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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

REPORT

OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON LIBERALIZATION OF FOREIGN TRADE, ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ESCWA REGION BEIRUT, 6-7 JULY 2009

Summary

The Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region held its sixth session in Beirut on 6 and 7 July 2009. The Committee considered the items on the agenda which were as follows: (a) discussion and adoption of the Damascus Declaration on Responding to the International Financial Crisis in the ESCWA Region; (b) review of actions taken in the field of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development since the fifth session of the Committee; (c) progress made in trade policy trends and their implications for trade and economic performance in the countries of the ESCWA region; (d) financing for development: progress made in implementing the Monterrey Consensus; (e) proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development; (f) date and venue of the seventh session; and (g) adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixth session.

This report includes the series of recommendations issued by the Committee relating to the topics of the agenda, as well as a brief review of the main points raised during the discussions.

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Introduction

1. The Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region held its sixth session pursuant to ESCWA resolution 214 (XIX) of 7 May 1997, concerning the establishment of a technical committee on the liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region, and in implementation of the recommendations issued by the Committee at its fifth session (Beirut, 24-26 April 2007), adopted by ESCWA in its twenty-fifth session held in Sana'a in May 2008.
2. This report, which reviews the main discussions raised on each of the agenda items, was adopted by the Committee at its sixth session held on 6 and 7 July 2009.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON LIBERALIZATION OF FOREIGN TRADE, ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ESCWA REGION AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

A. RESPONDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CRISIS IN THE ESCWA REGION

3. The participants discussed the issue of responding to the international financial crisis and agreed to the following:
 - (a) Adoption of the Damascus Declaration of 7 May 2009 on responding to the international financial crisis in the ESCWA region, after incorporating the agreed ratifications, which is set forth in full in the annex below;
 - (b) Presenting the ratified Damascus Declaration to the twenty-sixth ministerial session of ESCWA for revision and approval;
 - (c) Requesting the secretariat to provide support for member countries in implementing the recommendations included in the Damascus Declaration as well as specifying the correspondent mechanisms and procedures to this extent.

Annex

DAMASCUS DECLARATION ON RESPONDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CRISIS IN THE ESCWA REGION 7 MAY 2009 (RATIFIED AND ADOPTED ON 7 JULY 2009)

The Regional High-Level Consultative Forum on the Impacts of the International Financial Crisis on the ESCWA Member Countries: The Way Forward, held in Damascus from 5 to 7 May 2009,

Having discussed the impact of the international financial and economic crisis ("the crisis") on ESCWA member countries,

Having also discussed the national, regional and international responses to the crisis and taken the views and experiences exchanged between experts, representatives of ESCWA member countries and regional and international organizations,

The Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region having held its sixth session in Beirut on 6 and 7 July 2009,

As well as having discussed the Declaration thoroughly,

Adopts the Declaration after incorporating ratifications agreed to during the mentioned session, for its content to become as follows:

1. Requesting ESCWA member countries to take the following steps to respond more effectively to the crisis:

(a) Take effective measures to offset the repercussions of the crisis on their economies, and in particular, to mitigate its impact on economic growth, development and employment. The measures taken will depend on whether the country is oil exporting, has a more diversified economy, is least developed or is under occupation;

(b) Adopt sustainable expansionary fiscal policies to boost domestic demand and shorten the period of low economic growth. Fiscal stimuli in ESCWA member countries should meet key development goals, and be coordinated and implemented in cooperation with the private sector and civil society. Such fiscal policy should primarily be targeted towards infrastructure, agriculture, industry, trade, health, education, environment and social protection mechanisms;

(c) Take measures to ensure greater cooperation with and support for the private sector, particularly in the real economy, with a special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises and the banking sector in those member countries facing capital reversal and liquidity crises;

(d) Encourage national, regional and international funds to provide increased liquidity to those member countries facing liquidity crises. Such funds are required to strengthen the response to the crisis through measures that provide long-term financing for low and medium income countries in the region, in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The financial institutions are also required to provide allowances during periods of prosperity in order to respond to financial crises;

(e) Enhance the efficiency of regulatory frameworks in the financial sector to better serve the real economy;

(f) Promote greater regional integration, particularly in monetary and financial affairs, and coordinate policies in order to improve the effectiveness of the response to the crisis;

