

The Regional Workshop on Trade and Environment: Developing the Environmental Goods and Services Sector in the Arab Region for Transformation into a Green Economy (Beirut, 15-16 December 2010) assembled representatives of Arab countries to discuss trade and environment principles and linkages, with a specific focus on environmental goods and services as an important tool for developing a green economy.

The workshop aimed at developing concepts of green economy and building consensus regarding its component in the Arab region and the policy mix capable of developing such an economy in the region. It also strived to build the capacity of participants in the development of a national environmental goods and services sector as a means of transformation into a green economy, and provided a regional platform for members of national trade and environment committees to share experiences, knowledge and lessons learned among themselves as well as with representatives of member countries seeking to establish such a committee.

Participants discussed the basic concepts of a green economy and the contribution that environmental goods and services can give to the achievement of such an economy. Through working groups, they contributed to the identification of regional priorities, and a set of criteria for defining key environmental goods and services sub-sectors which could be prime contributors to a green economy in the Arab region. Next steps were also identified and agreed upon in relation to the operationalization of the Arab Group on Trade and Environment.