



**Workshop for Setting Regional and National Road Traffic
Causality Reduction Targets in the ESCWA Region
Abu Dhabi, UAE
16-17 June 2009**

INFORMATION NOTE

A. Background

According to the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*, published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank in 2004, road traffic crashes claim the lives of more than 1.2 million people every year and are responsible for about 40 million injuries. They disproportionately affect low and middle-income countries, with costs of between 65 billion and 100 billion US\$. The World Bank estimates that, if fatality rates per vehicle in poorer countries were reduced by 30% by 2020, more than 2.5 million lives could be saved and 200 million injuries avoided.

Responding to the enormity of the situation, ESCWA played, with other partners, a key role in raising awareness about this issue, helping governments design policy frameworks, publishing evidence on what works best in different settings, and putting the issue of road safety high on international political and developmental agendas. Knowing that improving road safety is a very complex phenomenon, the proposed project will seek to make countries able to set road safety targets and improve the existing ones. Targets can be formulated in terms of victim reduction or in deviated performance indicators like safety belt wearing rate, tickets issued for speeding and others. In Bahrain they already set some targets. Several countries have established road safety councils such as KSA, Jordan and Syria. Undoubtedly sincere and sustained efforts are still needed to introduce improvements in road traffic safety. These interventions that many developed countries have applied, or more easily referred to as good practices, are needed in the ESCWA region where some very high rates of traffic accidents occur.

It is through the exchange of experience between those countries that are advanced in applying the good practices and those who are far lagging that scheme for improvements can be drawn. The Swedish Strategy: Zero Vision, provides a vision of a safe road transport system which can be used as a guide in the selection of road safety strategies.

ESCWA, in collaboration with the National Transport Authority of UAE, will therefore organize a two-day workshop for representatives from Member States to discuss the implementation of road safety targets and review the increase regional collaboration in this field and support road safety initiatives. This Workshop is the fourth of three previous workshops on the Implementation of Good Practices in Road Safety (Muscat, 2005), Capacity Building of the National Focal Points of the First UN Global Road Safety Week (December 2006) and Building the Arab Mashreq Road Safety Partnership (Doha , 2008).

B. Objectives

The overarching objective of the workshop is to assist low and middle income countries to develop regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets to provide them with examples of good road safety practices that could help them to achieve the targets selected by 2015.

The second objective of this workshop is to review current road safety statistics, set ambitious but achievable targets for reducing road traffic deaths and injuries by 2012, and take appropriate measures to meet their targets

The third objective is to discuss the intervention in road safety management in Member state especially in developing countries to achieve such goals.

C. Participants/Beneficiaries

The Workshop on reduction of traffic casualty and setting regional and national road safety targets is mainly designed for:

1. ESCWA focal points for road safety (Traffic control, police departments, transport ministries, etc.)
2. Government officials responsible for road safety from various disciplines (policy making, law enforcement, road engineering and design, etc.)
3. National and regional road safety related agencies and non-governmental organizations (such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent)
4. Private sector
5. Road Safety Specialists from Universities and other Institutions
6. NGO's dealing with road safety issues

D. Presentations/Interventions

1. Background paper presentation by ESCWA consultant on the current situation in the ESCWA region, regarding setting road safety targets.
2. Working papers from member state about their achievements with respect to setting target formulas for national road safety council and drafting strategies.

3. Working paper from other regional commission on the implementation of project in their respective regions.
4. Preparation for Moscow conference.

E. Languages

Contributions will be in either Arabic or English. Simultaneous interpretation from Arabic to English and vice versa will be provided during the workshop.

F. Date and Venue

The Workshop for setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets will take place from June 16-17, 2009 at Shangri-la Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

G. Registration, Accommodation, and Travel Arrangements

- The Ministry of Interior in UAE has kindly offered to assist in the issuance of entry Visas for participants.
- Accommodation will be available at a number of hotels in Abu Dhabi with **special rates for Workshop participants.**
- To register for the Workshop for Setting Road Traffic Casualty Reduction Targets, please fill the attached registration form and send it along with a **copy of your passport** to Ms. Racil Charara either by e-mail at chararar@un.org or by fax to +961-1-981 510 **before May 18th, 2009.**

For more information on registration, accommodation or travel arrangements, please contact:

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H. Additional information

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