(g) Encourage sovereign wealth funds in the ESCWA region to increase their investment in the real economy of the region, in particular in those member countries with comparative advantage in agriculture and industry;

(h) Pursue economic diversification vigorously to reduce dependency on the oil sector, by diversifying exports and investing in technology and main structures, thus expanding employment opportunities;

(i) Facilitate intraregional flows of trade in goods and services, people and capital between ESCWA member countries to enhance regional integration;

(j) Promote South-South cooperation as part of the promotion of economic and technical cooperation between developing countries;

(k) Review the trade policy and the way of putting it to a more efficient use in order to reflect the protection of states' interests from illicit competition;

(l) Implement the concept of good governance, in view of transparency, monitoring and accountability, on the level of units and institutions as well as on the national level;

(m) Coordinate expansionary fiscal policies and monetary policies and facilitate the conditions for borrowing;

(n) Support the productive capacities of ESCWA member countries, through offering tax motivations, and custom reductions on raw materials and capital goods, as well as facilitating and simplifying procedures. Such motivations may vary between countries according to the circumstances;

(o) Strengthen employment and social protection policies in the interest of ensuring decent work for all, including employment services, active labor market policies, unemployment insurance, sustainable and adequate pension policies, and complementary cash transfer programmes;

(p) Support the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development held in New York, from 24 to 26 June 2009. This can be accomplished through providing inputs reflecting the needs of the region and actively participating in the conference at the highest level;

(q) Take proactive steps towards ensuring more active participation of developing countries, in particular those in the ESCWA region, in managing the global economy. The current crisis has proved the need for reform and, in particular, for a more representative, legitimate and thus effective management of the global economy. This cannot be achieved without the active participation of developing countries in global economic decision-making mechanisms.

2. Supporting the activities of ESCWA and requesting the secretariat to undertake the following steps to assist member countries in responding more effectively to the crisis:

(a) Strengthen and enhance the role of ESCWA in representing the particular needs of the region in adapting to the crisis, and in the deliberation of the Commission of Experts of the President of the United Nations General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System;

(b) Undertake technical cooperation and capacity-building activities (such as seminars, workshops and technical missions, etc.) bringing together concerned entities in each country (such as the ministers of foreign affairs, trade, finance and the economy, etc.) in order to assist member countries to achieve both national and regional coherence in negotiating positions in respect of such matters of strategic importance as the current crisis;

(c) Play a catalyst role in bringing together member countries and Arab and Islamic financial institutions in order to enhance the role of such institutions in solving problems arising from and/or exacerbated by the crisis.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS ORIENTED TOWARDS GOVERNMENTS

4. The following recommendations were oriented towards Governments of member countries:

(a) Supporting ESCWA efforts and activities on the level of liberalization of foreign trade and financing for development, as well as cooperating with it in this context, in particular through contributions beyond the ordinary budget in financing some activities that attract the interest of member countries;

(b) Reaffirming the importance of nominating focal points to coordinate with the Technical Committee on Trade and Financing in member countries in order to be specialized in foreign trade and financing for development affairs;

(c) Providing the ESCWA secretariat with data, information and updates in the field of legislations related to foreign trade and financing for development in order to assist it in the preparation of reports as well as of thorough and analytical studies;

(d) Reaffirming the importance of attending periodical meetings organized by the ESCWA secretariat in the fields of trade and financing for development, and seeking to delegate experts and specialists in these two fields to such meetings;

(e) Working on combining the recommendations of the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development aimed at reviewing the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus within the development plans defined by member countries and at ensuring the full implementation of such recommendations;

(f) Looking into the possibility of hosting an expert group meeting on the progress in the trade negotiations within the Doha Development Agenda that is intended to be held by the secretariat in the final quarter of 2009, as well as contributing to its financing.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS ORIENTED TOWARDS ESCWA

5. The following recommendations were oriented towards ESCWA:

(a) Undertaking the implementation of activities and services in the fields of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development included in the third subsidiary programme of work on development and economic integration of the proposed programme of work of ESCWA for the biennium 2010-2011;

(b) Following up on the recommendations issued by the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development held in New York from 24 to 26 June 2009; and on the recommendations of the Monterrey and Doha meetings with regard to the issues of financing for development;

(c) Continuing to provide technical support to member countries in fields related to direct foreign investment;

(d) Including foreign trade topics in ESCWA's future programmes of work;

(e) Continuing to work on the implementation of the single window initiative for the contribution in facilitating trade and increasing environmental commercial exchange.

II. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

A. DAMASCUS DECLARATION ON RESPONDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CRISIS IN THE ESCWA REGION (Item 4 of the agenda)

6. The Committee considered this item on the basis of the Damascus Declaration issued by the Regional High-Level Consultative Forum on the Impacts of the International Financial Crisis on ESCWA Member Countries: The Way Forward (Damascus, 5-7 May 2009).

7. Within that context, participants comprehensively discussed the various recommendations included in the Declaration. Some of them made detailed observations on the mechanisms of the implementation and follow-up to the Declaration, as well as on the need to complete it by adding elaborate policies related to monetary policies and governance. They also indicated that the Declaration included medium- and long-term

mechanisms given that the crisis was expected to stretch over a long period of time. The delegations noticed that the Declaration dealt with generalities regarding the financial crisis, and did not emphasize details in some of its articles. The representative of the secretariat clarified that the Declaration included in its nature the main headlines of the policies suggested by member countries in order to respond to the crisis and that member countries could still add details and choose appropriate mechanisms for implementation. He also added that the secretariat was available to provide technical support to member countries in order to continue the implementation and adoption of the necessary mechanisms in this view. In conclusion, the participants agreed that the secretariat needed to amend the Declaration in the light of written suggestions proposed by member countries, and that the Declaration would be deemed adopted once the agreed ratifications had been incorporated. The secretariat is set to follow up the implementation and provide technical support in this regard according to the wishes of member countries and within the resources available.

B. REVIEW OF ACTION TAKEN IN THE FIELD OF LIBERALIZATION OF FOREIGN TRADE, ECONOMIC
GLOBALIZATION AND FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT SINCE
THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
(Item 5 of the agenda)

8. The Committee examined this item on the basis of two documents, which are set forth below.

1. Follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee at its fifth session

9. The Committee examined this part on the basis of document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/3(Part I). It reviewed the activities undertaken by ESCWA with regard to the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Committee at its fifth session, which were divided into two categories, namely: recommendations oriented towards member countries, and recommendations oriented towards the ESCWA secretariat. The Committee acknowledged the procedures adopted in the implementation of the recommendations. It called upon all member countries to provide necessary mechanisms in order to activate the participation in the actions and representations of the Committee, as well as to guarantee the continuity of representation and communication between ESCWA and member countries in cases of trade and financing for development. The possibility of nominating focal points for follow-up to the results of the Committee actions was also discussed.

*2. Progress made in implementing activities related to the liberalization of foreign trade
in the framework of the ESCWA programme of work*

10. The Committee examined this part on the basis of document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/3(Part II). It took note of the activities implemented during the two years extending from April 2007 to May 2009, which were divided into different modules including preparing studies, providing technical assistance and capacity-building services in member countries and other Arab countries. The Committee praised the role of ESCWA in informing member countries of the most recent developments related to international trade and financing for development.

3. Technical cooperation and consultative services

11. The Committee examined the consultative services provided by ESCWA to member countries. It reviewed training programmes and consultative tasks undertaken by regional consultants and experts during 2007 and 2008, under the supervision of the secretariat and pursuant to the request of concerned parties in member countries. These consultations centred on national strategies and policies, developmental programmes and sectoral policies in addition to national workshops aimed at observing and evaluating the effectiveness of technical consultations and the extent of the implementation on the ground.

12. The participants expressed their wish to make use of the technical cooperation provided by ESCWA. For its part, ESCWA reassured its willingness to respond to all requests and fulfil them wherever possible.

C. PROGRESS MADE IN TRADE POLICY TRENDS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR TRADE
AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ESCWA REGION
(Item 6 of the agenda)

13. The Committee examined this item on the basis of document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/4. It reviewed the results and recommendations stemming from the Expert Group Meeting on Trade Policy Trends in ESCWA Member Countries and their Respective Implications on Trade and Economic Performance (Beirut, 17-18 December 2008). The Committee acknowledged the issues related to trade policies discussed by participants, including the implications of these policies for trade and economic performance, opportunities and challenges stemming from the multilateral trading system as well as regional agreements, and the relation between trade policy and development priorities.

