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SECOND REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON TRADE AND TRANSPORT FACILITATION IN STRENGTHENING ARAB ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND CONNECTIVITY

(Amman, Jordan, November 6-7, 2017)

Draft 2

Background

Arab Leaders at their Summits in late March 2015 reiterated their determination of deepening of the Arab economic integration, closer linkages and relationship among Arab countries in meeting expectations of Arab citizens of inclusive, sustainable growth and more jobs. They also reaffirmed the commitments of putting into place a Pan Arab market through the design and establishment of the Arab Customs Union. Reaching Arab economic integration is part and parcel of the Arab national security system, the declaration said, asserting the need to resume the greater Arab free trade zone. Effectively, the regional economic integration forms part of international economic relationships among countries, and it is essential that such integration contributes to enhancement of competitiveness to the region collectively and to individual countries.

These targets, once achieved, serve to progressing Arab countries within the new Sustainable Development Goals in the pursuit of more stability, employment and business opportunities in the region. From experiences of 2014 and 2015, benefits of these interventions in the trade-related policy reforms and of improvement of operational procedures dealt with cross border operations (in a number of Arab countries like Egypt) are highly valued by the countries and contribute to strengthen regional cooperation towards integration.

Since early 2014, UNDP cooperates with national authorities and regional institutions in making trade facilitation a tool of inclusive development and regional integration. Looking forward in 2017, it is essential to prioritize implementation of a series of activities identified by Arab countries in trade and transport facilitation with a view to expedite movement of goods and factors of production and to reduce costs of logistics services and distribution. Important measures in this direction, comprise of, design of National Single Windows (NSWs), modernization of cross border operations and adoption of modern practices aimed at reduction of trade/transportation costs, integration of logistics networks as effective tool to boost the competitiveness of exports and international trade in the region. It is also expected that these efforts contribute to economic recovery of several countries, badly affected by wars, among them, Jordan.

As recommended by the First Regional Workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation, held in June 16th and 17th 2015, it is necessary to focus more on the multimodal transport system in the region in taking advantage of geographical locations of countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and other Arab countries. To that end, closer and effective cooperation among Customs administrations, as well as agencies in charge of border management, using WCO tools and international standards is required. The Workshop specifically recommended that UNDP continues to support initiatives by Arab countries towards more trade facilitation and efficiency of supply chains.

Based on the request of Ministry of Transport of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, UNDP and concerned Jordanian authorities plan to organize the 2nd Regional Workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation as part of the program of support by UNDP to the country in 2017. The main subject of the forum consists of exchange of views on concrete modalities of activation of measures of trade and transport facilitation aimed at substantial enhancement of quality of logistics services in terms of costs and time in Jordan. It serves also to promote exchange of experiences and best practices including implementation of the AEO programme and adoption of integrated processing platforms such as Single Window in the region and in the world as well as enhance regional communication and coordination between National Committees for Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Arab countries to support economic integration.

In addition, this workshop provides unique opportunity for policy makers (officials of the Government and the like) and economic operators (i.e..., importers, exporters, shipping agents, terminal operators and transport companies) to come together to look into challenges to the competitiveness of exports of goods and services in Jordan to the world. At the same time, it garners support for introduction of relevant measures of trade and transport facilitation into the modernization of regulatory framework in the pursuit of better efficiency.

UNDP in partnership with the League of Arab States, Ministry of Transport, Department of Customs of Jordan and relevant regional organizations will organize the Second Regional Workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation (2nd RWS-TTF) to promote measures of and if possible, consider for adoption integrated solutions and enhanced coordination mechanisms between National Committees for Trade and Transport Facilitation on those targeted countries in order to further facilitate movement of production factors and optimize efficiency of economic resources for the regional economic integration.

Objectives of the Workshop

The 2nd Regional Workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation pursues the following:

Objective 1: Taking stock of the implementation of recommendations adopted by the First Regional Workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation, held in June 2015, Amman.

Objective 2: Exchange of views and perspectives on the implementation of measures set forth in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in the context of Arab countries and Jordan particularly.

Objective 3: Activation of the Authorized Economic Operators as part of key measures of trade and transport facilitation under the umbrella of the SAFE Framework and instruments of the World Customs Organization.

Objective 4: Perspectives of the private sector in the design and adoption of new policies and measures of improvement of quality of logistics services. Integrated platform of services and better transparency.

Objective 5: Knowledge sharing on developing the Single Window processing system at national and regional level.

Objective 6: Institutional arrangement for Trade and Transport Facilitation – National Committee on Trade and Transport Facilitation of Jordan and new directions.

