



UN-ESCWA UNITED NATIONS - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

## National Trade & Environment Committees: Global and Regional Experiences

Carol Chouchani Cherfane  
Chief, Water Resources Section  
Sustainable Development and Productivity Division  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



## Arab Initiative for Sustainable Development

### Institutional Framework

“The Arab Initiative aims at supporting and enhancing the **institutional framework** in Arab countries in the field of sustainable development, including the development and implementation of the necessary policies and legislations.”

## The Arab Declaration to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

### Governance

- “**Development of institutions** in the Arab Region and support their activities at the **national** and **regional** levels...to ensure the **proper planning and implementation** of sustainable development programmes.
- “Strengthening partnership with **civil society** and private sector to widen the base for the decision-making process related to sustainable development”

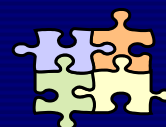
*To WSSD, 2002*

## Regional Approaches: League of Arab States (LAS)

- **CAMRE** - Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment
- **JCEDAR** - Joint Commission on Environment and Development in the Arab Region
- Established a **Joint Secretariat** consisting of:
  - Technical Secretariat of CAMRE at LAS
  - UNEP/Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA)
  - ESCWA - Coordinates Arab Regional Program on Trade & Environment Capacity Building
- **The Arab Initiative:**
  - Calls upon the international community to support the efforts of Arab countries to avoid the negative effects resulting from globalization on the economic, technical, environmental and social level;
  - Seeks to strengthen the competitiveness of Arab commodities and to endeavor to abolish all forms of subsidies, assistance, and barriers imposed.

## National Trade & Environment Committees in Arab Region

- **Tunis 2000:** LAS recommendation to Member States to each establish an inter-disciplinary Committee on Trade and Environment
- Some committees have been established, their activation and level of activity is mixed.



## Arab Regional Program on Trade & Environment Capacity Building

“CAMRE requests ESCWA and UNEP to coordinate and cooperate with CAMRE to develop a **regional program for Arab capacity building on trade and environment issues**, especially measures that limit Arab export competitiveness in international markets and that relate to trade negotiations and adjusting to the rules and regulations of the World Trade Organization related to the environment.” (Article 2, point 2)

**CAMRE Resolution 24**  
October 2002

## National T&E Committees in the Arab Region

Country	<i>Ad hoc?</i>	Public Participation?	Multi-Sectoral?
Egypt	No	Yes	Yes
Jordan	No	Yes	Yes
Kuwait	No	Yes	Yes
Morocco	No	Yes	Yes
Syrian Arab Republic	No	Yes	Yes
Saudi Arabia	No	Yes	Yes
Tunisia	No	Yes	Yes
Yemen	No	Yes	Yes

## Kuwait

- Formed a national Trade and Environment Committee in 2002
- Composed of:
  - Kuwait Environment Protection Agency (EPA)
  - Public Authority for Industry
  - Public Customs Authority
  - Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- However, the meetings are not regular and effectively *ad hoc*
- Public participation is minimal (so far)

## Jordan

# Trade and Environment Committee

### Vision

- A highly recognized and fully participatory, professional, well-informed, and active body well experienced in the national environmental and economic needs and requirements; representing Jordan and its interests in the international, regional, and national arenas to achieve Sustainable Development.

### Mission

- To strategize, plan and manage Jordan's environmental-trade portfolio, through the representation and delegation of roles and responsibilities in a professional and accountable manner. As well, continuously provide decision makers with the necessary support that contributes to the placing of Jordan in an environmentally sound and economically favorable situation.
- As a credible and accountable body that institutionally employs a transparent and participatory approach, a clear statement of commitment by all key members is required. To achieve each of the Committee's objectives, the following activities will be held:

## Jordan

# Trade and Environment Committee

### Objectives:

1. Data Collection and Baseline Reporting
2. Awareness and Outreach to Promote Communication
3. Harmonize Jordan's economic priorities with local environmental needs
4. Impact decision making at the international and regional level
5. Strengthen Bilateral Relations with all Stakeholders, and Enhance Communication at National, Regional, and International Levels
6. Continuously Build Member's Capacity Through a Professional Process of Consultations, Self-analysis and Gap analysis

## Jordan: Committee Members (pending finalization)

- Ministry of the Environment (Chair)
- Ministry of Municipality Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
- Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
- Ministry of Finance – Tax Department
- Jordan Institution for Standards and Metrology
- Royal Scientific Society
- Royal Society for Nature Protection
- Amman Chamber of Commerce
- Environment Friends Society

## Yemen National Committee on Environment and Trade

### Members:

According to the Yemeni Minister of Water and Environment Decree No. 41 for 2006

- 1) President of the EPA (Chair)
- 2) Ministry of Industry and Trade
- 3) Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
- 4) Ministry of Fisheries
- 5) Yemen Export Supreme Council
- 6) YSMO
- 7) General Investment Authority
- 8) Yemen Customs Authority
- 9) Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- 10) Yemeni Association for Consumer Protection
- 11) Association of Yemeni Industrialists
- 12) Communication and Coordination Office with the WTO
- 13) Trade and Environment Unit of the EPA (Member and Rapporteur)

