



**Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials
and Experts for North Africa**

Thirty-fourth meeting

Aswan, Egypt

25-28 November 2019

Provisional programme of work

Monday, 25 November

**34th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts
for North Africa**

8.00– 09.00 a.m.

Registration of participants

9.00 – 10.30 a.m.

Opening session (*agenda item 1*)

Opening statements:

- **Ms. Kalthoum Hamzaoui**, General Director of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Tunisia. Chair of the outgoing Bureau
- **Dr. Vera Songwe**, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (video message)
- **H.E. Dr. Hala Helmy El Said**, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform of Egypt
- Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work (*agenda items 2 and 3*)

10.30 – 11.30 a.m.

Coffee break, group photo and interviews

11.30 – 1.30 p.m.

Special session: The African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) and Employment: The Impact of an Improved Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration in North Africa (*agenda item 4*)

Moderator: Dr. Gehan Saleh, Economics Advisory for the Egyptian Prime Minister

The session on the ACFTA and Employment, the area of specialization of the Subregional Office, will allow in-depth discussions to analyse the opportunities and challenges for the subregion, and identify the necessary adjustments to undertake in relation to the ACFTA for the purposes of job creation.

Panelists:

- **Dr. Ahmed Kamaly**, Ministry of planning Egypt
- **Mr. Menghestab Haile**, Country Director, World Food Programme
- **Ms. Shehrazade Benrhouma Belaiba**, Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts UTICA, Tunisia
- **Mr. Samson Bilangna**, World Customs Organization
- **Mr. Hamza Babetta**, National Trade Union of Mauritania

1.30 – 2.30 p.m.

Lunch break

2.30 – 3.30 p.m.	<p>Opening session of the expert group meeting: “Trade Facilitation in North Africa for Enhanced Regional Economic Integration: Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward” (agenda item 5)</p> <p>Opening statements :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms. Lilia Hachem Naas, Director, Sub-regional Office for North Africa, Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) – Presentation of the objectives of the meeting and of the programme of work: Ms. Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi (UNECA) – Presentation: H.E. Ambassador Yasser Hashem, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Egypt)
3.30– 4.00 p.m.	Coffee break
4.00 – 5.30 p.m.	<p>Session 1: Policies, procedures and mechanisms for trade facilitation in North Africa</p> <p><i>An introductory session to set the stage and update on where we stand in regarding the policies, procedures and mechanisms for trade facilitation in North Africa, including strengths and weaknesses, followed by a brief Q&A.</i></p> <p>Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Omar Abou Eich (Egypt)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms. Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi (UNECA) – Mr. Souleymane Abdallah (UNECA) – Mr. Aminur Rahman (World Bank) – Dr. Ahmed Ghoniem, Professor of Economics (Egypt) – General discussion
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Gala dinner: Arena Garden

Tuesday, 26 November

Continuation of the Expert Group Meeting: “Trade Facilitation in North Africa for Enhanced Regional Economic Integration”

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	<i>Registration</i>
9.00– 11.00 a.m.	<p>Session 2: National case studies</p> <p><i>This session will present some national case studies and will discuss many issues such as the economic benefits of trade facilitation; bilateral and regional trade agreements; trade facilitation policy, practice and opportunities; and major challenges for intra-North African trade</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Moderator: Mr. Dialel Guisset (Mauritania) – National consultants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Mohamed Boumghar, Algeria case study ▪ Prof. Fathy Al Tony, Egypt case study ▪ Mr. Abdoul Kane, Mauritania case study – General discussion
11.00 – 11.30 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>

11.30 – 1.00 p.m.

Session 3: National case studies (continued)

This session will present the rest of the national case studies and will discuss many issues such as the economic benefits of trade facilitation; bilateral and regional trade agreements; trade facilitation policy, practice and opportunities; and major challenges for intra-North African trade

Moderator: Ms. Zahra Maafiri (Morocco)

- National consultants:
 - **Dr. Nabil Boubrahimi**, Morocco case study
 - **Prof. Mutasim Abdelmawla**, Sudan case study
 - **Prof. Chokri Thabet**, Tunisia case study
- General discussion

1.00 – 2.00 p.m.

