**Accession of iraq to the WTO**

**joint WTO-World Bank scoping workshop**

### Venue: Beirut, Lebanon

### Date: 25-26 July 2019

### Objectives of the Mission

* To take stock of domestic developments in Iraq with respect to its WTO accession process;
* To assess Iraq's needs for technical assistance concerning its WTO accession process;
* To design an appropriate technical assistance programme for Iraq based on the abovementioned assessment;
* To identify the steps required for the formal reactivation of the Working Party on the Accession of Iraq to the WTO;
* To assist the Government of Iraq in finalizing the following accession documents:
  + Responses to questions raised by WTO Members on Iraq's Memorandum on the Foreign Trade regime;
  + A Legislative Action Plan;
  + Other accession documents (to be identified).

### Resource Persons

Delegation of Iraq

* Mr. Adel Khudhair Abbas / DG of Foreign Economic Relations Dep. / Head of Delegation
* Mr. Ghanim Al Ghanim / Head of Economic Dep. / Ministry of Foreign Affairs Representative.
* Mr. Waleed Aidi Abdulnabi / Consultant / CBI representative.
* Ms. Nidhal Sebri Hameed / Director of WTO Section / Ministry of Trade.
* Mr. Muayad Hasan Yaseen / DG Legal Dep. / Ministry of Transportation representative.
* Mr. kais Mayof Hassoune / Senior Manager / Director of Information and Follow Up Division / WTO Section / Ministry of Trade.
* Mr. Aseel Khalid Oda / Legal Advisor / Director of Legislation and Intellectual Properties Division / WTO Section / Ministry of Trade.
* Ms. Rafal Abdulkareem Mohammed / Employee / Minister’s Office.

Delegation from the WTO

* Ms. Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division
* Mr. Andrei Suse, Legal Affairs Officer, Accessions Division

Delegation from the World Bank

* Mr. Michael Ferrantino, Lead Economist (Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment)
* Mr. Wael Mansour, Senior Economist (Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment)
* Mr. Martin Molinuevo, Senior Private Sector Specialist (Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment)
* Ms. Vicky Chemutai, WTO Affairs Consultant (Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment)

Other Resource Persons

* Mr. Adel Al Ghaberi, Economic Affairs Officer, UN-ESCWA
* Mrs. Alia Abbas Director General of Trade, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon
* Others, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon (TBD)

### Programme

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| **Thursday 25 July 2019** | | |
| **Time** | **Session** | **Resource persons** |
| 9h00  9h30 | ***Opening Remarks*** | Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, WTO  Representative of the Ministry of Trade  Saroj Kumar Jha, Country Director, World Bank |
| 9h30  12h30 | ***Iraq's Accession to the WTO: State of Play at National Level and Overview of Recent Developments in the Accession Process:***   * *Trade Policy Developments* * *Investment Policy Developments* * *Institutional Developments* * *Legislative Developments* * *Status of Preparation of:*    + *Market Access Offers for Goods and Services*   + *Replies to Questions from WTO Members on Iraq's Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime*   + *Information on Domestic Support and Export Subsidies for Agriculture*   + *SPS Checklist*   + *TBT Checklist*   + *TRIPS Questionnaire*   + *Import Licensing Procedures Questionnaire*   + *Customs Valuation Checklist*   + *State Trading Questionnaire*   + *Draft Subsidies Notification*   + *Legislative Action Plan* * *Outreach Efforts* | Nidhal Sebri, Director for the WTO, Ministry of Trade, Iraq |
| 12h30  13h00 | ***Exchange of Views on the State of Play***   * *Priorities* | |
| 13h00  14h00 | ***Lunch*** | |
| 14h00  15h00 | ***Overview of WTO Accessions*** | WTO (TBD) |
| 15h00 15h30 | ***The Macroeconomic Environment and Domestic Trade Policy Challenges*** | Wael Mansour (World Bank) |
| 15h30  17h00 | ***Technical Assistance and Capacity Building: Available Programmes, Donors and Tools*** | Michael Ferrantino, Martin Molinuevo World Bank |
| 17h00 18h00 | ***Bilateral Meetings***   * *Iraq Country Economic Memorandum (CEM)* * *Other MTI business* | World Bank |
| **Friday 26 July 2019** | | |
| 9h00  11h00 | ***Roundtable Discussion:***   * *Acceding to the WTO: Yemen's Experience* * *Lebanon's Experience with its Ongoing Accession Process* | Adel Al Ghaberi, Economic Affairs Officer, UN-ESCWA  Mrs. Alia Abbas Director General of Trade, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon  Others (TBD) |
| 11h30  13h00 | **Discussion of Next Steps** | WTO, Iraqi delegation, World Bank |
| 13h00  14h00 | ***Lunch*** | |
| 14h00  18h00 | ***Technical Working Session on the Finalization of:***   * *Replies to Questions from WTO Members on Iraq's Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime* * *The Legislative Action Plan* * *Other Negotiating Documents (to be identified)* | WTO, Iraqi delegation |