSAM Expansion from ESCWA to the Arab Region
- Connecting Africa, Asia and Europe

Development of ITSAM: Methodological Framework

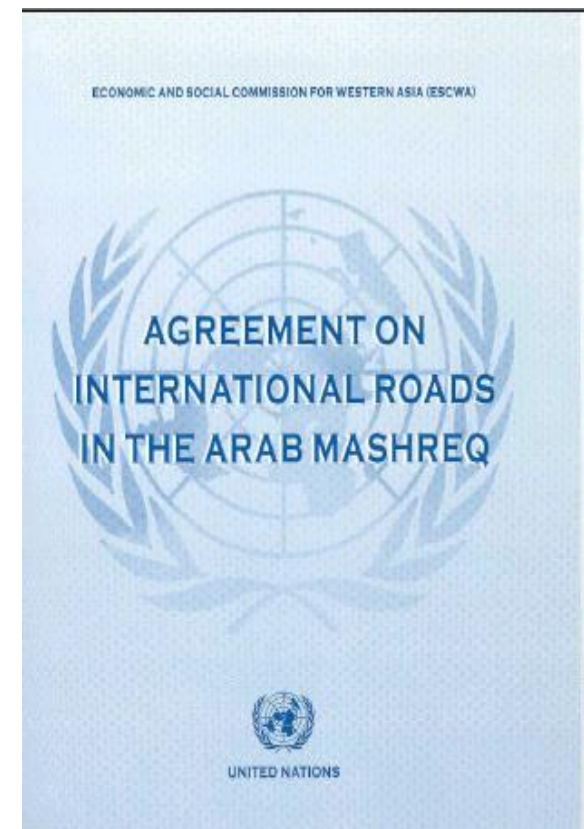
- Major Systems:
 - Integrated Transport System
 - Technical Control Systems
 - Socioeconomic Activity Systems
- Major Prediction Models:
 - Transport Performance Models
 - Transport Demand/Activity Models
 - Network Equilibrium Models
 - Socioeconomic Impact Models



ITSAM: UN Road Convention

Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq

- Adopted on 10 May 2001
- Entered into force on 19 Oct 2003
- Ratified by 13 member countries as of May 2011
- 70% Implemented



Priority Road Transport Corridors in Arab Mashreq

M40 and M45

- East – West: M40 : Iraq – Jordan – Palestine – Egypt
- North-South: M45 : Syria – Jordan - Saudi Arabia - Yemen

Expansion of Road Transport Corridors to the Arab Region



Priority Road Transport Corridors in Arab Region

M40 and M45 Extended

- East-West: M40 Extended: Iraq – Jordan – Palestine – Egypt – Libya – Tunisia - Algeria, Morocco - Mauritania
- North-South: M45 Extended: Syria – Jordan - Saudi Arabia - Yemen - Djibouti – Somalia

طريق
 هادسون
 ميناء
 قطار
 حدود البلدان العربية
 نقطة حدود
 مدينة

Priority Road Transport Corridors Connecting Africa, Asia and Europe through Arab Region

*UNDA Project on Capacity building in developing
interregional land and land-sea transport linkages
(2002-2007)*

➤ **East-West: AH-M40 Extended:**

**Central Asia – Iran – Iraq - Syria- Jordan- Palestine - Egypt -
Libya - Tunisia – Algeria - Morocco - Mauritania**

➤ **North-South: E – M45 Extended:**

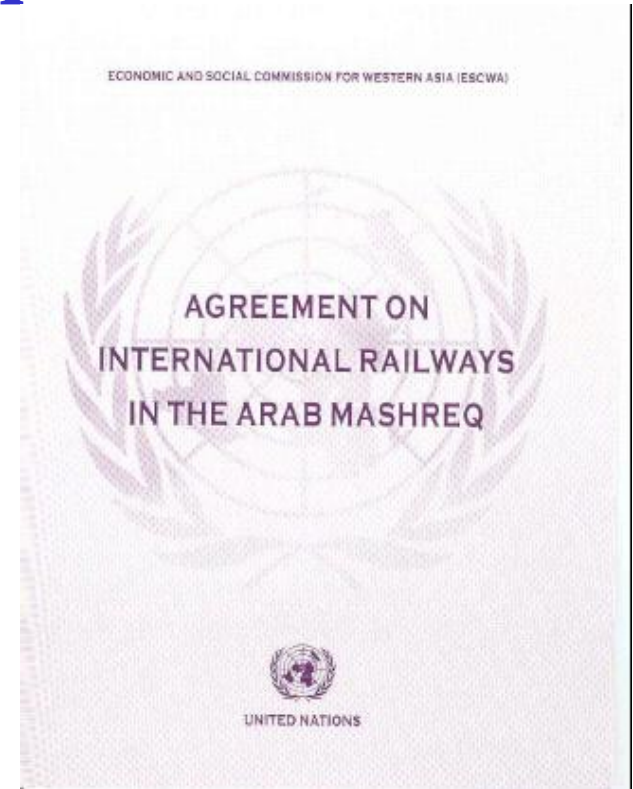
**Europe – Turkey - Syria – Jordan - Saudi Arabia - Yemen -
Djibouti – Somalia**



