

UNCTAD/ESCWA Capacity Building Workshop on

“Non-Tariff Measures: economic assessment and policy options for development”

7-8 November 2018, Beirut, Lebanon

Final Agenda

November 7, 2018

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcoming remarks and Overview on:**

- *Mr. Mohamed Moctar Mohamed El Hacene*, Director, EDID, ESCWA
- *Mr. Santiago Fernandez De Cordoba Briz*, UNCTAD
- *Mr. Bahgat Abo El-Nasr*, Director of the Arab Economic Integration Department at the League of Arab States

09:30 – 11:00 **Session 1 – NTMs’ implications on international trade and economic development**

Chair: **Mr. Santiago Fernandez De Cordoba Briz, UNCTAD**

Presenter: **Mr. Alessandro Nicita, UNCTAD**

NTMs have become a key factor influencing international trade, despite its implications on the economic development, particularly for countries pursuing a developmental strategy in order to integrate themselves into the global markets. This session will cover the UNCTAD book “Non-Tariff Measures: economic assessment and policy options for development” focusing primarily on the implications of NTMs over market access and economic integration. It will present several policy options for governments to minimize the negative effects due to NTMs.

- a. *NTMs, what are they?*
- b. *Use of NTMs: what purpose do they serve and how are they used?*
- c. *Impact of NTMs on international trade*
- d. *Minimizing the costs associated to NTMs*

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:15 – 12:30 **Session 2 – Overview of the Data on NTMs**

Chair: **Mr. Akrum Bastawi, Trade Policy Specialist and Special Advisor to the Office of the Minister of Trade & Industry, Egypt**

Presenter: **Mr. Santiago Fernandez De Cordoba Briz, UNCTAD**

This session will present the NTM classification and various categorizations. It will illustrate various data sources and discuss the characteristics and limitations of the existing data on NTMs. This session will also draw upon the essential methods in the analysis of NTMs, discuss various types of indices and their interpretation for economic analysis, and present descriptive statistics of NTMs.

- a. *NTM Classification*
- b. *Data sources and limitations*
- c. *Demonstration of UNCTAD's TRAINS NTM dataset*

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 – 15:00 **Session 3 – Panel discussion on the Political economy of NTMs in the ESCWA region (ERSCWA/LAS/UNDP Regional Program/UNCTAD)**

Chair **Mr. Mr. Marwan Kardoosh, Economist**

Members **Mr. Bahgat Abo El-Nasr, Director of the Arab Economic Integration Department at the League of Arab States**

Mr. Santiago Fernandez de Cordoba. Senior economist, Trade Division UNCTAD

Mr. Akrum Bastawi, Trade Policy Specialist and Special Advisor to the Office of the Minister of Trade & Industry, Egypt

As most of the NTMs have a rather significant impact on the domestic economy and their development strategies, one way to alleviate NTMs is through trade agreements. This session will review regional trade initiatives and their relationship with NTMs.

15:00 – 15:30 **Q & A and conclusions of the day**

November 8, 2018

09:00 – 1100 **Session 4 – Quantitative assessments and analysing the impact of NTMs on a wider economy**

Chair **Mr. Mohamed A. Chemingui**, Chief, Regional integration section, EDID/ESCWA

Speakers **Mr. John Sloan and Mr. Mohamed Chemingui**

- *Measuring Ad-valorem equivalent of NTMs. Techniques and applications to Arab Countries*

Mr. Chokri Thabet, Professor, University of Sousse and Mr. Mohamed Chemingui

- *NTMs on agricultural trade: structure and potential impacts*

Mr. Alessandro Nicita, NTMs' AVEs, UNCTAD

Trade policy today are increasingly using NTMs that are not necessarily designed to restrict or encourage trade but rather inclined to address non-trade regulatory objectives. This session first presents the economic effects of various types of NTMs, mostly at an intuitive level through graphical analysis. It then targets quantitative assessment of NTMs and its effects on international trade. Econometric methods to estimate ad valorem equivalents will be presented along with methods to measure distortionary costs of NTMs while showing the importance of cost-raising effects of NTMs for developing countries.

- Use of indices for quantitative assessment*
- Methods of assessments and their limitations*

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 12:30 **Session 6 – Launching of the second edition of Assessing Arab Economic Integration Report: Trade in Services as a Driver of Growth and Development (in Arabic)**

Chair **H. E Mr. Hakim Ben Hammouda**, Former minister of finances Tunisia and former chief economist of UNECA, professors of economics university of Grenoble

Mr. Mohamed El Hacene, Director of EDID/EDID

Mr. Mohamed Chemingui, Chief, RIS

Mr. Mehmet Eris, RIS/EDID/ESCWA

Ms. Nathalie Grand, RIS/EDID/ESCWA

Services trade liberalization is a major avenue for extending the scope of regional and global economic integration initiatives, with potentially profound effects on the transformation of individual economies. This mainly stems from the fact that services account for a large share of output, employment, exports, and foreign direct investment. Accordingly, an efficient and competitive service sector is of great importance for sustained economic growth and employment generation.

This report makes the case that limiting trade agreements to goods will not generate significant gains to address Arab economic and social challenges. However, the inclusion of services, if accompanied by appropriate policies to support transformation of Arab economies through greater connectivity to global value chains (GVCs), should positively impact the development paths. This report shows that trade costs stemmed from unduly restrictive regulations may be two to three times higher for trade in services compared to trade in goods. This is a key factor behind the unexploited potential for regional and global integration of Arab economies.

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:30– 16:00 *Session 7 – The road ahead in ESCWA region for NTMs analysis, conclusion and Q&A*