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Mission to Algiers, Algeria
7-8 October 2019**

From :	Lilia Hachem Naas (SRO-NA) Souleymane Abdallah (RITD) Mustapha Sadni Jallab (IDEP) Zoubir Benhamouche (SRO-NA) (was on mission for the developing the macro-economic model)	
Purpose :	Participate in the national conference on AfCFTA on the invitation of the Ministry of Trade of Algeria	
Date :	7-8 Octobre 2019	
Place :	Algiers – Algeria	
Summary of discussions		Follow up
	<p>ECA participation in the National Conference on AfCFTA.</p> <p>The national conference on the challenges and opportunities of AfCFTA, and implications for Algeria national strategy brought together trade ministers (from Mali, Niger and Tunisia), several Algerian Ministers, the AU commissioner of Trade and Industry, African and international organisations, and trade experts.</p> <p>The conference was divided into four sessions:</p> <p>Presentation of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA, its protocols</p> <p>Economic potentialities of the African market and prospects.</p> <p>Trade facilitation tools for inter-African trade</p> <p>Algeria's place in the African market and the National Strategy adapted to the AfCFTA</p> <p>The ECA delegation participated in each session with detailed presentations. The work of ECA and IDEP on Trade Facilitation was particularly noticed. Empirical evidence shows that African countries have very high potential gains from implementing trade facilitation measures especially in the context of the AfCFTA. These measures would strongly contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed export diversification and greater insertion in value chains - Increased FDI and increased participation of SMEs in trade flows - Greater efficiency in tariff collection - Lower incidence of corruption and tax evasion <p>Finally, the presentation highlighted that the AfCFTA could also have positive impacts in terms of addressing supply side constraints and inclusion into regional value chains for North Africa.</p> <p>On this basis, it was highlighted that the national strategy should provide clear vision and way forward to help reap the great potential of increased inter-African trade and present the reforms needed for Algeria to benefit from the implementation of AfCFTA to achieve inclusive development and sustainable growth.</p>	follow up actions came up in the meeting with the Minister
2.	<p>Meeting with HE Said Djellab, Minister of Trade of Algeria</p> <p>During the meeting, the Minister thanked ECA for its important contribution to the national conference on AfCFTA. He particularly</p>	Follow up on request for developing the national strategy (SRO-NA)

	<p>welcomed the presentation in addressing diversification needs and potential gain for Algeria from operationalizing the AfCFTA.</p> <p>The Minister requested ECA's support in developing a national strategy for AfCFTA and providing a quantitative assessment of the impact of AfCFTA for its economy. An additional written request in this regard will be sent to ECA through SRO NA.</p> <p>The strategy should be based on a detailed analysis to assess the potential gains but also where adjustments/reforms are needed.</p> <p>The Minister considered that the AfCFTA is a major achievement for Africa and it is a unique opportunity to support development of regional value Chains across Africa and take advantage of the various strategic complementarities among countries of North Africa sub-region and other African regions.</p> <p>The Minister indicated the interest in hosting a training event on AfCFTA with ECA (RITD, SRO-NA and IDEP).</p> <p>The Minister indicated his interest to attend the forthcoming policy dialogue on the impact of AfCFTA on UMA that SRO-NA is organizing mid-November in Rabat.</p>	<p>Follow up on organization of training for policy makers and key stakeholders (SRO-NA, IDEP and RITD)</p> <p>Send invitation letter to the Minister to attend the regional workshop (done by SRO-NA)</p>
3.	<p>Meeting with Oliver Overvest, UNRC, Algeria</p> <p>The discussion focused on the ongoing UN reform and how to improve the collaboration between ECA and the UNCT Algeria.</p> <p>The UNRC expressed satisfaction with the excellent relationship established with SRO-NA during the last couple of years which enabled UNCT to gain a better understanding of the work done by ECA particularly in the area of macroeconomic analysis and modeling, implementation of SDGs and regional integration.</p> <p>The UNRC looks forward to work more closely with ECA in completing the CCA for Algeria. He introduced the new economist that joined the team and counting on him to be more involved with SRO-NA.</p> <p>The RC was also briefed about IDEP mandate, its core activities and training in preparation for RCs. UNRC expressed specific interest in benefiting from IDEP expertise and welcomed the idea of organizing joint trainings with IDEP on macroeconomic modelling and AfCFTA.</p>	<p>Continue close collaboration with UNCT and NRC according to UN reform directives and guidelines</p>

Date : 27 October 2019

Signature : Lilia Naas (SRO-NA)

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