



Office for North Africa
Mission Report

By:	Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi
Objective:	To participate in the Scoping Mission to Cairo, Egypt to discuss with relevant stakeholders ECA support on the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
Dates:	5-7 March 2019
Venue:	Cairo, Egypt
Report	<p>Mission main objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Finalize the Concept Note detailing the areas of collaboration between ECA and the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry.2. Decide on whether ECA will support Egypt under the PTPR or an alternative arrangement to take stock of existing trade programmes and identify opportunities for RVC development in the context of the AfCFTA3. Prepare an implementation timeline for the collaborative activities.4. Agree on how best to share/disseminate the Egyptian case study.5. Discuss Egypt's involvement in the Africa Trade Forum's ECA is organizing on "AfCFTA ratification and implementation: boosting competitiveness and job creation through regional trade and investment".6. Present ECA's most recent modelling results on the impact of the AfCFTA on key variables such as GDP, trade, revenue and welfare. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The scoping mission to Cairo, Egypt aimed to discuss the support of ECA to the country in the framework of AfCFTA implementation. It consisted of various engagements with key stakeholders. It kicked off with a briefing with Ambassador Dr. Magda Shahin- Trade Advisor to the Minister of Trade and Industry, who thanked ECA for the support extended to Egypt, and highlighted the need to have an index for services in African countries (Knowledge platform on services for Africa), Egypt has some funds from Ford foundation but need ECA support.- ECA delegation highlighted that they are working with many African countries on AfCFTA advocacy and implementation strategies, and are not focused on an academic approach. The issue on ratification by the Parliament of Egypt was raised in the context of the fact that Egypt and other North African countries come in the picture on ratifications and that the ECA concerted advocacy efforts are bearing results.- There was a wide spectrum of meetings with stakeholders from governmental, private sector, international developmental/financial institutions.- ECA is committed to partner with Egypt and the OECD to implement the full PTPR. ECA committed to contribute 20% (\$70,000) of the total \$350,000 costs of the PTPR. Egypt made a firm commitment on the remaining 80% of the PTPR funds, expecting preliminary results in 9 months versus 18 months.

	<p>- Egypt expressed great interest in ECA-SRO-NA study on RVCs and I made a presentation based on the office report.</p> <p>During the different encounters, it transpired that ECA support was timely and most welcomed.</p>
Some people met	<p>Dr. Magda Shahin, Dr. Nermine Abulata Dr. Cherine Khalaf, Dr. Amany El Wassal, Mr. Essam Elnagar (Ministry of Trade & Industry); Dr. Ahmed Kamaly (Ministry of Planning); Eng. Magdy Ghazy (Industrial Development Authority); Ambassador/ Khaled Yousef (Export Development Authority); Ambassador/ Omar Aboish, Ambassador/ Amany Fahmy (Ministry of Foreign Affairs); Dr. Alaa Ezz (Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce); Eng. Amr Abou Freikha (Engineering Export Council); Dr. Amr Taha (Industrial Modernisation Centre); Ms. Malinne Blomberg (African Development Bank); Ms. Kanayo Awani (African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIM Bank)); Dr. Khaled Abd Elazim, Mr. Tarek Tawfik (Federation of Egyptian Industries)</p>
Annex:	<p>Agenda- presentations- case study- concept note- PTPR timeline</p>