14. The Committee judged that the current international financial and economic crisis required member countries to review their adopted trade policies and observe their impacts on all economic activities, the rates of growth and development and the trade exchange. It also reviewed the achievements of these countries with regard to capacity-building in the fields of production, export and creating employment opportunities, as well as in terms of improving opportunities for penetrating foreign markets.

15. Furthermore, the Committee noted that while ESCWA member countries had signed a number of regional trade agreements and aspired to penetrate markets, they were still facing protective policies in the markets of developed countries. The Committee called upon member countries to benefit from the multilateral agreements in terms of the means and channels aimed at helping countries to protect their local production and facilitating the penetration of their exports to foreign markets. It invited them to work towards enhancing regional agreements, in particular those related to the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The Committee reaffirmed the importance of enhancing the role of the private sector in defining trade agreements and policies, as well as seeking to provide trade information and enhance trade competences. It stressed the importance of the continual work of the secretariat to increase awareness with regard to trade policies, capacity-building and disseminating learned lessons in member countries.

16. The discussions focused on the importance of multilateral and trade-in-services agreements, as well as the need to expand on issues of transparency, technical development, quality and competitiveness. Some participants also requested the elaboration of the topic on enhancing the competitiveness level in productive sectors, and encouraging financial institutions to finance trade in order to penetrate markets.

D. FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING
THE MONTERREY CONSENSUS
(Item 7 of the agenda)

17. The Committee reviewed this topic on the basis of document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/5 related to the progress made by member countries in implementing the Monterrey Consensus during the period 2002-2007.

18. The Committee took notice of the work undertaken by the secretariat in the field of financing for development and regional integration, including the convening of expert group meetings and workshops as well as preparing studies and circulars in that regard.

19. The Committee also acknowledged the annual publication of the Economic Development and Globalization Division, entitled Annual review of developments in globalization and regional integration in the Arab countries 2008, which was launched in Damascus on 5 May 2009.

20. The discussions focused on the financial crisis and the intervention of Bretton Woods institutions to face it and on the fact that this crisis, which has shaken the global economy, started in developed countries

rather than in developing countries. The discussions also raised the topic of tax reform and its role in supporting financing for development. The participants reaffirmed the need to reform the tax administration and decrease tax rates in order to broaden the tax base. In that context, they praised the experience in Egypt. The participants underscored the importance of the investment in small projects that could create job opportunities, and the infrastructure that supports the investment as a whole.

**E. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011 IN THE FIELD
OF LIBERALIZATION OF FOREIGN TRADE, ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION
AND FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
(Item 8 of the agenda)**

21. The Committee examined the programme of work of ESCWA for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development. This programme was prepared according to the strategic framework of the biennium 2010-2011, which was adopted by ESCWA in its twenty-fifth session held in Sana'a from 26 to 29 May 2008.

**F. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
(Item 9 of the agenda)**

22. The participants agreed to hold the seventh session of the Committee during the second quarter of 2011 in Beirut, unless another member country requested to host it.

**G. OTHER MATTERS
(Item 10 of the agenda)**

23. No suggestions were made with regard to this item.

**III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON ITS SIXTH SESSION
(Item 11 of the agenda)**

24. The Committee adopted in its final session the draft report of its sixth session, provided it included the modifications that were agreed upon.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. DATE AND VENUE

25. The Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region held its sixth session at the United Nations House in Beirut on 6 and 7 July 2009.

B. OPENING

26. Mr. Walid el-Nazhi, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Lebanon and head of the World Trade Organization (WTO) central department and trade agreements sectors in the Ministry, opened the session as chairman of the fifth session of the Committee. He thanked ESCWA for organizing the work of the Committee, and the active administrations in ESCWA for their efforts and activities.

