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Office for North Africa



*Kingdom of Morocco*  
*Ministry of Foreign Trade*

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**Ad Hoc Experts Meeting on Rules of Origin**

**Rabat, Morocco**  
**20-22 June 2006**

**REPORT**

## I. ORGANIZATION AND ATTENDANCE

1. The Experts Meeting on Rules of Origin (ROO) was held in Rabat, Morocco from 20 to 22 June 2006. The meeting was organized by the Office for North Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa, jointly with the Ministry of Commerce of the Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting aimed at promoting a regional common approach in the interpretation, management and implementation of rules of origin. The attention of the meeting focused on various priority areas, namely ROO in the different trade agreements, economic impact, management and rationalization of ROO.
2. The meeting was attended by a large number of national experts and negotiators from the seven member countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, the Sudan and Tunisia) as well as regional and international trade experts. Representatives of research institutions on ROO were also in attendance. Such diversity was the guarantee of a better understanding of ROO issues and priorities.
3. Considering ongoing discussions on reforms of ROO in several fora (World Trade Organization (WTO), European Union (EU), Arab Free Trade Area (AFTA), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), etc...), and the time frame required for such reforms, current ROO will continue to be used. The workshop's proceedings, recommendations and Action Plan were therefore focused on two main axes, namely, (i) Mastery and effective application of the current ROO; and, (ii) Preparation of future ROO.
4. The work programme and full list of participants are provided as annex to this report.

## II. OPENING CEREMONY

5. On behalf of Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mrs. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Director of the ECA Office for North Africa welcomed the participants and thanked them for their presence. She laid emphasis on the importance of trade in development and economic growth, underlining the need for countries to become more active in an increasingly competitive global economy, where they need not only to maintain their market shares, but also gain more points in worldwide ranking. She further underscored multilateral trade negotiations in the framework of the WTO which will have an impact on national trade strategies; hence, the need for countries of the region to consider issues at stake as well as to adopt concerted common positions in these negotiations. Such challenges justify the decision of the Office for North Africa to place the year 2006 under the theme of trade, of which the present workshop on ROO constitutes an important stage.
6. In the same context, Mrs. Ben Soltane thereafter emphasized the importance of ROO, their relevance and timeliness to North African countries. She further underlined the need to simplify, harmonize and better manage them with a view to overcoming numerous related obstacles. She also emphasized the importance of origin rules in growth and promotion of trade. She concluded her speech by inviting the participants to consider ROO as a trade policy instrument aimed at reinforcing integration and cooperation among countries of the region.
7. Addressing the gathering during the opening ceremony, Mr. Khalid Sayah, Director of External Trade Relations and representative of the Moroccan Foreign Trade Ministry, stressed the importance of the theme of the meeting as it represents an integral component of external trade development, despite its technical complexity. The issue, in his view, is about creating new activities with high added value, promoting socio-economic sectors, and attracting investments by making use of complicated ROO. Moreover, and in order to guarantee higher market predictability, Mr. Sayah found it important to master market techniques so as to make sure that regional trade agreements generate real economic prosperity in the region and prevent shifts in trade flows. In the framework of a global approach for a real economic integration in North Africa, he underscored the need for using ROO as a tool for promoting weak sectors.
8. Mr. Sayah further reviewed WTO non-preferential ROO applied by Morocco, as well as preferential rules applied in regional and bilateral free trade agreements. He underscored the signature by Morocco of the Pan-Euromed Protocol on ROO in the framework of its trade agreements with the

European Union, the European Free Trade Association, Turkey, and of the Agadir Agreement. Mr. Sayah finally invited participants to learn from other countries' experiences so as to develop a common approach on the interpretation, management and implementation of ROO.

### **III. SUMMARY OF MEETING'S PROCEEDINGS**

9. The meeting was divided into thematic sessions. Various presentations made in different sessions appear in the electronic file attached to the present report. This part III of the report provides a summary of the meeting's most important features.

#### **Session 1. ROO: definition, basic concepts, trends**

10. This session reviewed ROO, their definition, basic concepts and importance as a center of interest for trade economists, policy makers, manufacturers and transnational corporations. This importance has increased due to the proliferation of preferential trade agreements, the use of non-tariff barriers as safeguard measures, and to new technological developments that have complicated production procedures.