General description of the Regional Workshop

The Second Regional Workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation has as target, presentation of good practices and lessons learned from substantial programmes of trade and transport facilitation undertaken by several countries in the world as well as practical experiences of Arab countries in tightening Arab linkage at national (i.e., in Jordan) and regional level. Specifically, the main subject consists of exchange of views on concrete modalities of activation of measures of trade and transport facilitation aimed at enhancement of quality of logistics services in terms of costs and time in Jordan. Expectedly these practices would be adopted by countries in the region with suitable customization in supporting creation of more business opportunities and jobs, not only in trade and logistics suppliers, but also in manufacturing and production with high efficiency – a requirement for any national or regional supply and/or value chain.

Furthermore, the workshop becomes a platform of dialogues in identifying, for effective implementation, measures of trade, transport facilitation and concerned techniques for more streamlined and simplified procedures guided by provisions set for by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. More importantly, it is expected that new measures would help to improve the competitiveness to exports of Jordan to the world as well as better performance of logistics services. These leverage on current efforts by the Government of making the business environment more viable in recent years. Efforts would be also invested in activation of integrated environment of supply and value chains in Jordan, such as the new generation Jordan National Single Window, as contribution to economic recovery of the country, affected by wars and instability in neighboring countries.

Moreover, this 2nd workshop facilitates also exchange of views of collaboration among key players in the logistics in the public and private sectors with a view of economizing costs and time for clearance, release and conveyance of goods and merchandises to final destinations. As overall, transportation costs and handling costs in Jordan are above the regional average as observed in neighboring

countries.¹ To address this challenge, appropriate interventions by policy makers in transport sector and those in other concerned sectors are required; private sector should also be involved in the design of responding measures. Through dialogues and consultations, it is expected that collectively, they will come to conclusions on how to deal effectively with this challenge.

Active participation of the private sector plays an eminent role in policy design and implementation of trade and transport facilitation measures; these operations document the level of responsiveness of adopted policies by the Government. Ultimately, they and public policy makers need to be part of the team that creates more and more value for Jordan – creator of public goods for sustainable development.

As a follow up to the first workshop, the event serves to review the progress of implementation of recommendations made by the first Regional Workshop, held in June 2015 with a view to acquire experiences of how to modernize public policies in taking into account operational challenges. The Ministry of Transport will lead the discussions in this regard and update participants of the 2nd Regional Workshop on new regulations and interventions by the Government in making trade and transport facilitation an engine for more efficient and effective logistics and opening opportunities for Jordan exports to move into high value-added content products to sustain development in the country.

Effective modalities such as coordination mechanisms between national committees for trade and transport facilitation will be also discussed by participants with good knowledge of transport/logistics services.

This Second Regional Workshop will be delivered by experts, resource persons of Governments of Arab countries, international experts and speakers from UNDP, the WCO and regional organizations as well as researchers of think tanks and practitioners of Arab countries, particularly representatives from the private sector and service providers.

Materials may comprise, presentations of international and regional experiences, international standards, analysis of matters related to transport and trade facilitation with focus on modalities and approaches for application in Arab countries.

Participants are also encouraged to highlight matters of their interest as related to trade and transport facilitation with a view to secure cost effective initiatives and promotion of more efficiency in transportation and border management (land and sea primarily). Experiences and constraints faced in operations would be valuable assets for design of correcting measures.

Structure and topics

The Second Regional Workshop (II RWS-TTF) would present analysis and technical approaches related to trade and transport facilitation in function of integrated framework of regional and international supply chain. It serves to materialize a number of global standards and practices into concrete interventions in the Arab region for better efficiency and competitiveness. Moreover, these facilitating policies can be seen as part of efforts of making business environment in the region as well as in Jordan particularly more efficient and friendlier.

¹ Based on the findings of a study on trade facilitation measures in Egypt, Jordan, Sudan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, conducted in 2nd half of 2015 by UNDP.

Best practices and new approaches towards more integrated solutions of trade and transport facilitation, such as Single Windows and regional platform of information, could be also explored as inputs to new policies and measures the Government may consider for adoption in continually improving performance. Experiences and lessons of countries in the region and from others will be used to support new directions by officials and economic stakeholders (i.e.... service providers, transport operators, traders, investors, among others) to facilitate trade and transport. It may comprise presentations on the application of data exchange and Single Window platforms in various parts, modalities of enhancement of logistics service, included the need of improvement of the existent legal framework applicable to management of shipment clearance and of cross border operations and promotion of communication and coordination between National Committees of Trade and Transport Facilitation in those targeted countries.

