

**Seminar on “Clean Fuels and Vehicles in Western Asia and North Africa”,  
Beirut, 17-19 March 2004**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

“Clean Fuels and Vehicles in Western Asia and North Africa”, is the subject of seminar has been held in UN house in Beirut, 17-19 March 2004. Through three days, representatives from Western Asia, North Africa, and Regional & International Organizations are attended this seminar. The attended experts have decided that, this seminar is important and essential for ESCWA countries. The discussions were around switching from leaded to unleaded gasoline, as well as sulfur reduction in gasoline and diesel fuel, which in turn contribute to mitigation of pollutants emitted from land transport. The big benefit gained is exchange of experiences and ideas between different parties. The most important issues discussed during the seminar are needs, tools, regulations, standards, measures and awareness of switching to unleaded gasoline and sulfur reduction in ESCWA countries. The experts emphasized on cooperation between relevant parties of oil industry and its uses in transport sector in ESCWA region. All participants appreciated ESCWA, DESA, UNEP, and EPA for arrangement such seminar in that essential and important field. In this frame, the participants invited ESCWA countries to work together based on the following recommendations, taken into considerations their circumstances and capabilities:

**A. THE TRANSFER FROM LEADED TO UNLEADED GASOLINE:.**

1. Developing (Modifying) the standards related to production and use of cleaner fuel, and follow up the implementation of these standards.
2. Measuring pollutants emitted from vehicles (Vehicles Emission Test), and work for reduction these pollutants, including changing fuel chemical composition and use appropriate additives.
3. Setting time plans and implementation methodology for the countries that intend to switch to unleaded gasoline
4. Inviting the international organizations and agencies to technical and legislation support of ESCWA countries, according to needs of each country.

**B. SULFUR REDUCTION IN VEHICLE FUELS**

1. Work towards reduction sulfur content in diesel fuel in ESCWA countries to comply with the latest applied international standards <sup>(\*)</sup>, through cooperation of all concerned local parties.
2. Dealing with fuel specifications and vehicle specifications as integrated system (unit).
3. Working towards improving fuel quality as can as possible.
4. Working towards studying the reduction of sulfur content in gasoline to reach to accepted levels <sup>(\*\*)</sup>, within a defined time frame according to circumstances and capabilities of each ESCWA country.

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(\*) 500 PPM for example

(\*\*) 30-50 PPM for example

5. Taking into consideration the lead and sulfur contents and other fuel specifications (such as perfume concentration) when designing and installing refineries, which in turn support production of clean fuel.
6. Pay attention to vehicle emission test and tuning up programs. These programs should go parallel to fuel specifications improvement efforts, and within the same frame time.

### **C. PUBLIC AWARENESS**

Public awareness programs have an important role in promoting cleaner fuels, by highlighting the dreadful effects of air pollution on the environment in general, and specifically the adverse consequences on human health, which translate not only in poor quality of environment, but also in the economic cost of medical treatment and the drop in productivity. Awareness programs also have a major role of facilitating the issuing, adoption, and implementation of regulations and legislations to ban polluting fuels and endorse efficient transportation planning that curbs traffic congestion and promotes public transport. Furthermore, public awareness is instrumental to help implement laws and convince the populace of the social and economic benefits. In this frame, the following recommendations are raised:

1. Governments should allocate funds to develop awareness campaigns and media programs in the field of cleaner fuels and cleaner transport means.
2. Information, data, and results of air quality monitoring should be made readily available to the media.
3. Support scientific research in the field of cleaner fuels and transport systems, making results available to the public through media and communication channels.
4. International organizations should sponsor the flow of information at the regional level and among different groups of countries, as well as support production awareness materials for different public categories
5. The media have the responsibility to assign more space and time for the promotion of cleaner fuels, and make the public aware of the risks involved in lead, sulfur and other pollutants.
6. Promotion of strict specifications & composition (standards) required for unleaded, lower sulfur, and efficient fuels, to be suitable for old vehicles in some ESCWA countries.
7. NGO's and the civil society in general should be supported to campaign for cleaner fuels and transport technologies, through direct awareness raising activities with the grassroots. This would help to develop positive attitudes towards public transport and cleaner car use practices. NGO's should be urged to exchange experiences with civil society associations dealing with clean fuels in other countries.

### **D Future Activities**

1. The international organizations should help in transfer the experiences achieved in some countries in the field of clean fuels to other countries which need these experiences.
2. The cooperation at the regional level should be encouraged through effective partnership of all parties.
3. Participants invited the organizers (ESCWA , UNEP, DESA, and EPA,) to organize a training program on appropriate means for vehicles inspection & maintenance,