



**6<sup>th</sup> LAS-IRU-AULT INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON**  
*“Improving Road Safety and Trade Facilitation in the Arab Region”*  
co-organised by the IRU and the Arab Union of Land Transport (AULT)  
in partnership with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)  
with the support of the Automobile and Touring Club of the UAE (ATCUAE)  
and under the patronage of the League of Arab States (LAS)

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEMINAR**

The 6<sup>th</sup> LAS-IRU-AULT International Seminar on *Improving Road Safety and Trade Facilitation in the Arab Region*, was held under the patronage of the League of Arab States (LAS) Deputy Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Dr Mohammad Twaijiri in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on 12 October 2016. The seminar was attended by high-level personalities from Member States of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Member States of the LAS, representatives of international and regional organisations and financial institutions, experts and representatives of authorities, specialised agencies and enterprises in charge of road safety, trade and transport facilitation and professional training, as well as private sector representatives of the international road transport industry in the Arab region.

The seminar was a platform to discuss four main topics intensely:

- The state of progress mid-way through the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety;
- The impact of professional training on commercial/freight drivers in the Arab region;
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for addressing road safety in commercial road transport operations;
- The main UN road transport agreements and their role in facilitating trade and transport and improving road safety in the Arab region.

**The Participants:**

Stressing the significance of the 2011–2020 UN Decade of Action for Road Safety, which aims to reduce road traffic accidents and improve road safety;

Taking note that, via their multilateral approach, the UN road transport agreements are the best tools with which to support international trade, regional economic integration and safe transport for the direct benefit of all the countries in the Arab region;

Acknowledging that trade and transport play vital roles in supporting growth, and thus address issues of poverty and benefit society;

Witnessing that road traffic accidents have significant negative effects on countries' economies;

Highlighting the direct effects of professional training on improving road safety and assuring quality of deliveries and transport efficiency, and underlining the importance of increasing the number of qualified professionals in commercial road transport by training them in accordance with recognised international standards, such as those of the IRU Academy;

Endorsing the importance of establishing frameworks for certifying professional commercial drivers, implemented in a coherent and harmonised manner throughout the



Arab region, by adopting and recognising the international certificates issued by the IRU Academy;

Welcoming the example PPP establishing professional qualifications in commercial road transport operations that resulted from close cooperation between the Ministry of Transport of the H.K of Jordan, the IRU and the AULT;

Appreciating the ongoing cooperation between the LAS, UN regional commissions, the IRU, AULT and IsDB, which focuses on facilitation of trade and road transport, as well as the improvement of road safety in the Arab region;

And welcoming the existing efforts of several Arab countries, which have decided to accede or are in the process of accession to the UN road transport agreements;

**Have called on:**

**the LAS Council of Arab Ministers of Transport, with the active support of the LAS Secretariat, to:**

1. **Encourage** the Member States to adhere to and implement the main UN trade and transport facilitation instruments, in particular, the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (**TIR Convention**), the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP), the Customs Convention on Containers, the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles and Commercial Road Vehicles, the Convention on Road Traffic, and the Convention on Road Signs and Signals;
2. **Stimulate** actions that targets the reduction of the main cause of accidents in particular the human element – by supporting measures that will help raise the level of drivers' behaviours and develop commercial drivers' knowledge and skills;
3. **Support** the IRU and AULT in raising awareness among the LAS Member States about the importance of professional training in commercial road transport, and in capacity building for the establishment of internationally recognised professional training standards to improve road safety and ensure quality of deliveries and transport efficiency by the selection and usage of proper vehicles fitted to the needs and particularities of goods delivered.
4. **Continue** to recommend that the Member States consider establishing a compulsory framework for professional qualifications for commercial road transport professionals, under the aegis of the Ministries of Transport;
5. **Support** governments privileging establishing Public-Private Partnership with the IRU and AULT enabling the use of harmonised internationally recognised professional training and examination standards (eXaminer).





**the Islamic Development Bank Group to:**

1. **Support** the promotion of the main UN road transport agreements in the Arab region as a key instrument supporting transport and trade facilitation and improvements in road safety;
2. **Encourage** initiatives, including studies and technical assistance, that will stimulate accession to and the implementation of the main UN road transport agreements in the Arab region;
3. **Continue** to contribute to the efforts of the IRU and AULT in their work to prioritise the professionalisation of the industry as a proven tool for improving road safety and transport efficiency within the Member States;
4. **Stimulate** the establishment and development of professional educational institutes, in order to deliver high-quality, professional road transport training that is in full compliance with the international standards set forth by the IRU Academy, including professional training for road transport managers and all categories of professional drivers (bus, coach, taxi and truck);

**the Arab Union of Land Transport to:**

1. **Continue** in its strategic partnership with the IRU, which targets improved road safety, promoting vocational road transport training through the IRU Academy, facilitating and securing trade and road transport by promoting the implementation of the key UN road transport agreements, including, but not limited to, the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (**TIR Convention**) and the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR);
2. **Support** specific initiatives, with the support of the IRU and development organisations such as the IsDB, notably cross-border road transportation facilitation, regional economic integration and research study projects in the Arab region;

**the United Nations Regional Commissions in West Asia and Europe to:**

1. **Continue** their efforts to implement the goals of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety by continuously advocating that countries achieve their plans and objectives and by providing guidance and measurements to reduce road traffic accidents effectively;
2. **Perpetuate** close cooperation with the IRU and LAS in order to encourage the Arab countries to join the main UN road transport agreements regarding trade facilitation, and the transport security and safety instruments such as the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (**TIR Convention**), the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods;

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3. **Pursue** its contributions to the development of the necessary regional transport infrastructure plans for the Arab region, which will allow greater international mobility of people and goods;

**the International Road Transport Union to:**

1. **Continue** its active support for the promotion of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety;
2. **Support** the efforts of the Arab countries that are in the process of acceding to the UN road transport agreements, such as the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (**TIR Convention**), the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP), the Customs Convention on Containers, the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles and Commercial Road Vehicles, the Convention on Road Traffic, and the Convention on Road Signs and Signals;
3. **Continue** in the strategic partnership established with the AULT, which aims to improve trade and transport facilitation, as well as road safety and transport security;
4. **Sustain** its contributions to fostering professional training in the Arab region as a key instrument for improving road safety and transport efficiency;
5. **Pursue** and strengthen its cooperation with its network of Associate Training Institutes (ATIs) in the Arab region, in order to contribute to professional training in the road transport industry;
6. **Maintain** its efforts to develop PPPs for nationally implemented frameworks for professional road transport qualifications supported by examination and certification;
7. **Develop and expand** its relationships with its members in the Arab region and work together with them to improve the state of the road transportation sector and the provision of innovative services for goods and passenger transport.

The participants expressed their great appreciation to the League of Arab States Secretariat for its partnership and patronage, to the Islamic Development Bank for its sponsorship, to the co-organisers, the IRU and AULT, and to the Automobile and Touring Club of the UAE for co-hosting the event.





*Witnessed by*  
Dr Mohammed Twajjiri  
Deputy Secretary General for Economic Affairs  
League of Arab States

Signed on behalf of the Seminar Participants in Dubai, UAE, on 12 October 2016 by:

Dr Mahmoud Abdallatt  
Secretary-General  
AULT

Mr Radu Dinescu  
Vice President  
IRU