

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

Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic
Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region
Eighth session
Amman, 7-8 October 2013

INFORMATION NOTE*1. Background information*

The Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region was established pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 214 (XIX) of 7 May 1997, which was endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in resolution 1997/12 of 18 July 1997. The aims of establishing the Committee are: (a) to contribute to the identification of concerns and priorities of ESCWA member countries with respect to multilateral trade agreements and negotiations; (b) to monitor developments in global trade negotiations and the establishment of economic and trade blocs, and coordinate the positions of member countries in that regard; (c) to cooperate with the ESCWA secretariat in developing programmes to assist the countries of the region in designing appropriate national and regional policies for economic development to enable these countries take greater advantage of the trends towards liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization; (d) to develop joint programmes for training, information exchange and research with the countries of the region, in cooperation with other regional and international organizations.

The Committee held its first session in Abu Dhabi in 1999, the second in Manama in 2001, the third in Muscat in 2003, and the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh sessions in Beirut in 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011 respectively. The Committee will hold its eighth session in Amman, on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 October 2013.

It should be noted that the Committee agreed, in its fifth session in 2007, to modify its name by adding the “financing for development” component, the new name thus becoming the “Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region”. The Committee held its sixth session in 2009 under the new name. With regard to the frequency of the sessions of the Committee, ESCWA decided, at its twenty-seventh session (Beirut, 7-10 May 2012), that the Committee shall hold annual sessions: one on trade and another on financing for development, alternately.

2. Aims

The current session aims to provide a forum to review the progress achieved in the Arab region towards implementing the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, and the repercussions of the global financial crisis and political developments in some countries of the region and offer recommendations to decision makers in member countries to support efforts to finance development, and tackle the economic

recession and the repercussions of political developments. The participants will also discuss the efforts undertaken by member countries to establish public-private partnerships to finance development, as well as fiscal issues and policies in Arab countries, including ways to strengthen the financial capacity of these countries and to harmonize financial policies. The session will include two round-table discussions: the first will address financing for development and the Monterrey Consensus, while the second will discuss the Rabat Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships to Finance Infrastructure Projects in Arab Countries, which was issued at the expert group meeting organized by ESCWA on Unlocking Infrastructure Investments and Mobilizing Financial Resources in the Arab Region (Rabat, 17-18 April 2013). This session also aims to help member countries to discuss the implementation of the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the fields of liberalization of foreign trade, economic globalization and financing for development.

3. Agenda and organization of work

Document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2013/IG.2/L.1 contains the provisional agenda and annotations for the eighth session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA region. Document E/ESCWA/EDGD/2013/IG.2/L.2 includes the proposed organization of work.

4. Participants

The session meetings will be attended by representatives of ministries of finance, ministries of economy, and central banks of member countries. Relevant regional and international organizations will be invited to attend the session as observers. In accordance with the rules of the United Nations, governments participating in the session are responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses of their representatives. Also, regional and international organizations attending as observers are also responsible for such expenses.

5. Date and venue

The Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA region will hold its eighth session at Kempinski Hotel in Amman, on 7 and 8 October 2013. The registration of delegates will commence at 12.30 p.m. on Monday, 7 October 2013, and the session will be opened at 1 p.m. on the same day. Session meetings will end at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 October 2013.

6. Language of the session

Session proceedings will be in Arabic, with simultaneous interpretation into and from Arabic and English.

7. Accommodation

ESCWA made arrangements with Kempinski Hotel where the session meetings will take place. Accordingly, discounts on room rates will be offered to participants in the session.

8. Entry visas

Participants can obtain a visa to Jordan from the Jordanian Embassy in their respective countries. In case of difficulty, the secretariat of ESCWA may assist participants in obtaining such visas if provided with a colour copy of their passport containing all necessary information 30 days prior to the session.

9. *Correspondence*

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