Role of Regional Cooperation

In supporting competition authorities in adjusting to the new challenges (COVID-19)

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Introduction

• Economic Affairs Officer, Shared Economic Prosperity Cluster/Trade and Connectivity

• Perspectives on general role of regional and international cooperation in supporting the Arab region’s competition authorities in adjusting to the new challenges (COVID-19)

• Reactions/Discussion
Regional Cooperation: Arab Region

• Fostering regional and sub-regional economic integration and advocating for the regional implementation of Sustainable Development Goals;

• Contributing to bridging economic, social and environmental gaps among (member) countries and subregions;

• Promoting multilateral dialogue, regional knowledge sharing/networking;

• Promoting intra/inter-regional cooperation, both among member states and through collaboration with other regional organizations.
Impact of COVID-19 on the region’s economies

• The pandemic is expected to increase the number of extreme poor in the fourteen countries in the region by 9.1 million.

• Total number of poor in the fourteen countries will be 116 million in 2021, where over 80 per cent reside in four countries: Egypt, Yemen, Syrian Arab Republic and the Sudan

• Losses in gross domestic product (GDP) and wealth in excess of US$500 billion in 2020

• Losses of more than the equivalent of 6 million fulltime jobs in 2020 due to losses in working hours
Fostering competition in the Arab Region to help combat COVID-19

- Implementing ongoing LOU with OECD and UNCTAD

- Promoting a regional enabling business environment (laws, institutions, facilities, etc.)

- Advocating for synchronized regional competition frameworks

- Monitoring the implementation/enforcement of regional, sub-regional, and bilateral trade agreements

- Mapping and upscaling efforts (livelihoods generation)
Thank you