27. Mr. Nabil Safwat, Chief of the Economic Development and Globalization Division, delivered a statement in which he pointed to the fact that the date of this session coincided with the international financial crisis that has shaken the global economy since autumn 2008. He added that this crisis formed a true challenge to the global economy, and was accompanied by severe complications in the fields of

international trade and financing for development in all countries, including ESCWA member countries. Mr. Safwat exposed the negative impact of this crisis on the ability of developing countries to reach the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, he stated that the financial and economic crisis could result in deep impacts on economic activity as a whole as well as on the rates of growth and development, particularly trade exchange. Mr. Safwat expressed his apprehension that the crisis could lead to renewed protectionism, in particular in developed countries. In the light of those developments, Mr. Safwat underlined the need for ESCWA member countries to review and evaluate the adopted trade policies and look into possible alternatives. Such a review needed to include the general framework of these policies; aims and targets at the base; scope of their success in terms of achieving those aims and targets; achievements of the countries in production and export capacity-building; improvement of the opportunities to penetrate foreign markets; and the direct and indirect impacts on economic performance, including the levels of growth, productivity, investment and employment. He also pointed to the importance of enhancing the integration of trade policies with industrial and development policies in view of the positive impact of such integration on economic and trade performance, working on taking development goals in consideration of trade policies and providing necessary infrastructure as well as institutional and legislative structures to enhance trade exchange.

28. In the context of financing for development, Mr. Safwat pointed to the main repercussions of the financial crisis, in particular the flows of direct foreign investment, official aids for development and workers' remittances and the capacity of countries to settle foreign debts. Mr. Safwat added that ESCWA had therefore given the international financial crisis and its impact on member countries a crucial importance. A number of procedures have been adopted to help member countries mitigate its impacts, including the preparation of a series of studies on the impact on the various economic sectors in the countries of the region, which encompass financial and oil markets. ESCWA and other regional commissions of the United Nations have also prepared reports on the impact of the crisis on the different regions of the world. ESCWA currently applies itself to prepare a comprehensive report, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), on the ways of responding to this crisis in the ESCWA region.

29. Ms. Rafif Berro, Head of the Trade Information Centre in the Ministry of Economy and Trade in Lebanon, delivered a statement on behalf of the session sponsor, namely, the Minister of Economy and Trade, Mr. Muhammad el-Safadi. She thanked ESCWA for organizing the work of this Committee and welcomed the delegates. Ms. Berro praised the efforts of ESCWA in the field of liberalization of trade, economic globalization and financing for development. She stated that ESCWA member countries faced, to varying degrees, many challenges in the medium and long term, mainly the decrease in oil prices, which is expected to result in a deflation in some countries, which in turn could herald a regression in investments and therefore a deflation in economies that are not based on oil. She also pointed to the decrease in inner liquidity, the fallback of deposits, rise in unemployment rates and the deflation of international trade, which affects exports from the ESCWA region. Ms. Berro added that ESCWA member countries endured a lack of effectiveness in financing and sustaining development.

30. Ms. Berro declared that Lebanon managed to avoid the impacts of the international financial crisis through its wise financial and monetary policies, the small size of its market, and its dependence on local and Arab investments. The well-being of Lebanon's economy depends on the state of the economy at both Arab and regional levels. As for the main policies adopted by the Government of Lebanon, these include the expansionary fiscal policy that leads to saving additional liquidity and increasing inner demand, private expenditure and investment as it collaborates in moving the economic wheel.

C. PARTICIPANTS

31. The session was attended by participants of nine ESCWA member countries, namely: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. In terms of observers, it brought together representatives of the Islamic Development Bank and the Saudi Fund for Development. A list of participants is included in annex I of this report.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

32. Pursuant to rule 18 of the terms of reference and rules of procedure of ESCWA, “member countries shall assume the chairmanship of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations”, Mr. Muhammad Ben Ibrahim el-Hayzaran, the representative of Saudi Arabia, assumed chairmanship of the sixth session. The Committee elected Mr. Walid Nabil el-Nozahy, representative of Egypt, and Mr. Fadel Moukbel Mansour, representative of Yemen, as Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Mohamed Orsan al-Zoubi, the representative of Jordan, was elected Rapporteur.

E. AGENDA

33. At its first sitting, the Committee adopted the agenda as exposed to it and included in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/L.1. The adopted form of the agenda was as follows:

1. Opening of the sixth session of the Committee.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational issues.
4. Discussion and adoption of the Damascus Declaration on Responding to the International Financial Crisis in the ESCWA Region.
5. Review of action taken in the field of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development since the fifth session of the Committee:
 - (a) Follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee at its fifth session;
 - (b) Progress made in implementing activities related to the liberalization of foreign trade in the framework of the ESCWA programme of work;
 - (c) Technical cooperation and consultative services.
6. Trade policy trends and their implications for trade and economic performance in the countries of the ESCWA region.
7. Financing for development: progress made in implementing the Monterrey Consensus.
8. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development.
9. Date and venue of the seventh session of the Committee.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixth session.