Lunch

2.00 – 3.30 p.m.

Session 4: Roundtables (groups work) and open discussions on the possible cooperation areas and opportunities in developing sub regional trade facilitation and single window applications: challenges, opportunities and the way forward

This will be a working break, breaking up the participants into two groups. This working break will provide space for open discussions by a wide range of stakeholders. The interactive working groups will identify challenges, opportunities and the way forward related to trade facilitation.

Moderators (2 groups: challenges, opportunities and the way forward-Host country: Dr. Ashraf Mokhtar, UNECA: **Ms. Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi** and **Mr. Aziz Jaid**)

3.30 – 4.00 p.m.

Coffee break

4.00 – 5.30 p.m.

Session 5: Evaluation of policies and programs for trade facilitation in North Africa: good practices, challenges, opportunities and proposed recommendations

This session will discuss policies, programs, and initiatives needed to encourage and promote trade in North Africa. The session will focus on how to ensure effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues and what are the needs for technical assistance and capacity building in this area, finally policy recommendations will be presented.

Moderator: Mr. Chafik Chiti (Algeria)

- Recommendations: **Ms. Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi**, UNECA
- General discussion
- Comments and feedbacks from participants
- Adoption of the recommendations

5.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Closing of the ad-hoc expert group meeting

Wednesday, 27 November**Continuation of 34th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for North Africa**

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	<i>Registration</i>
9.00 – 10.00 a.m.	<p>■ The evolution of economic and social conditions in North Africa: regional profile review (<i>agenda item 6</i>)</p> <p><i>The report prepared by UNECA on the regional socio-economic situation will be presented and discussed with the participants</i></p> <p>Presentation: Mr. Aziz Jaid (UNECA)</p> <p>■ Review of the implementation of regional and international agreements and agendas (Development agendas and special initiatives) (<i>agenda item 7</i>)</p> <p><i>The report prepared by UNECA on the Implementation of Regional and International agreements and agendas will be presented and discussed with the participants</i></p> <p>Presentation. Mr. Omar Abdourahman, (UNECA)</p> <p>– General discussion</p>
10.00 – 11 a.m.	<p>Statutory issues (<i>agenda item 8</i>)</p> <p>– Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) for 2020</p> <p>Presentation: Mr. Demba Diarra, (UNECA)</p> <p>– Report on the activities of the ECA Subregional Office for North Africa (October 2018-September 2019) and work programme for 2020</p> <p>Presentation. Ms. Lilia Hachem Naas (UNECA)</p> <p>Mr. Khaled Hussein (UNECA)</p> <p>– General discussion</p>
11.00– 11.30 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 – 1.00 p.m.	<p>Presentation of the key messages emerging from the Fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly (<i>agenda item 9</i>)</p> <p>Presentation: Mr. Mohammed Maktit, Ministry of Energy, Mines and the Environment, Morocco</p> <p>– General discussion</p>
1.00 – 2.00 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
2.00 – 3.30 p.m.	<p>Presentation of ECA Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT): A toolkit for integrating national development plans with the SDGs and Agenda 2063 (<i>agenda item 10</i>)</p> <p>Presentation. Mr. Ahmed Al-Awah, UNECA</p>
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>

Thursday, 28 November

9:30 – 10.00 a.m.	<i>Registration</i>
10.00 – 11.00 a.m.	Review and approval of the EGM's recommendations: Trade Facilitation in North Africa for Enhanced Regional Economic Integration (<i>agenda item 11</i>)
11.00 – 11.30 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 – 12.30 p.m.	Review and adoption of ICE's report and recommendations (<i>agenda item 12</i>)
12.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Date and venue of the next ICE meeting (<i>agenda item 13</i>)
12.30 – 1.00 p.m.	Any other business (<i>agenda item 14</i>)
1.00 – 1.30 p.m.	Closing of the meeting (<i>agenda item 15</i>)
	– Vote of thanks
	– Closing remarks
	<i>Lunch.</i>