Republic Of Yemen  
Ministry of Water and Environment  
Office

الجمهورية اليمنية  
وزارة المياه والبيئة  
مكتب

التاريخ: ٢٠٠٦/٥/٢٤  
عدد الصفحات: ١

قرار وزير المياه والبيئة رقم ٤١ لسنة ٢٠٠٦م  
بشأن تشكيل اللجنة الوطنية للتجارة والبيئة

وزير المياه والبيئة

بعد الإطلاع على القانون رقم (3) لسنة 2004م بشأن مجلس الوزراء،  
وعلى القرار الجمهوري رقم (218) لسنة 2004م بشأن ثلاثة التنظيمية لوزارة المياه والبيئة  
وعلى القرار الجمهوري رقم (105) لسنة 2003م بشأن تشكيل الحكومة وتسمية أعضائها والمعدل  
بالقرار الجمهوري رقم (8) لسنة 2006م،  
وبناء على عرض الأخ/ رئيس الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة رقم (23) وتاريخ: 2006/ 24

أقرر

مادة (١): تشكل لجنة وطنية للبيئة والتجارة من الجهات التالية :-

1. رئيس الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة	رئيساً
2. ممثل عن وزارة الصناعة والتجارة	عضواً
3. ممثل عن وزارة الزراعة والري	عضواً
4. ممثل عن وزارة الشؤون البلدية	عضواً
5. ممثل عن المجلس الأعلى لتنمية الصادرات	عضواً
6. ممثل عن الهيئة اليمنية للتواصل والمقاييس وضبط الجودة	عضواً
7. ممثل عن الهيئة العامة للاستثمار	عضواً
8. ممثل عن مصلحة الجمارك	عضواً
9. ممثل عن الاتحاد العام للتغرف التجارية والصناعية	عضواً
10. ممثل عن الجمعية اليمنية لحماية المستهلك	عضواً
11. ممثل عن جمعية الصناعيين اليمنيين	عضواً
12. ممثل عن مكتب الاتساع والتنسيق مع منظمة التجارة العالمية	عضواً
13. وحدة البيئة والتجارة والهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة	عضواً ومقرراً

الهاتفون: ٤١٨٢٨٣١ - ٤١٨٢٨٣٠ - ٤١٨٢٨٢٩ - ٤١٨٢٨٢٨ - ٤١٨٢٨٢٧  
Tel: 418291 - 418290 - 418289 - 418288 - Fax: 418285 - P.O. Box: 19237- Email: techsec@y.net.ye

## Yemen National Committee on Environment and Trade

**Functions:** The functions of the Committee are of an advisory/coordination nature. They include, in brief:

- 1) Set-up general environment and trade policy framework,
- 2) Review environment and trade issues related to membership in WTO,
- 3) Coordinate with parties on environment and trade issues,
- 4) Develop procedures regarding materials prohibited from import/export for environmental reasons,
- 5) Prepare environmental assessment studies and conduct field surveys,
- 6) Review environment and trade-related laws,
- 7) Include environment and trade issues in national development plans,
- 8) Suggest national quality control standards and norms,
- 9) Develop controls for the execution of WTO commitments related to environment and trade issues,
- 10) Setup cooperation modalities with international organizations,
- 11) Follow-up and assess trade-related environmental agreements,
- 12) Inform and coordinate with stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, about environmental requirements affecting international trade and assess impact on competitiveness of national products and services.

مادة ( ٢ ) تمارين اللجنة المهام والصلاحيات التالية:-

- ١- إعداد إطار للسياسات العامة لحماية البيئة والتجارة .
- ٢- مراجعة قضايا البيئة المتداولة مع التجارة ذات الصلة بمقررات الانضمام لمنظمة التجارة العالمية.
- ٣- التنسيق المشترك في قضايا البيئة والتجارة من خلال الجهات المختصة في اللجنة .
- ٤- وضع الآليات الخاصة بالموافقة المسبقة لاستيرادها وتصديرها لمنتجات بيئية ومراقبة تنفيذها .
- ٥- الدراسات والزيارات الميدانية والتقييم البيئي لقضايا البيئة والتجارة وبموجب المقررات المتخذة من اللجنة العامة لحماية البيئة.
- ٦- مراجعة التشريعات ذات العلاقة بالبيئة والتجارة واتخاذ اللازم بما يضمن عدم التعارض بينهما من جهة والتشريعات المنصوص عليها في الاتفاقيات الدولية ذات الصلة .
- ٧- العمل على دمج قضايا البيئة والتنمية المستدامة مع خطط التنمية المستدامة .
- ٨- اقتراح مواصفات ومعايير وطنية لضبط الجودة للتسويق والخدمات من الدامية البيئة .
- ٩- وضع المواصفات الخاصة بتلقي الالتزامات الخاصة بالتفاوض مع منظمة التجارة العالمية في القضايا المتعلقة بين البيئة والتجارة وبموجب ما ترسمه به الجهات ذات العلاقة .
- ١٠- وضع آليات التعاون المشترك بين اللجنة الوطنية للبيئة والتجارة مع المنظمات والجهات الدولية من خلال وحدة التجارة والبيئة بالهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة ووزارة التجارة والصناعة .
- ١١- المساعدة والتقييم للاتفاقيات البيئية ذات الطابع التجاري والمنعقدة فيها بآليات من خلال التنسيق المشترك بين وحدة البيئة والتجارة والمنسقين الوطنيين لهذه الاتفاقيات.
- ١٢- التنسيق مع الجهات ذات العلاقة والقطاع الخاص و منظمات المجتمع المدني للتعريف بالإجراءات والتدابير البيئية المطلوبة في التجارة الدولية. وتقييم مدى تأثيرها على القدرة التنافسية للتسويق والخدمات الوطنية.