11. The session also underlined the different criteria for determining ROO (value added, changing tariff heading, or specified processes/substantial transformation), as well as the advantages and drawbacks of their effective application. Concerns were expressed about using value added as a criterion to determine ROO due to the complexity of calculations and lack of control of foreign input costs in face of the imperative need to reduce domestic costs to improve competitiveness. The nexus between ROO and other WTO agreements such as the Agreement on Anti Dumping and Countervailing Measures were discussed and clarified.

12. Participants underlined an emerging consensus that ROO could impact quite significantly on trade flows in the same way as they could potentially undermine the benefits of preferential market access. It was indicated that the relative importance of ROO must be proportional to the relative value of preferential access. Taking into account very low MFN industrial tariffs, the question of ROO could be addressed differently by targeting some key sectors or products. Cumulation schemes were recognized as instruments that could help in overcoming ROO's side effects.

13. Finally, lack of human and technical capacities for implementation of ROO in North African countries was raised, and the need to build capacity in this area was called for, mainly through advocacy and training on trade negotiations and agreements.

#### **Session 2. ROO in bilateral trade agreements**

14. During this session, several bilateral agreements were examined, and a particular emphasis was put on ROO that bilateral trade agreements, preferential agreements between EU and North African countries, and trade agreements with the US encompass.

15. In the same context, a particular interest was given to the basic features of ROO in association agreements between North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia) and the EU, in the Cotonou Agreement (EU Mauritania), and in the generalized system of preferences (Libya and the Sudan). This session also provided for a better understanding of advantages and drawbacks of ROO in preferential agreements with both EU and the United States.

16. Participants discussed the reforms of ROO introduced by the EU to make their application easier and to avoid fraudulent practices. It is in that context that the importance of the cumulation mechanism was raised for its ability to determine the appropriate measure to deal with trade preferences offered to some countries as a result of a free trade agreement or system of unilateral preferences. A particular focus was placed on the concept of diagonal cumulation restricting the exploitation of intermediary raw materials that are originally from member countries that are not signatories to any particular FTA so that they can be considered as being of a national origin.

Nevertheless, such a diagonal cumulation is only possible within the framework of a free trade agreement or an administrative cooperation agreement between cumulating countries. Such process sometimes favours protectionist attitudes to the detriment of trade. It was acknowledged that the Pan-Euro Med Protocol would stimulate trade and investment if the diagonal cumulation is adequately implemented by developing countries.

### **Session 3. ROO in regional trade agreements**

17. This session discussed ROO in the AMU and in the EU.

18. Concerning the ROO in the AMU, it was noted that there exist three protocols that make reference to provisions on ROO, namely, the Trade Agreement on Agricultural Products (1990), the Trade and Tariff Convention (1991) and the Certificate of Origin Protocol (1994). Nonetheless, this legal framework dating back to the 1990s must be updated in view of free trade agreements signed by the AMU member countries ever since.

19. The debates emphasized legal obstacles created by various agreements, making it difficult for operators and member countries to implement ROO. Participants also underscored the trend of ROO in AMU expressed by: (i) supporters of simple and clear ROO; and, (ii) those in favour of detailed and specific rules. It was recognized that simple ROO would encourage bilateral trade flows; yet, more detailed ROO would provide for an effective implementation of multilateral agreements. Hence, the need for deeper level of analysis to ponder how to come up with simple and standardized rules so as to promote trade among AMU countries. Moreover, member countries should reduce costs and simplify ROO, especially by assigning the status of accredited exporters to applicants by means of a simple application.

20. Participants have also discussed main features of ROO in trade agreements among EU member countries, as well as the costs of preferential rules in the Cotonou Agreement. It was argued that a possible EU full cumulation of origin could reduce the hub and spoke system and fragment the production process between member countries. Moreover, origin certification will only be effective if it is issued by an official institution. Therefore, it was deemed necessary to reduce implementation costs of ROO, and to simplify them for the benefit of economic operators.

21. Participants recognized that complicated and non-harmonized ROO represent a real barrier to trade. Accordingly, it was found necessary to harmonize various ROO among various North African trade agreements. Nevertheless, given the international freeze of negotiations especially on sectors such as textiles, fisheries and agriculture in the case of developing countries, it is necessary to bear in mind the complexity and delicateness of the issue. Concerns were raised about differences in level playing field in trade negotiations, and the risk for negotiations not to achieve the results expected by developing countries.