34. In the same sitting, the Committee ratified the draft organization of work of its sixth session included in document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/L.2 after incorporating some modifications.

F. DOCUMENTS

35. Annex II of this report contains a list of documents presented to the Committee in its sixth session.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Egypt

Mr. Walid Nabil el-Nozahy
Under-Secretary, Head of the WTO Central
Department, Trade Agreements Sector
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Cairo

Mr. Ayman Aly Osman Hassan
Trade Minister Plenipotentiary
Head of the Commercial Office in the Embassy of
Egypt in Beirut

Ms. Mona el-Garf
Lead Economist, Minister's Technical Office
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Cairo

Iraq

Mr. Qassim Enaya Frez
Director General
Governmental Investment Directorate
Ministry of Planning and Development
Cooperation
Baghdad

Jordan

Mr. Mohamed Orsan al-Zoubi
Researcher, Office of the Director General
Jordan Customs Department
Amman

Ms. Mona Naim Odtallah
Early Warning System Project Manager
Ministry of Planning and International
Cooperation
Amman

Lebanon

Ms. Rafif Berro
Head of Trade Information Centre
Ministry of Economy and Trade
Beirut

Mr. Assi Malek Awada
Head of Foreign Trade Department
Ministry of Economy and Trade
Beirut

Mr. Hassan Mahmoud Hamdan
Senior Tax Auditor, Tax Research and Analysis
Unit
Ministry of Finance
Beirut

Qatar

Mr. Moftah Jassim al-Moftah
Director of Public Revenue and Taxes
Department
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Doha

Mr. Bader Ahmad al-Kayed
Director of Public Audit Department
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Doha

Ms. Noor Abdullah al-Khulaifi
Head of Organization and International Relations
Department
Ministry of Business and Trade
Doha

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Muhammad Ben Ibrahim el-Hayzaran
Director General, International Financial
Institutions and Organizations
Ministry of Finance
Riyadh

Mr. Khaled Nasser el-Amir
Trade Attaché
Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Beirut

The Sudan

Mr. Babiker Mohamed Toum Bakhiet
Expert and Vice President
Economic Committee, National Council,
Commission for WTO Affairs
Khartoum

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Khaled Mahmmoud Sallota
Minister of Economy and Trade Deputy
Ministry of Economy and Trade
Damascus

Mr. Hussam al-Youssef
General Manager
Export Development and Promotion Agency
Damascus

Ms. Shorouk Yassin Hassan
Foreign Trade Directorate Manager
Ministry of Economy and Trade
Damascus

Yemen

Mr. Fadel Moukbel Mansour
General Director, Public Administration of
Foreign Trade
Ministry of Industry and Trade
Sana'a

Mr. Ali Yehya Naji el-Yemeni
Head of Macroeconomics Studies
Ministry of Planning and International
Cooperation
Sana'a

B. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS OBSERVERS

Food and Agriculture Organization

Ms. Salam Saab
Programme Clerk
Food and Agriculture Organization
Beirut, Lebanon

Islamic Development Bank

Mr. Ramzy Suhayl Uthman
Assistant General Manager, Credit Department
International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Fund for Development

Mr. Ali Sulaiman al-Raffa
Director General, Credit Insurance and Guarantee
Department
Saudi Export Program
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Mr. Mohammed Ben Ibrahim al-Owairdhi
Economic Researcher
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Title	Item	Symbol
Information note		E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/INF.1
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Follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations of the committee at its fifth session	4 (a)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/3(Part I)
Progress made in implementing activities related to liberalization of foreign trade in the framework of ESCWA programme of work	4 (b)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/3(Part II)
Progress made in implementing activities related to economic globalization and financing for development in the framework of the ESCWA programme of work	4 (c)	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/3(Part III)
Trade policy trends and their implications for trade and economic performance in the countries of the ESCWA region	5	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/4
Financing for development: progress made in implementing the Monterrey Consensus	6	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/5
Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in the field of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development	7	E/ESCWA/EDGD/2009/IG.2/6