مادة (٣) تقوم وحدة البيئة والتجارة بالهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة بالعمل كسكرتارية تقنية للجنة.  
مادة (٤) يعمل بهذا القرار من تاريخ صدوره وعلى الجهات المعنية تنفيذه كلاً وفقاً لمهامه .

تاريخ : ١٢ / ١ / ٢٠١٠  
الموافق : ١٥ / ١ / ٢٠١٠

عبد الرحمن فضل الارياني

## Finland

- **Working Group on Trade and Environment** established by Foreign Affairs Ministry
  - Working group under the **Finish National Council for Sustainable Development** (headed by Prime Minister)
  - Coordinates Finish position in relevant international bodies
  - Very active from 1992 to 1998 (EU structures)
- **Composed of:**
  - Representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Trade & Industry, Agriculture & Forestry
  - Representatives of industry and forestry
  - Environmental and other NGOs
- **Regular meetings**
- **Public participation very high**

## Canada

- **Working Group on Trade and Environment**
  - Advises on Canada's domestic & international T&E positions
  - **Chair: Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee**
  - Partner: Environment Canada
  - **Members:**
    - Agriculture and Agri-Food
    - Canadian International Development Agency
    - Industry Canada
    - Natural Resources
    - Fisheries and Oceans
    - Canadian Food Inspection Agency
    - Health Canada
  - Meets regularly, plus meets one month prior to CTE meetings to coordinate approaches for discussion and negotiation
  - Public participation

## Trade & Environment Decision-Making: A Multi-Sectoral Process

Process requires:

1. **Access to information** – within government & for civil society
2. **Coordination between ministries**
3. **Dialogue** – open lines of communication
4. **Definition of national interests**
5. **Priority Setting**
6. **Policy Analysis**
7. **Consultation with relevant stakeholders**
8. **Decision-Making**

Necessitates the creation of effective mechanisms or institutions to inform and facilitate the integrated policy-making and decision-making process



## Checklist for Designing a Public Participation Process

OECD, adapted from Standard Z764-96, "A Guide to Public Involvement," of the  
Canadian Standards Association

- 1. Do you need to involve the public?**
  - Describe the situation
  - Identify potential benefits
  - Assess the relevance of input
  - Analyse and evaluate the implications of not including public participation
  - Identify interests and positions
  - Study and assess the implications of not proceeding
- 2. Has the groundwork been laid for a well-constructed process?**
  - Determine the nature and scope of decisions
  - State the purpose
  - Estimate the time frame
  - Identify potential participants
  - Review and select viable mechanisms
  - Estimate human and financial resources required
  - Validate budget
- 3. Do you have the elements in place to make the process develop satisfactorily?**
  - Establish goals and limits
  - Define the work plan and program the activities
  - Confirm the availability at resources allocated
  - Send invitation to identified participants and confirm their attendance
  - Conduct follow-up to plan of actions
  - Mobilise resources
  - Establish the ground rules for the process
- 4. Did the process conclude satisfactorily?**
  - Identify what and how to evaluate
  - Review process development and identify stages that need improvement
  - Ensure process feedback from experience gained
  - Include decisions made and circulate these among participants
  - Implement project decisions

## How to Support Inter-Sectoral National Policy Coordination?

- **Establish a Working Group or Committee**
  - Institutionalized, Inter-disciplinary mechanism
  - Fixed membership
  - Fixed secretariat (or rotating between co-chairs)
  - Allocate sufficient technical capacity (human, ITC)
  - Establish mechanisms to allow for consultation with non-governmental stakeholders → Public Participation
  - Conduct policy analysis and formulate recommendations for consideration by respective ministries/agencies
- **Establish clear purpose/mandate/scope of work**
- **Identify Interests and Priorities**
- **Promote Informed Policy Analysis & Decisions**

## Questions to Consider

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- What are the main trade and environment priorities facing the country/region?
- Should priorities support *proactive* or *reactive* debate and decision-making?
- Are there any standing Inter-Ministerial Cooperative Mechanisms already exist that could respond to these issues? (National Sustainable Development Committees, WTO Negotiation Committees, MEA Committees, National Trade & Trade Facilitation Committees?)
- If so, are these mechanisms participatory, i.e., involve key public and private sector stakeholders?
- Should the Committee be advisory? high-level?

## *Thank you!*

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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia  
United Nations**

**Tel: +961-1-981-301**

**Fax: +961-1-981-510**