

Trade and Environment Policy Coordination in the Arab Region

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Trade & Environment Decision-Making: A Multi-Sectoral & Participatory Process

Process thus requires:

1. **Access to information** – within government & for civil society
2. **Coordination between ministries**
3. **Dialogue** – open lines of communication
4. **Definition of national interests**
5. **Priority Setting**
6. **Policy Analysis**
7. **Consultation (public/private)**
8. **Recommendations & Decision-Making**

Necessitates the creation of effective mechanisms or institutions to inform and facilitate the integrated policy-making and decision-making process

Arab Initiative for Sustainable Development

Institutional Framework

“The Arab Initiative aims at supporting and enhancing the **institutional framework** in Arab countries in the field of **sustainable development**, including the development and implementation of the necessary policies and legislations.”

The Arab Declaration to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

Governance

- “**Development of institutions** in the Arab Region and support their activities at the **national** and **regional** levels...to ensure the **proper planning and implementation** of sustainable development programmes.
- “Strengthening partnership with **civil society** and private sector to widen the base for the decision-making process related to sustainable development”



Arab Regional Program on Trade & Environment Capacity Building

“CAMRE requests ESCWA and UNEP to coordinate and cooperate with CAMRE to develop a regional program for Arab capacity building on trade and environment issues, especially measures that limit Arab export competitiveness in international markets and that relate to trade negotiations and adjusting to the rules and regulations of the World Trade Organization related to the environment.” (Article 2, point 2)

CAMRE Resolution 24
October 2002



Priority Areas for Action

Regional Thematic Areas

- Competitiveness
- Market Access
- Dispute Resolution (including negotiations)

Regional Skills Development and Training Areas

- Governance
- Enabling institutions
- Negotiations
- Information dissemination
- Private sector development
- Policy analysis



Implementing Partners

Joint Secretariat:

- LAS/CAMRE Secretariat
- ESCWA
- UNEP/ROWA

Working Group Members:

- UNCTAD
- UNEP/ETB
- A regional university or research center
- A regional non-governmental organization (NGO)
- A regional private sector association
- A regional financing institution



National Trade & Environment Committees in Arab Region

- **Tunis 2000:** Recommended Arab League Member States to establish inter-disciplinary Committee on Trade and Environment
- Committees have been established, but are still relatively new, lack continuity and effective coordination
- However, coordination improving in several Arab States

National T&E Committees in the Arab Region

Country	<i>Ad hoc?</i>	Public Participation?	Multi-Sectoral?
Egypt	No	Yes	Yes
Jordan	No	Yes	Yes
Kuwait	No	Yes	Yes
Morocco	No	Yes	Yes
Syrian Arab Republic	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saudi Arabia	No	Yes	Yes
Tunisia	No	Yes	Yes
Yemen	No	Yes	Yes

National Approach: Kuwait

- Formed a national Trade and Environment Committee in 2002
- Composed of:
 - Kuwait Environment Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Public Authority for Industry
 - Public Customs Authority
 - Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- However, the meetings are not regular and public participation is limited to date

Jordan

National Committee on Trade and Environment led by the Ministry of Environment, and includes:

- Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Standardization and Metrology Institution
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Energy and Municipal Resources
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ministry of Municipality Affairs
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of Planning and Cooperation
- Ministry of Finance – Tax & Customs Department
- Royal Scientific Society
- Royal Society for the Protection of Nature
- Friends of the Environment Society
- Amman Chamber of Commerce

Priority Issues: Environmental Goods, Environmental Services, MEAs

Yemen

National Environment and Trade Committee, led by Environmental Protection Authority – with an established Unit for Environment and Trade serving as the Secretariat. Committee Members include the:

- Ministry of Industry and Trade (including Communication and Coordination Office with the WTO)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
- Ministry of Fisheries
- Yemen Export Supreme Council
- Yemen Standardization and Metrology Organization
- General Investment Authority
- Yemen Customs Authority
- Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- Yemeni Association for Consumer Protection
- Association of Yemeni Industrialists

Priority Issues: Fisheries (SPS & sustainability), MEAs (Customs)

National Approach: Canada

- **Working Group on Trade and Environment**
 - Recommends on Canada's domestic and international T&E position
 - **Chair: Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee**
 - Partner: Environment Canada
 - **Members:**
 - Agriculture and Agri-Food
 - Canadian International Development Agency
 - Industry Canada
 - Natural Resources
 - Fisheries and Oceans
 - Canadian Food Inspection Agency
 - Health Canada
 - Meets regularly, plus one month prior to CTE meetings to coordinate approaches for discussion and negotiation positions
 - Public participation EXTERNAL to the group, but consultation integral

National Approach: Finland

- **Working Group on Trade and Environment**
established by Foreign Affairs Ministry
 - Working group under the Finish National Council for Sustainable Development (headed by Prime Minister)
 - Coordinates Finish position in relevant international bodies
 - Very active from 1992 to 1998 (EU structures)
- **Composed of:**
 - Representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Trade & Industry, Agriculture & Forestry
 - Representatives of industry and forestry
 - Environmental and other NGOs
- **Regular meetings and active public participation**

How to Support Inter-Sectoral National Policy Coordination?

- **Establish a Working Group or Committee**
 - Institutionalized, Inter-disciplinary with work programme
 - Fixed membership; fixed secretariat; technical capacity
 - Establish mechanisms to allow for consultation with non-governmental stakeholders → Public Participation
 - Agree on objectives
 - Conduct policy analysis and formulate recommendations for consideration by respective ministries/agencies
- **Identify Interests and Priorities**
- **Conduct informed Policy Analysis and provide Informed Policy Advice**

Main Issues for Consideration

- **What Cooperative Mechanisms can be established, and how can those that exist be improved?**
 - Arab countries have generally not engaged Ministries of Foreign Affairs, although they usually are represented at international meetings
 - Regular meeting schedules and work programs
- **Is there too much emphasis on WTO in the Arab Region?**
 - Is the agenda demand or supply driven? Committees must establish their priorities and concerns in order to be able to drive the agenda in the “right” direction
- **Do we need trade and environment committees or might it be better to establish sustainable development councils with trade & environment sub-committees?**
 - Finland, Tunisian examples
- **Priority Issues for the Region** – reflecting Member State interests

Focus Areas in the Arab Region

- **Regional Program on T&E:**
 - Market Access, Competitiveness, Dispute Resolution
- **CAMRE**
 - Environmental Goods and Environmental Services, MEAs,
 - Environmental Considerations of Trade Between Arab Countries (especially in agro-food)
- **Southern Agenda:**
 - T&E permeates across the WTO, Market Access (standards)
 - Subsidies, MEAs (Compliance), Technical Assistance, Policy Space
- **SIA/EMFTA:**
 - Trade impacts on water resources, agriculture (rural livelihoods / women), urban employment and industrial diversification
 - tax reform and the liberalization of environmental services

Priorities for the Arab Region

- **Market Access & NTBs**
- **Competitiveness & SMEs**
- **Dispute Resolution & MEAs**
- **Production and Consumption Linkages**
- **Technology Transfer**
- **South-South trade liberalization**
- **Harmonization/approximation of standards and conformity assessment**
- **Governance: Policy Space & Coherence**





***What should be the priorities be of the
National Committee on
Trade and Environment?***

Thank you.