



Roundtable on Issues Related to the Establishment and Activation of National Committees on Trade and Environment

12 - 14 January 2010
Beirut, Lebanon

Agenda

Tuesday, 12 January 2010

SESSION I	OPENING AND INTRODUCTION
9:00 - 9:30 am	Registration at United Nations House, Riad Al-Solh Square, B1 Level
9:30 - 9:45 am	Opening Statements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mr. Imadeddin Albaba, Head, Research and Development, Environmental Quality Authority, Palestine</i>• <i>Mr. Yousif Muayad Yousif, Head, Chemicals Management, Chemicals Management Section, Ministry of Environment, Iraq</i>• <i>Ms. Roula Majdalani, Chief, Technical Cooperation Section, Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division (PPTCD), ESCWA</i>• <i>Ms. Anhar Hegazi, Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD), ESCWA</i>
9:45 - 10:00 am	Tour de Table -Participants introduce themselves & their trade and environment interests
10:00 - 10:15 am	Overview of Trade and Environment Linkages <i>Ms. Anhar Hegazi, Director, SDPD, ESCWA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Link between trade & environment in the context of sustainable development• Liberalization of trade in environmental goods and services• Basic issues related to intra-Arab trade• Priority areas in trade and environment in the Arab region
10:15 - 10:30 am	Discussion and review of the agenda
10:30 - 10:45 am	Coffee break
SESSION II	OVERVIEW OF GENERAL TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT PRINCIPLES
10:45 - 11:30 am	General Principles of International Trade related to the Environment <i>Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, SDPD, ESCWA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evolution of trade and environment policy-making• GATT/WTO General Principles• Dispute Settlement Understanding
11:30 - 11:45 am	Discussion

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11:45 – 12:15 pm	International Environmental Principles and Trade-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) <i>Ms. Hanan Atallah, Research Assistant, Water Resources Section, SDPD, ESCWA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General principles of international environmental law• Trade-related MEAs and their relationship to international trade principles
12:15 – 12:30 pm	Discussion
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
SESSION III	ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS AND MARKET ACCESS
1:30 – 2:30 pm	TBT and SPS Agreements and Conformity Assessment <i>Ms. Soha Atallah, National Project Coordinator, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Lebanon</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)• WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)• Conformity assessment and labeling requirements
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Discussion
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Coffee break
3:00 – 3:15 pm	Trade Implications of Environmental Requirements <i>Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, SDPD, ESCWA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standards and technical regulations• Impact of environmental requirements on selected sectors• Costing compliance with environmental, health and safety standards• Eco-labeling schemes
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Discussion
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Case Study on the Preparation of a National Food Standard for Zaatar <i>Mr. Jihad Noun, First Economic Affairs Officer, SDPD, ESCWA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case study on the preparation of a national zaatar standard in Lebanon• Comparative assessment of zaatar standards in the region• Cost of compliance with product standards
4:00 – 4:15 pm	Discussion
4:15 – 5:00 pm	Roundtable on Country Experiences: Challenges, Constraints and Needs
5:00 pm	End of Day

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SESSION IV	ISSUES UNDER NEGOTIATION BEFORE THE WTO
9:30 – 10:00 am	<p>Trade and Environment in the WTO: Issues under Negotiation <i>Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, SDPD, ESCWA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WTO Committee on Trade and Environment Work Program • Doha Development Agenda Mandate
10:00 – 10:15 am	Discussion
10:15 – 10:45 am	<p>Proposed Guidelines and List for the Liberalization of Environmental Goods <i>Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, SDPD, ESCWA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAS Guidelines and OECD List • Implications for the Arab Region and Arab member States
10:45 – 11:00 am	Discussion
11:00 – 11:15 am	Coffee Break
SESSION V	ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF INCREASING INTERNATIONAL TRADE
11:15 – 11:30 am	<p>The Results of the Survey on the Establishment and Activation of the National Transport and Trade Facilitation Committees in ESCWA Member Countries <i>Ms. Naela Haddad, First Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Globalization Division (EDGD), ESCWA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate of National Committees on Trade and Trade Facilitation • Review of survey examining the activities of established committees
11:30 – 11:45 am	Discussion
11:45 – 12:15 pm	<p>Energy, Transport and Trade <i>Mr. Salah Kandil, Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Section, SDPD, ESCWA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental implications of trade and transport sector expansion • Energy goods and services
12:15 – 12:30 pm	Discussion
12:30 – 12:45 pm	<p>Sustainability Impact Assessment: A Tool for Decision-Making <i>Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, SDPD, ESCWA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area • Strategic environmental impact assessments
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Discussion
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Lunch

Wednesday, 13 January 2010 (continued)

SESSION VI	PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING
2:00 – 2:15 pm	Program on Trade and Environment Capacity Building in the Arab Region <i>Ms. Jana El-Baba, Research Assistant, Productive Sectors Section, SDPD ESCWA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program priorities for action and skills development• Recent activities
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Discussion on regional priorities
2:30 – 3:00 pm	National Trade and Environment Committees: Global & Regional Experiences <i>Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, SDPD. ESCWA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institutional and legal structure of standings committees• Scope of work• Civil society participation
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Discussion on institutional frameworks
3:30 pm	End of Day

Thursday, 14 January 2010

PALESTINIAN ROUNDTABLE	
9:00 - 10:00 am	Proposed Framework for the Establishment of a National Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purpose and mandate• Membership; Chairman; Deputy Chairman; Secretariat• Partners; Stakeholders• Scope of work, By-laws
10:00 – 11:00 am	Identification of National Trade and Environment Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of existing challenges and constraints• Criteria for priority-setting• Identification of priorities for examination by National Committee
11:00 – 11:15 am	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:00 am	Formulation of Draft Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities, Timeline, Resources
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drafting decree for the establishment of a National Committee• Roles and responsibilities• Scheduling next meeting• Preparation of meeting report
12:30 pm	End of Workshop for Palestinian Participants
12:45 – 1:45 pm	Lunch

Thursday, 14 January 2010 (continued)

IRAQI ROUNDTABLE

2:00 - 3:00 pm	Proposed Framework for the Establishment of a National Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purpose and mandate• Membership; Chairman; Deputy Chairman; Secretariat• Partners; Stakeholders• Scope of work, By-laws
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Identification of National Trade and Environment Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of existing challenges and constraints• Criteria for priority-setting• Identification of priorities for examination by National Committee
4:00 - 4:15 am	Coffee Break
4:15 - 5:00 pm	Formulation of Draft Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities, Timeline, Resources
5:00 - 5:30 pm	Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drafting decree for the establishment of a National Committee• Roles and responsibilities• Scheduling next meeting• Preparation of meeting report
5:30 pm	End of Workshop for Iraqi Participants