22. Participants further underlined the key role that free trade zones are playing in promoting diversified markets for North African products, and stressed on simplifying related ROO so as to maximize the benefits derived from those zones.

### **Session 4. ROO in multilateral trade agreements**

23. This session laid emphasis on (i) the Agadir Agreement with special emphasis on the diagonal cumulation of ROO among members of the Agadir agreement; (ii) the Doha Round ROO and Main Challenges to African Countries; and (iii) WTO Agreement on ROO.

24. Participants took note of four eligibility conditions for joining the Agadir Agreement, namely, (i) to sign a free trade agreement with the EU; (ii) to be a WTO member country; (iii) to adopt the Pan-Euro Mediterranean ROO; and (iv) to obtain an approval from Agadir member countries. This Agreement will take effect once ratified by Morocco.

25. As for the Doha Round and ROO, it was emphasized that African least developed countries (LDCs) made no commitments in view of inherent complications. There was an increasing awareness among participants that although important, ROO might create diversification and foster trade between WTO member countries. However, they can also be used as a protectionist tool likely to impede trade agreements. The main challenges are related to the capacity of African countries to participate effectively in multilateral trade negotiations. Coalition could be considered in that regard as well as lobbying around such products as coffee, textiles and pharmaceuticals. Countries should also adopt a common position emphasizing short, medium and long-term actions.

26. Participants discussed the delay in the harmonization process within the WTO framework. It was specified that there were quite divergent views despite member countries' determination to finalize this issue. The main reason for the delay could be attributed to big players like the US. It was noted that the disputes are most generally related to dairy products, sugar, and coffee, in addition to other procedural issues.

## **Session 5. The economic impact of ROO**

27. Discussions of this session focused on the theoretical and empirical aspects of the impact of ROO on trade creation, but also in terms of administrative and institutional costs likely to result in a trade diversion.

28. On the basis of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and trade agreements between the EU, Central and Eastern European countries, participants evaluated the economic impact of ROO on firms' behaviour, investment, trade creation and diversion. The impact of ROO on exports of North African countries to the EU in light of lack of diagonal cumulation (since the Pan-EURO MED Protocol is not yet in force) was also evaluated.

29. Participants noted that ROO will affect positively members of bilateral agreements as well as on third countries, through trade creation. Their trade diversion would also be detrimental to all parties. It was also stated that ROO led to administrative costs, which could offset the bilateral trade creation. Therefore the best way to prevent those disadvantages would be to adopt cumulation of ROO in favour of trade promotion. It was for example, estimated that the cumulation of Pan-European ROO increased trade among partners by 22 per cent. However, lack of cumulation of ROO could be an impediment to trade between 25 per cent and 70 per cent, affecting more significantly intermediary products than manufactured ones.

30. Given the fact that the expected harmonization process within the WTO will take some time, lengthy discussions were devoted to the need for ROO to be transparent, simple, flexible and negotiable, in order to reduce the negative impact on developing countries. The importance of tariff and non-tariff barriers as technical obstacles to trade was highlighted. Moreover, participants enumerated difficulties related to adopting the value added criterion as compared to tariff heading and specified processes criteria.

31. Moreover, participants examined the economic impact of ROO applied to agricultural products and fisheries.

32. Concerning agricultural products, participants noted that Egypt's comparative advantage in exporting agricultural products has enabled it to benefit from trade agreement in the framework of the Arab Free Trade Area (AFTA). However, the benefit was less within the bilateral agreements compared with other Arab countries. For instance, under the bilateral agreements between Egypt and Tunisia or Morocco, the same rules are applied but the impact is almost nil. In fact, these rules have sometimes negatively affected trade among these countries.

33. It was noted that in the framework of the Association Agreement with the EU, some Egyptian products (rice, onions and potatoes) have benefited from the quota system. Yet, this preferential access became limited due to the implementation of restricted ROO encompassing various sanitary and phytosanitary measures imposed by the importing countries. These measures contributed to

affecting negatively the agricultural sector of countries in the region which like Egypt are producers of agricultural products. Participants also noted that the Pan-Euro Mediterranean Cumulation Mechanism is very limited because it does not allow for diagonal cumulation for agriculture products which should be fully obtained.

