
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Workshop on Facilitating the launch of the Arab Customs Union
02-03 July 2017
Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel
Cairo, Egypt

INFORMATION NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

Within the context of UN ESCWA's DA project which aims to continue developing the technical capacities of Arab experts involved in the negotiations of the Arab Customs Union (ACU) and those responsible for the design of economic policies to adapt, implement and monitor the ACU in the concerned countries and to understand the implications of its implementation, ESCWA is organizing a workshop on facilitating the launch of the ACU in Cairo, Egypt during 2-3 July 2017.

II. OBJECTIVE

The workshop aims at developing the capacities of the members of the Committee of the Common External Tariff in the negotiation of the Common External Tariff. The Committee of the CET is mandated to negotiate the CET on behalf of all Arab countries members of GAFTA. During the 36th Committee meeting, the members recommended that ESCWA organize a workshop which would develop the capacities of the Committee members in negotiation skills and which would provide an analysis of the mechanical impact of various scenarios of the CET on the fiscal revenues of Arab countries. The workshop will also include presentations by experts on negotiations of free trade agreements and customs unions and will provide recommendations to Committee members on how to move the ACU negotiations forward.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will bring together members of the Committee of the Common External Tariff who are representatives of Customs directorates from Arab states as well as international experts.

All participants are kindly asked to confirm their participation by completing the registration form and sending it back to Ms. Roula Milan at milan@un.org.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

The meeting will be held during 02-03 July 2017 at Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel in Cairo, Egypt.

V. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Participants are required to secure their own visa for entry to Egypt. Participants should check with the Embassy of Egypt in their country of residence to see if a visa is necessary and to secure their visa prior to departure if needed. Related information is also available on the World Travel Guide via the following link: <http://www.worldtravelguide.net>.

Air travel reservations and ticketing for sponsored participants will be arranged by ESCWA. Roundtrip tickets will be issued in economy class on the most economic route in accordance with United Nations travel rules and regulations. Participants attending the meeting at their own cost are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

Sponsored participants will receive a daily subsistence allowance (DSA), as per the United Nations travel rules and regulations, for up to three nights to cover the cost of their hotel, meals and incidental expenses during the course of the meeting. A fixed terminal expenses allowance (US\$ 152) will also be provided to cover airport transfers.

Sponsored participants are kindly requested to present the following documents to the ESCWA representative at the registration desk on the day of the meeting to allow for the issuance of DSA: original passport, copy of airline ticket and original boarding pass.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondences related to the meeting should be addressed to:

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