COUNTRY TRADE PROFILES

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Motivation

• A complement to the existing tools developed by and other outputs of ESCWA
• Address a particular need to summarize trade performance in a concise manner for individual Arab countries
• Such profiles should facilitate the communication of key trade statistics to policymakers
• The construction of key indicators by ESCWA rather than relying on already-published trade indicators offer opportunities for a targeted and flexible approached tailored to Arab countries
• Could be updated easily on a regular basis
• Included indicators to allow a quick assessment of regional trade initiatives and agreements
Structure of country profiles…

Trade Performance

• Broad overview
  • Merchandise trade (stacked with agriculture mining and manufacturing)
  • Services (stacked, different services sub-sectors)
  • FDI flows
• Exports and imports by partner and products
  • Top 5 Arab partners and 5 products by volume for each partner
  • Top 5 non-Arab partners and 5 products by volume for each partner
Structure of country profiles…(cont.)

Trade Performance

• Trade structure and competitiveness-related indicators
  • decomposition of merchandise trade along intensive and extensive margins
  • Export concentration index
  • Intra-industry trade index
  • trade specialization correlation
  • trade complementarity index
  • export concentration index
  • export sophistication index
Structure of country profiles…(cont.)

Trade policy

- Average applied tariff rates
- Services trade restrictiveness index
- Type of trade barriers
- RTAs that the country in question is a party to
Pros and cons of the proposed profiles

- Fairly broad coverage of trade flows, not limited to merchandise trade
- Also a stocktaking exercise for the availability of pertinent data for individual Arab countries
- Underlying data, with differing levels of granularity, are compiled from various sources to construct indicators featured
- Highly disaggregated merchandise trade data are used (adds computational and data manipulation burden)
- Possible to specify different country groups as most relevant partners for Arab countries
- Emerging issues could easily be incorporated
THANK YOU