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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Committee on Trade Policies in the States Members of the Economic
and Social Commission for Western Asia
First session
Amman, 8-9 December 2019

**Information for participants***1. Background*

The Committee on Trade Policies in the States Members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution [332 \(XXX\)](#) of 28 June 2018, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution [2019/30](#) of 23 July 2019. The resolution approved the splitting of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region into two committees, which would each hold biennial sessions.

The mandate of the Committee includes identifying priorities of the ESCWA programme of work and medium-term plans regarding trade policies; monitoring the progress achieved in member States in the field of trade policies and formulating recommendations; following up on international and regional conferences and forums and coordinating regional efforts to implement resulting resolutions and recommendations; supporting cooperation between the ESCWA secretariat and the ministerial councils of the League of Arab States as well as other relevant regional organizations, to build capacities and harmonize policies and strategies for the development of trade policies; and supporting outreach efforts and partnerships, and coordinating positions at the international level.

2. Participants

Participants include representatives of Governments, national entities working in the field of trade and line ministries, as well as relevant councils and governmental organizations in ESCWA member States. Representatives of Arab States non-members of ESCWA were invited to attend the session as observers.

Representatives of the League of Arab States, United Nations entities, programmes and specialized agencies and relevant civil society organizations, were also invited to attend the session as observers.

3. Date and venue

The first session of the Committee on Trade Policies in the States Members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia will be held at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman, on 8 and 9 December 2019. Registration will commence at 9 a.m. on Sunday, 8 December 2019 and the session will open at 10 a.m. on the same day. It will conclude at 12 a.m. on Monday, 9 December 2019.

4. *Language*

Session proceedings and discussions will be in Arabic and English, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided in both languages.

5. *Entry visas*

Participants may apply for an entry visa to Jordan through the Jordanian Embassy in their respective countries. It is recommended to attach the invitation letter sent by ESCWA to the visa application.

6. *Accommodation and transportation*

ESCWA suggests that participants book their accommodation at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman, or in other hotels nearby. Participants are also kindly invited to organize transport to and from the airport directly with their respective hotel.

7. *Time zone*

Time in Jordan is GMT+2 hours.

8. *Weather*

During the meeting, the temperature in Amman is expected to range between 15°C and 20°C.

9. *Currency and exchange rates*

The unit of currency is the Jordanian Dinar. The current exchange rate is JOD 0.71 for \$1.00.

10. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be sent to:

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