



High Level Meeting on
“The Future of Arab Economic Integration in a Changing Global Trade Landscape”
Tunis, Hotel Regency
1-2 July 2019

Day 1: July 1, 2019

08:30-9.15	Registration
09:15- 9.45	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome address by His Excellency Pr. Tawfik Rajhi, Minister in charge of major reforms in Tunisia• Welcome address by Mr. Mohamed Moctar Mohamed El Hacene, Director of EDID, ESCWA• Welcome address by Mr. Bahgat Aboelnasr, Director of Economic Integration Department, LAS• Welcome Address by the ACU’s Chairman
9.45-10:00	Coffee Break
10:00- 11:30	Session 1: The Arab Trade integration: Development and Implications Moderator: Mr. Hakim Ben Hammouda (Former Minister of Finance, Tunisia) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From PAFTA to ACU: Where do we stand? (Mr. Bahgat Aboelnasr, Director of Economic Integration Department, LAS)• Ex-post evaluation of PAFTA: Lessons from the intensive and extensive trade margins (Mr. Mehmet Eris, Economic Affairs Officer RIS/ESCWA)• Impediments to full implementation of PAFTA (Mrs. Nathalie Grand, Economic Affairs officer, RIS/ESCWA)• Open discussion
11:30 – 12:45	Session 2: The status of Arab integration at sub-regional level and with the EU Moderator: Mr. Raed Safadi (Chief economist, Dubai Economy) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From Euro-Med Partnership to the Deep and Complete FTA (Mrs. Saoussen Ben Romdane, EU delegation Tunis)• The status of Integration in North African countries (Mrs. Bouraoui Khouja Asma, Senior Lecture, University of Manouba)• Open discussion
12:45-14.00	Lunch
14:00 - 15.30	Session 3: Global Perspectives on trade and investment Moderator: Mr. Nadim Ahmad (Director, Statistics Division, OECD) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new global trade system: Challenges and opportunities for the Arab countries (Mr. Raed Safadi, Economy of Dubai)• Special Economic Zones and economic integration: Insights from the World Investment Report 2019 (Mr. Bruno Casella, Senior economist, UNCTAD)
15.30-16.00	Summary of discussions



Day 2, July 2, 2019

09:30 – 11:00	<u>Session 4: Toolkits to analyze, monitor and evaluate Regional and Global Integration</u> Moderator: Mr. Mohamed A. Chemingui (Senior economist and Chief of RIS, ESCWA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESCWA’s system of indexes to monitor and evaluate Arab economic integration (Mrs. Nathalie Grand, Economic Affairs Officer RIS/ESCWA)• The Trade in Value Added: Structure, extensions, and uses (Mr Nadim Ahmad, Director, OECD)• The African Trade Observer Platform (Mr. Mondher Mimouni, Chief of Trade and Market Intelligence, ITC)• Open discussion
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	<u>Session 5: Looking beyond Tariffs</u> Moderator: Mr. Mondher Mimouni, Chief of Market Intelligence section, ITC <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules of Origin in International trade: Techniques and application for the Arab region (Mrs. Mette Werdelin Azzam, Senior economist, WCO)• Trade in services as an engine to economic growth (Mehmet Eris, Economic Affairs Officer, RIS/ESCWA)• Export Credits and Integration in the Global Economy (Mr. Riadh Ben Jelili, Director of Research and Country Risk Department, DHAMAN)• Open discussion
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<u>Special session for regional and international development funds</u> Moderator: Mr. Riadh Ben Jelili, Director of Research Department, DHMAN <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States (Mr. Lassaad Ben Hassine, ITFC-IsDB)• The African Development Bank’s Strategy on regional integration (Mrs. Yacine FAL, Regional Director, African Development Bank, Tunisia)• The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development’s Initiatives on Regional Integration (Mr. Antoine Salle De chou, EBRD)• Open Discussions
15:30-16:30	Way Forward