ITSAM: UN Rail Convention

Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq

- Adopted on 14 April 2003
- Entered into force on 23 May 05
- Ratified by 10 ESCWA members
- Action plan adopted in 2006
- Feasibility study in Yemen in 2010
- Feasibility study in GCC in 2010



APPENDIX

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RAILWAY NETWORK

North South Houston

الاسم		English Name		Phone Number	
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	888	Bay East Jackson Peninsula	4881	428
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	802	Midwest Jackson Peninsula	1718	108
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Rocky Mountain - South Dakota - Vermont	3391	428
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Rocky - Rugged	116	118
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	East Mediterranean	322	838
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Midway	2338	428
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية		East-West Routes		
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Rocky - East Mediterranean	1128	428
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Midwest - Bay	722	108
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Mountain - Bay	828	838
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Mountain - Bay	818	108
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Mountain - Bay	1622	428
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Rocky - Bay	418	108
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Rocky - Bay	178	108
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Rocky - Bay	1187	428
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Rocky - Bay	1118	108
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Rocky - Bay	818	108
01-4444	مركز الفنون المسرحية	800	Rocky - Bay	2028	428

SEAPORTS

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"In this increasingly globalized world, the Commission (ESCAW) has made a key contribution in establishing a united transportation system linking all countries of the region. This will not only facilitate intra-regional trade and promote greater economic integration, it will also connect you with neighbouring regions and further integrate Western Asia in the global economy. Both are essential for the region to prosper in our new, interconnected world."

88. In addition, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his message to the opening of the 20th Ministerial Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Beirut, 21 May, delivered on the behalf of Mr. Lutfallah Ghannouchi, the representative of Germany/German.

وفي هذا العالم الذي تزداد فيه مقادير المولدة، تنهم هذه القوة (الاستمارة) استهماً جوهرياً في إنشاء شبكة موحدة لتلقي ردود كل دول المنطقة. وإن يظل ذلك إلى تيسير التجارة البينية أو إلى التضييق على زيادة التكامل الاقتصادي للمنطقة، فليس من شأنه أن يربط دولكم بالمنطقة الحاضرة، وأن يزيد انصهار منطقة جبري آسيا في الاقتصاد العالمي. وهذه مسألة أساسية لازدهار المنطقة في هذا العصر الجديد، القائم على الاتصال والتكامل.

أشيد كوفي بخون: الإخوان العام للأمر الشايع في رسلنا
 لفتح السرور في نورنا من القيد والاضيق
 لخير أسيادنا في نورنا من القيد والاضيق
 في سنة ١٤١٤ هـ - ١٩٩٥ م - في القلعة ببيت
 في سنة ١٤١٤ هـ - ١٩٩٥ م - في القلعة ببيت

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Also, note alignment, city locations, and country boundaries are common.

ESCWA border
 Railway Network
 Road
 Airport
 Seaport
 Capital
 City
 Border Point



Priority Railway Transport Corridors in Arab Mashreq

R40-R50 and R25

- East – West: R40 – R50: Iraq – Jordan – Palestine – Egypt
- North-South: R25 : Syria – Jordan - Saudi Arabia - Yemen

Expansion of Railway Transport Corridors from ESCWA to the Arab Region

- An Arab Railway Network was agreed upon during the 1st Arab Economic and Social Summit (Kuwait 2009) based on the expansion of the UN Rail Convention “Agreement of the International Railways in the Arab Mashreq” to cover all other Arab countries with the same specifications and numbering system