Key topics of the Workshop may include:

- (i) Brief description of progress of the implementation of recommendations of the First Regional Workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation.
- (ii) Presentation of the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization and potential benefits.
- (iii) Discussion of perspectives on specific measures of facilitation, comprised of Authorized Economic Operators and others.
- (iv) Proposals of measures of modernization by the private sector for substantial improvement in Jordan.
- (v) Updates by governmental agencies in the design for eventual establishment of Jordan National Single Window.

Nomination of participants

Representatives of target Arab countries and from international, regional organizations would also be invited by the Ministry of Transport as the organizer of the forum. The Ministries of Transport, Trade and Ministries of Finance/Department of Customs are responsible to nominate the participants to the Workshop, in collaboration with UNDP.

Members of the National Committee of Trade and Transport Facilitation of Jordan and representatives of the private sector would be invited to attend discussions of the workshop with a view to contribute inputs and perspectives for the modernization of the legal and regulatory framework, guided by international standards and agreements, particularly the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention.

One senior official of Egypt, Iraq, Morocco Sudan and Tunisia would be invited to the Regional Workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation, under the patronage of the Ministry of Transport of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in representing national bodies in charge of trade and transport facilitation, i.e..., National Committee of Trade and Transport Facilitation in those countries.

A brief description of the candidates in the form of a CV or Personal History would be also needed.

Note: It's important for the Customs nominee to have a good knowledge for the National Committee of Trade and Transport Facilitation in his/her respective country and to be nominated as a focal point for the committee to secure enhanced communication, coordination and follow-up after workshop.

Working languages

The Regional Workshop will be conducted in English with simultaneous translation from English into Arabic, and vice versa.

Experts/Resource Persons:

1. The technical team of UNDP.
2. Senior Officers of the World Customs Organization.
3. High level officials of the Customs Department of Customs of Jordan.
4. Domain experts of regional organizations such as the League of Arab States, Agadir Technical Unit.
5. Trade, customs and trade facilitation specialists.
6. Experts from the private sector

DAY ONE		
Session	Subject	Speakers
08:30 – 09:00	Participants registration	
09:00 - 9:45	Opening Session Introduction of the Regional Workshop Eng. Yousef Al-Shamali, Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply of Jordan. Introductory Remarks by Dr. Wadah Al-Hamoud, Director General of Jordan Department of Customs. Introductory Remarks by Excellency Mr. Erik Ullinhag, Ambassador, Sweden Embassy in Amman. Introductory Remarks by Mr. Khaleed Abdelshafi, Regional Hub Manager, Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP	
9:45 to 10:10	Opening Remarks by H.E Eng. Jameel Magahid , Minister of Transport of Jordan	
10:10 to 10:20	Morning Tea	
Session 1: International instruments and standards to facilitate trade Moderator: Dr. Bahgat, Director of Arab Economic Integration Department, Representative of Economic Sector, League of Arab States		

10:20 to 10:50	1. Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and National Committee on Trade Facilitation. 2. WCO Revised Kyoto Convention and challenges of balancing Security and Facilitation under SAFE Framework. (including AEO)	Ms. Satoko Kagawa, Technical Officer, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, World Customs Organization
10:50 to 11:20	3. Single Window Compendium and Data Model. 4. Coordinated Border Management, Information exchange, Globally Networked Customs. 5. The role, responsibilities and authorities of the National committees for Trade and Transport Facilitation.	
11:20 to 11:40	Plenary discussion of subjects presented	
Session 2: Efforts of Regional Economic Communities to facilitate trade <u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Quang Anh Le, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP		
11:40 to 12:00	6. Arab Connectivity and deepening Economic integration in the Arab states.	Dr. Baghat, Director of Arab Economic Integration Department, LAS
12:00 to 12:30	7. Presentation of progress of the design and establishment of the new generation Jordan National Single Window	Col. Ahmed Alem, IT Director, Customs Department of Jordan (JNSW Project Manager)
12:30 to 12:45	Coffee Break	
12:45 to 13:05	8. Presentation of the progress of Agadir Modality for trade facilitation, and information and data exchange between Agadir Member Countries.	Dr. Mohamed Tolba, Senior Advisor of the Agadir Technical Unit (ATU)
13:05 to 13:30	Plenary discussion of subjects presented	
13:30 to 13:45	Coffee Break	
Session 3: Status of implementation of recommendations and suggestions made at the First Regional Workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation of 2015 (RWS-TTF) <u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Fares Abu Dayyeh, Director of the Executive Secretariat for the Transport and Trade Facilitation, Ministry of Transport of Jordan.		
13:45 to 14:05	9. Actions undertaken by the Ministry of Transport in the period 2015-2016 to facilitate the trade and smoothing traffic of shipments. The impact of Aqaba Development Company projects in facilitating transport and trade.	Mr. Mohammed Al-Sukran / Director of Strategy and Logistics Directorate/ Aqaba Development Company / member of the Technical Committee for the

