

**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
Second session
Online, 15-16 September 2021



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 second session of the Committee on Trade Policies in the States Members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia will be held online, on 15 and 16 September 2021, using a platform to be specified later on. It will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 September 2021, and will conclude at 12 p.m. on Thursday, 16 September 2021.

4. *Organization of work and adoption of recommendations*

In accordance with the session's online environment, the ESCWA secretariat will provide the necessary support to facilitate proceedings and allow sufficient time for discussions. It will prepare draft recommendations, emanating from the documents presented, and forward them in advance to the heads of participating delegations for their review and written comments. The secretariat will add to the draft recommendations emanating from the discussions and will present them at the closing meeting for adoption. The secretariat hopes that the preparatory work will facilitate the adoption of the recommendations and compensate for the extended discussions enabled by in-person meetings.

5. *Language*

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

6. *Time zone*

Time in Beirut is GMT+3 hours.

7. *Correspondence*

All session-related correspondence should be sent to:

Mr. Khaled Al Moualem
Economic Affairs Officer
Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster
Tel: + 961-1-978412
Fax: + 961-1-981510
Email: khaled.moualem@un.org

Ms. Hanaa Saad
Research Assistant
Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster
Tel: + 961-1-978452
Fax: + 961-1-981510
Email: saad@un.org
