

Press Release

Expert Group Meeting on “Trade Policy Trends in ESCWA Member Countries And Their Respective Implications on Trade and Economic Performance” Beirut, 17-18 December 2008

UNESCWA is organizing an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Trade Policy Trends in ESCWA Member Countries and Their Respective Implications on Trade and Economic Performance”. The EGM aims to increase awareness on the latest developments concerning trade policy trends in member countries and their respective implications. The EGM will be held at the UN House in Beirut, Lebanon, during 17-18 December 2008.

During the two-day discussions and deliberations, the EGM will aim to provide a summary of the underlying trends, goals and objectives of the trade policies adopted by the member countries and their implications on trade and economic performance. As such, it becomes pertinent to monitor main trade policy trends in ESCWA member countries and their respective implications.

The EGM will seek to address the following issues: (1) Trade policy trends in ESCWA member countries and respective implications on trade and economic performance. (2) Trade priorities in ESCWA member countries and future prospects. (3) Issues of development concern for the ESCWA member countries implicated by trade policy. (4) Opportunities and challenges of the multilateral trading system vis-a-vis bilateral trade agreements. (5) Lessons learnt and recommendations based on the EGM’s discussions and deliberations.

ESCWA invited representatives of concerned ministries in member countries as well as several governmental and non-governmental International and regional organizations to take part in the EGM. To date, the participation of experts from Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Palestine, Sudan, Bahrain, league of Arab states and The General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries has been confirmed.