



## High-Level Regional Dialogue

# WTO Accession for the Arab Region

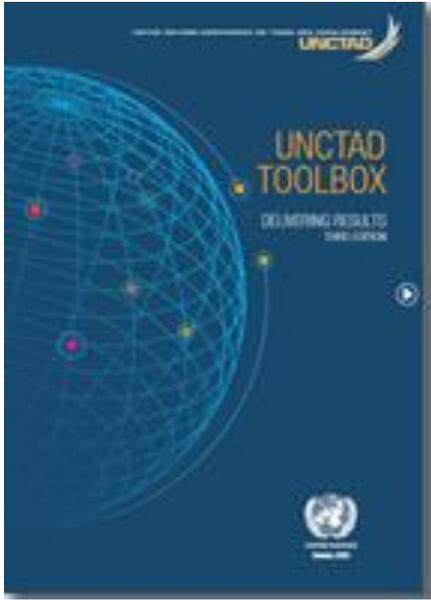
## Technical Assistance of UNCTAD

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## UNCTAD is...

- **The focal point** within the UN System for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the inter-related issues (finance, technology, investment)
- Created in 1964 by the UN General Assembly to support developing countries in world trade
- Providing technical assistance (TA) to help countries better integrated into global and regional economy to improve the well-being of their populations
- A small organization but we implemented 227 projects valued at \$44 million in 57 countries in 2019

## UNCTAD TAs are ...

- To help countries achieve sustainable development that “leaves no one behind” through SDGs 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 ([the Agenda 2030](#))
- Multi-faceted, data- and analysis-driven, and tailored to countries’ needs

## UNCTAD TAs ...



- **To the governments** include policy advice, assistance to policy formulation and to institutional capacity building (e.g. laws, regulatory frameworks, implementation capacity, governance)
- **To multi-stakeholders** include training programmes and public-private sectors policy coordination
- Focus on
  - *transforming economies* (e.g. investment policy reviews, services policy reviews, e-commerce and digital economy)
  - *tackling vulnerabilities* (e.g. commodity dependence, preferential market access, debt management)
  - *fostering inclusiveness* (e.g. competition and consumer protection policies) and
  - *empowering people* (e.g. trade and gender)



## UNCTAD TA approach to WTO Accession...



- Embraces all the above four (transforming economies, tackling vulnerabilities, fostering inclusiveness, and empowering people)
- Is impartial, neutral, taking WTO accession as a component of a broader policy framework for sustainable development
- Helps countries assess overall benefits of regulatory reforms “requested” in order to accede to WTO

## UNCTAD TAs to WTO accession of the Arab Region...



- Have been provided in the past to Algeria (1996-1998 UNDP-funded; 2002-2013 UNCTAD Trust Fund), Sudan (2002-2013 UNCTAD Trust Fund), Sudan and Comoros (2013-2014, funded by IDB, UNDP and Gulf donor countries under the AfT for Arab States), Iraq (2012-2017 SIDA-funded, partnered with UNIDO), among others
- Are planned (2022-2024) for Iraq and the State of Palestine under [the United Nations Development Account Projects](#) (13<sup>th</sup> tranche) of the UN General Assembly, in coordination with UN agencies e.g. UN ESCWA
  - Will focus on these countries’ capacity building on trade policymaking, policy implementation and trade negotiations in conflict or post-conflict environment
  - Will contribute to improving these countries’ negotiating capacity in WTO accession and in other Arab regional integration arrangements



Thank You

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