Priority Railway Transport Corridors in Arab Region

R40 – R50 and R25 Extended

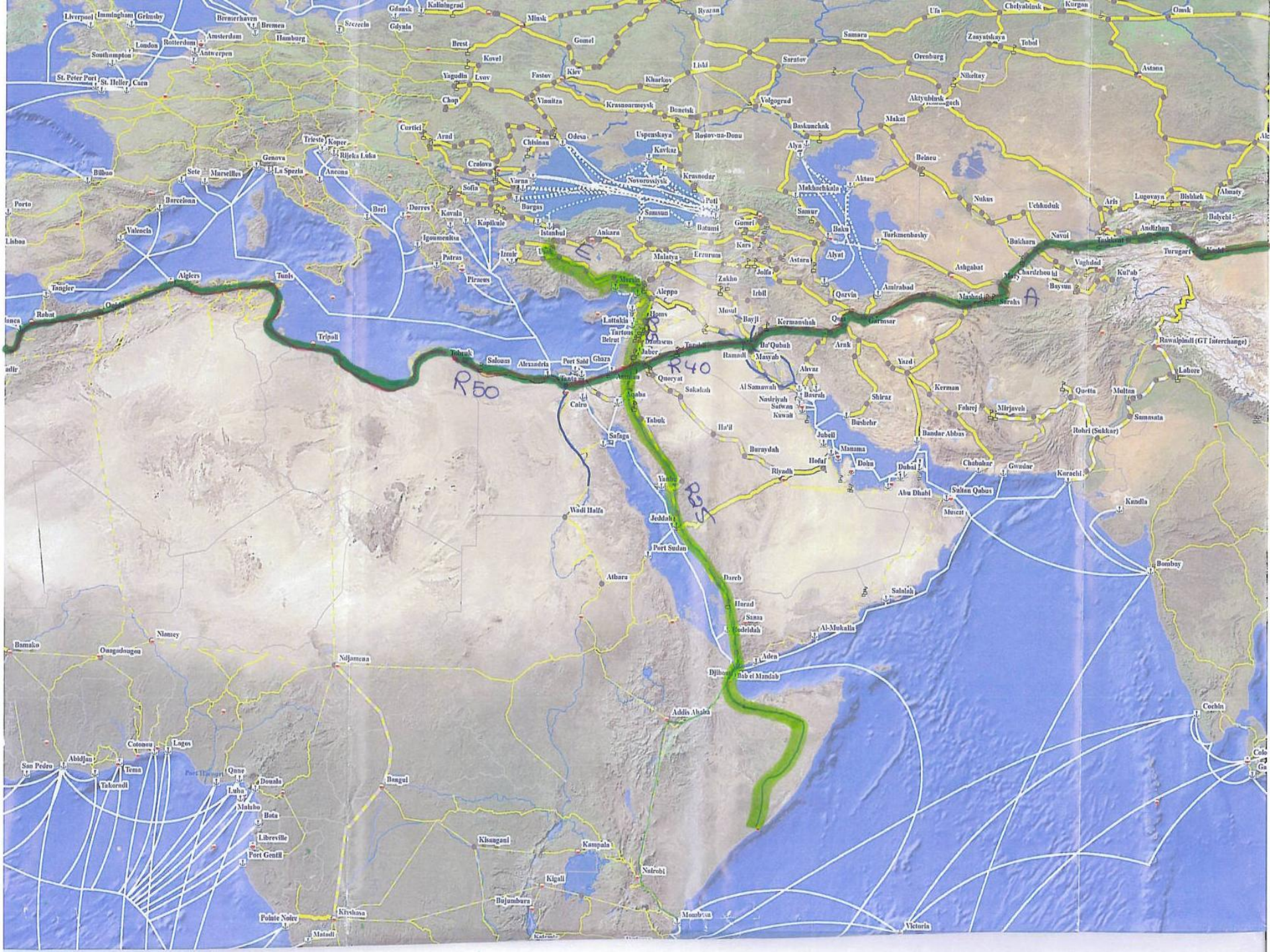
- East-West: R50 - R40 Extended: Iraq – Jordan – Palestine – Egypt – Libya – Tunisia – Algeria- Morocco - Mauritania
- North-South: R25 Extended: Syria – Jordan - Saudi Arabia - Yemen - Djibouti – Somalia

Time (min)	Control (cm)	100 mg/L (cm)	200 mg/L (cm)
0	0	0	0
360	360	288	144
720	720	576	288
1080	1080	864	432
1440	1440	1080	720