		facilitation of trade and transport.
14:05 to 14:25	10. Facilitation and deepening Arab Economic Integration, including major findings of the Survey conducted by the Ministry of Transport with the support of UNDP Technical Team. 11. The Impacts of Global Container Traffic on Trade Facilitation and SDGs	Mr. Quang Anh Le, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP Dr. Salah Ismail,
14:25 to 14:40	12. Case study: Container terminal productivity as a factor of trade and Transport competitiveness.	Mr. Vincent Flamant, Chief Commercial Officer, Aqaba Container Terminal
14:40 to 15:00	13. Indonesia National Single Window and Trade Facilitation in Indonesia Cross-Sector collaboration	Mr. Budi Setiwan, Vice President, EDI Indonesia
15:00 to 15:20	14. Big Data and Integrated Processing in expediting release of shipments	Mazen Albualghanam, Business Development Manager, WebbFontaine
15:20 to 15:40	Plenary discussion of subjects presented	
15:40 -	Lunch	

DAY TWO		
Session	Subject	Speakers
9:15 to 9:30	Introductory Remarks by Dr. Magdy Abdelaziz, Commissioner, Egypt Customs Authority	
Session 4: Adoption and application of trade and trade-related facilitation and National Trade Facilitation Committee under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.		
<u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Quang Anh Le, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP		
9:30 to 10:00	15. Presentation of experiences of the design and development of the Authorized Economic Operators- Asian experiences	Mrs. Hong Thi Khanh Nguyen, Customs Counsellor, Mission of Vietnam to the EU.
10:00 to 10:20	16. Presentation of the progress of Jordan Gold Cart Program	Mr. Yehia Al Kayed, Jordan Department of Customs
10:20 to 11:00	Plenary discussion of subjects presented	
Session 5: Role of National Committees for Trade and Transport Facilitation under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement		
<u>Moderator:</u> Eng. Naeem Hassan, Director of Strategic Planning Directorate, Ministry of Transport		
11:00 to 11:25	17. Presentations on the activation of the National Committee for Trade & Transport Facilitation from the perspectives of international instruments and WTO TF Agreement.	Mr. Quang Anh Le, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP
11:25 to 11:45	18. Updates on new regulations and policies of the Ministry of Transport - impact on trade and transport facilitation in Jordan	HE Mr. Sharhabeel Madi, Commissioner for Economic Affairs/Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority/ Member of the National Committee for Facilitating Trade and Transport
11:45 to 12:05	19. Sharing of regional and international Experiences by Egypt in Transport and Trade Facilitation and its National Committee.	Dr. Nermine Abulata, Senior Economist of Minister's Office, Egypt Ministry of Trade, Industry and MSMEs
12:05 to 12:25	20. Sharing of regional and international experiences by Sudan in Transport and	Senior official of Sudan (Trade/Customs)

	Trade Facilitation and its National Committee.	
12:25 to 12:45	21. Presentation of the representative of Iraq – Logistics of Iraq	Mr. Hilal Al Quraishi, Senior Chief Civil Engineer, Executive Secretary for Transport and Trade Facilitation in ESCWA region, Ministry of Transportation
12:45 to 13:05	22. Role of commercial operators in activities of the Trade and Transport facilitation	Mr. Tahar Ben Amor
13:05 to 13:20	Coffee break	
13:20 to 13:40	23. Governance Models of Trade and Transport Corridors – international experiences and policy lessons for Arab Countries	Mr. Greet Smith, Manager, Transport Infrastructure Mobility, ECORYS
13:40 to 14:00	24. Identifying new roles and functions of the National Committees for the Trade and Transport Facilitation of Jordan – Explanation of the draft ToR.	Mr. Quang Anh Le, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP
14:00 to 14:45	Lunch break	
14:45 to 15:15	Summary of the Second Regional Workshop by His Excellency Eng. Jameel Magahid, Minister of Transport	<u>Support panel:</u> Mr. Fares Abu Dayyeh, Director of the Executive Secretariat of Transport and Trade facilitation, Ministry of Transport of Jordan. Mr. Quang Anh Le, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP Dr. Bahgat, Director of Arab Economic Integration
	End of the Regional Workshop	