

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. ADEL AL-GHABERI, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WEST ASIA (ESCWA)**

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ESCWA would like to express its readiness and keenness to provide any assistance to Sudan in its accession process. ESCWA is currently drafting a programme of technical assistance to Sudan addressing various dimensions of trade policy and in relations to Sudan's negotiations of the Arab Customs Union project based on a request from the Sudanese ministry of trade. ESCWA would also be happy to add some components on accession if specific requests are received from the ministry on specific issues related to Sudan's WTO accession process.

ESCWA would also be keen to assist other Arab countries which are members of ESCWA in their accession process once requested and in collaboration with the WTO secretariat.