Priority Railway Transport Corridors Connecting Africa, Asia and Europe through Arab Region

*UNDA Project on Capacity building in developing
interregional land and land-sea transport linkages
(2002-2007)*

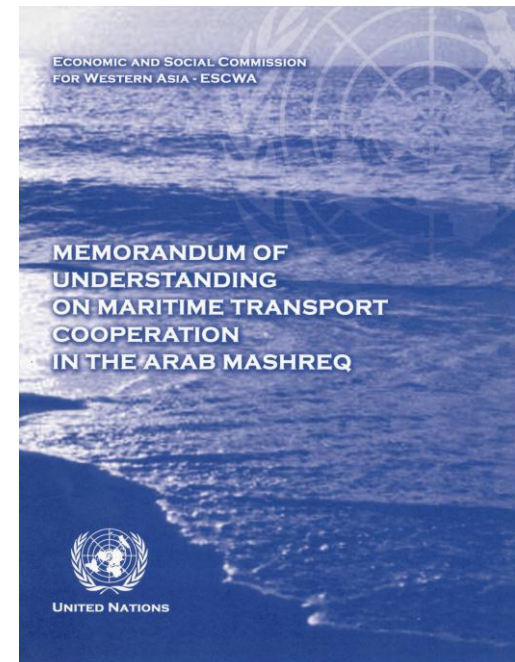
- **East-West: Central Asia - R40 – R50 Extended:**
Central Asia – Iran – Iraq - Syria-Jordan- Palestine - Egypt - Libya
– Tunisia – Algeria - Morocco - Mauritania
- **North-South: Europe – Turkey – R25 Extended:**
Europe – Turkey - Syria – Jordan - Saudi Arabia - Yemen -
Djibouti – Somalia



ITSAM: UN Maritime Convention

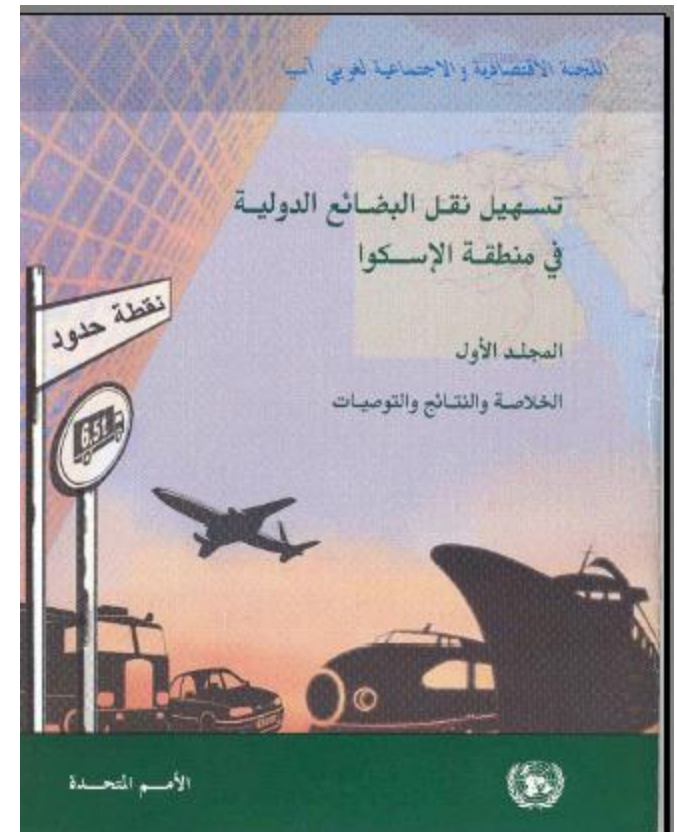
Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab Mashreq

- Adopted on 5 May 2005
- Entered into force on 4 September 2006
- Ratified by 10 member countries



ITSAM: Transport and Trade Facilitation

- Transport and Trade Facilitation Field Study (2000) Five countries-Six volumes)
(Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, UAE)
- Studies on Application of EDI and ICT (1999, 2001 and 2003)
- Economic Feasibility Study for TT Facilitation across Jordan, Syria and Lebanon (2003)
- Recommendations for multimodal transport and trade facilitation in the Arab region (2006)



