

SPECIAL SESSION 10

Challenges and Opportunities of Technological Transformations in the Transport Sector in the Arab region

Thursday 17 March 2022, 14:15 – 15:45 Beirut time

Background and objective

The global Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted supply chains, closed borders, blocking the transit of goods and people, cancelled flights and travel plans, led to lost revenues from travel and tourism, thereby disturbing the transport sector. However, the blow of the sector was coupled with a potential opportunity to improve transport services, through the use of new digital technologies to address issues of transport, such as implementing contactless transactions and clearances, reduced traffic crashes, reducing noise and air pollution, while building better sustainable transport systems that ensure the safety of users.

Responding to the Covid-19 pandemic has created an opportunity to develop a sustainable transport sector that embraces the outcomes of the recent 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).

In this session we will analyze the role of new and emerging technologies in reshaping future mobility, while identifying the actions Arab countries should undertake to harness the power of these technologies for better sustainable transport sector.

Questions to be addressed

1. What challenges and opportunities did Covid-19 pandemic bring to the Arab transport sector?
2. Which emerging technologies are at the forefront for the transport of the future and what advantage do they have for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the outcomes of COP26?
3. What challenges do Arab countries face in benefitting from these technologies?
4. What requires attention in Arab countries to ensure sustainable future transport?
5. What are examples of policies that can enable the regulatory systems to benefit from advanced technologies.

Moderator

- **Dr. Yarob Badr**, Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics, UNESCWA

Panelists

- **Dr. Nibal Idlebi**, Chief of Innovation Section, UNESCWA
- **Eng. Khalid Al Hogail**, President of the Arab Union for Land Transport, Jordan
- **Dr. Mahmoud Al Abdullatt**, Vice-President, International Road Passengers Transport Union (IPRU), Turkey
- **Mr. Moustafa Hani Shakib**, Strategy and business excellence manager, Almajdouie Logistics Company, Saudi Arabia
- **Mr. Rami Karout**, Advisor for the Middle East, International Road Transport Union (IRU), Switzerland
- **Dr. Khaled El Sakty**, Dean of International Transport and Logistics Faculty, Arab Academy of Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Egypt
- **Dr. Ismail Abdul Ghaffar**, President, Arab Academy of Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Egypt

This Special Session will be organized virtually through Zoom: [\(Link\)](#) from the MZ Hall at the UN House – Beirut.