

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL**

Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.2/L.2  
4 November 2015  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

---

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic  
Globalization and Financing for Development  
Tenth session: Liberalization of foreign trade  
Cairo, 22-23 November 2015

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Organization of work****Note by the secretariat**

1. The secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has prepared the proposed organization of work for the tenth session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in order to facilitate the consideration of the agenda items within the time limitations. The Committee will be presented with the proposed organization of work contained in this document and shall adopt it in that or an amended form.
2. The first meeting of the tenth session will be convened on Sunday, 22 November 2015 at 10 a.m. The Committee is scheduled to hold two other meetings on that day, and two meetings on the second day of the session, one in the morning and one at noon. Upon the conclusion of the session on Monday, 23 November 2015 at 12 noon, the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development will join the Committee on Transport (which holds its sixteenth session in Cairo on 23 and 24 November 2015) for a meeting organized by the ESCWA secretariat to launch the ESCWA report "Assessing the Arab Economic Integration: Towards the Arab Customs Union" which will be published by the end of 2015. The joint meeting will be held at the venue of the session, Marriott Hotel (Al-Jazeera), in Cairo on Monday, 23 November 2015 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.
3. Each presentation given by the secretariat shall be limited to 10-15 minutes and be followed by a discussion which must not exceed 30 minutes. Should the discussion of an agenda item be concluded ahead of schedule, the next agenda item will be brought forward for discussion.

### Proposed organization of work

Date/Time	Agenda item and documentation	
<u>Sunday 22, November 2015</u>		
<b>Morning session</b>		
9-10 a.m.		Registration of participants.
10-11 a.m.		
	<u>Item 1</u>	Opening of the session.
	<u>Item 2</u>	Election of officers.
	<u>Item 3</u>	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
		<i>For discussion</i>
		Provisional agenda and annotations E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.2/L.1 Organization of work E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.2/L.2
<b>Noon session</b>		
11.30-2 p.m.	<u>Item 4</u>	Review of actions taken in the field of foreign trade liberalization:
		(a) Implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its seventh session;
		<i>For discussion</i>
		Document E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.2/3(Part I)
		(b) Implementation of activities related to foreign trade liberalization under the ESCWA programme of work in the period 2012-2015.
		<i>For discussion</i>
		Document E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.2/3(Part II)
	<u>Item 5</u>	Non-tariff measures related to foreign trade liberalization in selected Arab countries.
		<i>For discussion</i>
		Document E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.2/4
	<u>Item 6</u>	Progress achieved in the negotiations on the establishment of an Arab customs union.
		<i>For discussion</i>
		Presentation made by the representative of the League of Arab States

Date/Time	Agenda item and documentation	
<u>Sunday, 22 November 2015 (continued)</u>		
<b>Afternoon session</b>		
3-5 p.m.	<u>Item 7</u>	Institutional framework of the Arab customs union. <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.2/5
	<u>Item 8</u>	Fiscal challenges facing Arab countries in the establishment of an Arab customs union. <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.2/6
	<u>Item 9</u>	Scenarios for an Arab customs union. <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.2/7
	<u>Item 10</u>	Mechanisms for dealing with trade agreements between Arab and foreign States after the establishment of an Arab customs union. <i>For discussion</i> Presentation made by the representative of the World Trade Organization
	<u>Item 11</u>	Completion of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area and establishment of an Arab customs union: opportunities and challenges. <i>Roundtable dialogue</i>
<u>Monday 23, November 2015</u>		
<b>Morning session</b>		
9-11.30 a.m.	<u>Item 12</u>	Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 in the field of foreign trade liberalization. <i>For discussion</i> Document E/ESCWA/EDID/2015/IG.2/8
	<u>Item 13</u>	Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Committee.
	<u>Item 14</u>	Other matters.
	<u>Item 15</u>	Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee at its tenth session.  <i>The draft recommendations will be submitted for discussion and adoption</i>

---

Date/Time

Agenda item and documentation

---

Monday 23, November 2015 (*continued*)

**Noon session**

12 noon-1 p.m.

Item 16

Launching of the ESCWA report “Assessing the Arab Economic Integration: Towards the Arab Customs Union”.

*Joint meeting of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade ,Economic Globalization and Financing for Development and the Committee on Transport*

-----