ITSAM: Transport and Trade Facilitation

Recommendations

1. Simplification of procedures
2. Transparency
3. Integrity of practices
4. Automation and ICT
5. Institutional reform
6. Regulatory reform
7. Valuation and classification of commodities
8. Improved performance at border crossing points
9. Adoption of multimodal transport convention
10. Accession to existing international conventions and formulation of new regional ones as deemed necessary

Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy

Starting Point

Establishment of
National Transport and Trade Facilitation
Committees
(NTTFC)

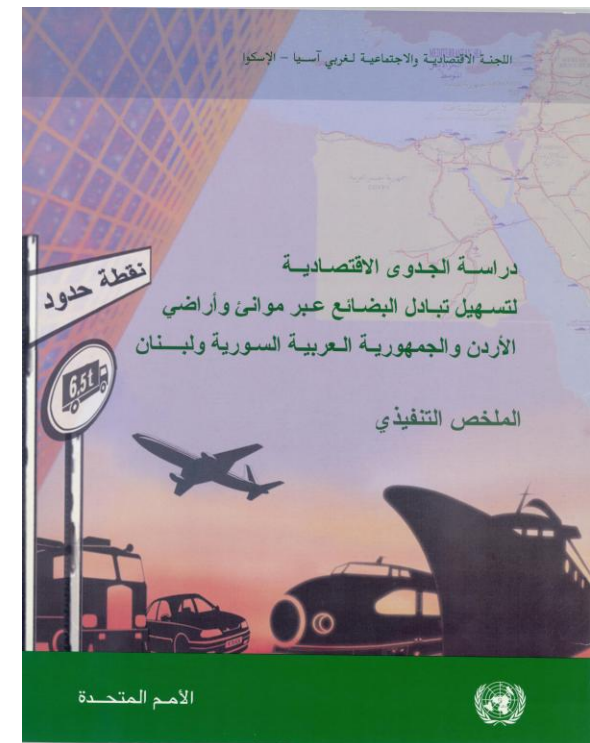
Simplification then automation

Establishment of National Transport and Trade Facilitation Committees

- 10 Member Countries Established NTTFC between 2003-2010: Egypt – Iraq – Jordan – Lebanon – Oman – Palestine – Saudi Arabia – Sudan – Syria – Yemen
- Mostly inactive
- Needs reactivation (national and regional approach)

Economic Feasibility of Transport and Trade Facilitation across Lands and Seaports of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon (2003)

- Considered 7 scenarios of improvements in seaports, customs, border crossing, and land transport procedures
- Expected economic benefits in five years estimated at US \$ 1 Billion



**Capacity building in developing
interregional land and land-sea
transport linkages
(Connecting Africa, Asia and Europe)**

**UNDA Project implemented by
All five UN Regional Commissions
and coordinated by ESCWA
(2002-2007)**

Interregional Project Objectives

- I. Identifying the various alternative linkages among ESCWA, ECE, ESCAP and ECA
- II. Prioritizing the various alternative linkages among ECE, ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA, by conducting feasibility studies and analyses of the socio-economic importance of each
- III. The simplification of transport and trade procedures, commonly referred to as “facilitation”, along the selected routes, and border crossing points

Interregional Land-Sea Transport Linkages Connecting Africa, Asia and Europe





**Project proposals for
cooperation between IDB, UNESCWA
and other concerned regional
organizations for the best interest of
OIC member countries**

Two Priority Transport Corridors

- **East –West Transport Corridor: Arab Maghreb- Arab Mashreq- Central Asia**

M40 in Arab Mashreq and its extension towards the West to the Arab Maghreb countries in North Africa and East to the rest of Central Asia

Mauretania- Morocco- Algeria- Tunisia- Libya- Egypt-Palestine-Jordan-Iraq- Iran- Central Asia

Two Priority Transport Corridors

North-South Transport Corridor: Europe-Turkey-Arab Mashreq- Across Red Sea to Africa

E90/E91 in Europe across Turkey going south to M45 and its extension across the red sea to Africa ending at Somalia

Europe - Turkey- Syria-Jordan-Saudi Arabia-Yemen- Djibouti - Somalia

Facilitation on Priority Transport Corridors

Facilitation of movement of goods and passengers along the two priority transport corridors

- (1) Establishment and revitalization of **National Transport and Trade Facilitation Committees/Bodies (NTTFCs)** in the concerned countries and
- (2) **Regional coordination** among these Facilitation Committees through **IDB, UNESCWA** and other relevant regional organizations.

Thank you
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