Case studies of Morocco and Mauritania were used to assess the impact of ROO applied to fisheries in both Morocco and Mauritania. Within this context, preferential agreements between Morocco and other trading partners were examined. However, it was emphasized that the protocols on preferential rules (in the Association Agreement between Morocco and the EU) apply the wholly obtained goods condition to both fresh and processed fishery products. Such a measure impeded Moroccan fisheries exports (especially sardines) to the EU, causing the Government to ask for a special dispensation for the establishment of a free trade zone for processed fishery products, with less restrictive ROO. Concerns were raised about absence of consensus on non-preferential ROO applied specifically to fishery products after 11 years of negotiations.

As far as Mauritanian's fisheries sector is concerned, it was noted that the Government signed a number of preferential agreements that led to the reorganization of the whole sector in order to adapt it to the domestic and particularly external marketing demands. The main point of debate focused on Mauritania's poor supply of fisheries despite the ongoing process of implementation of sanitary and quality measures to facilitate access to the European market (main export market for Mauritanian fisheries). It was stressed that these constraints resulted in trade distortion (illegal fishing among others) and to a reorientation towards Asian countries.

Taking into account case studies on agricultural products and restricted EU ROO, it was suggested that other alternatives should be explored. The most appropriate solution for Morocco would be to adopt rules under the Morocco-US Trade Agreement (based on the value added criterion and on the adequate processing criterion). However, the principal difficulty will be to convince the EU about this alternative. Finally, participants hoped that the ongoing Barcelona and Cotonou negotiations would encourage revision for the adoption of simpler ROO.

## **Session 6 . Management of ROO**

This session highlighted the main difficulties encountered by Moroccan economic actors and customs in determining, controlling and managing ROO. The session also discussed the process of issuing origin certificate in Tunisia as well as the harmonization process of non-preferential ROO under WTO.

ROO applied by Morocco show that the obtained products follow the common law classical definition while manufactured products are based on the *value added* criterion of at least 50 per cent (textile products are based on the *specified processes* criterion). Three categories of contractual rules that fall under preferential agreements between Morocco and different partners were highlighted: (i) the first category type concerns ROO resulting from trade agreements concluded with the European Commission, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Turkey. In this context, the Pan-Euro Mediterranean Protocol on ROO providing for a diagonal cumulation without drawback and the bilateral cumulation without drawback prohibition, including cumulation of processed operations with the European Commission and Turkey (for a year) were applied; (ii) the second category of rules resulting from the free trade agreement with the US is based on the importer's declaration. It was emphasized that these rules obey the principle of the bilateral cumulation without restriction or certificate of origin and with some kind of flexibility regarding certain textile products; (iii) the third category of rules from trade agreements with Arab and African countries (Agadir, Arab Free Trade Area, GSP), is based on the criterion of 40 per cent value added applied to all products. Some additional prescriptions such as direct transportation, documentary evidence of origin and customs cooperation were also highlighted.

The Tunisian case study presented the four steps in the delivery procedure of a certificate of origin in the framework of the Arab League Free Trade Agreement and bilateral agreements between Arab countries: (i) the exporter should submit to the chamber of commerce a legal and technical file listing the products to be exported; (ii) calculating the local value added in accordance with the agreement signed between Tunisia and the importing country; (iii) verifying the certificate of origin; (iv) validating the certificate of origin.

It was underlined that the calculation of the value added was done on an annual basis. Thus, in case of a substantial transformation and if the local value added exceeds 40 per cent, the product is considered domestic and a conventional certificate of origin is issued to the exporter by the chamber of commerce in collaboration with customs authorities. Discussions were held on the delivery system of the certificate of origin, highlighting the validity of the procedure, measures to be taken in case of doubt or fraud on the origin of a product, in particular in the eventuality of a connivance between the importer and the exporting country. Discussions also focused on the WTO's ongoing harmonization process of non-preferential ROO. Numerous examples were provided on agricultural products of whose ROO are determined according to the *change of tariff heading criterion* (tomatoes, spaghetti, sugar, fish etc.). It was noted that the harmonization process will involve capacity-building and training for customs officials.

#### **IV. MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING**

In view of the importance of ROO and their economic implication for trade among North African countries and their partners, and taking into account the results of the different presentations given and the debates during the meeting, the participants recommended that:

1. Special care be devoted to the design of ROO implied by different trade agreements. These ROO should be negotiated, objective, simplified and ideally harmonized and adapted to countries' economic conditions to avoid the complications and extra administrative cost of applying different and sometimes contradicting ROO.
2. Origin conditions under the EU agreements (Annex II rules list) dating back to the 1970s be restructured and adapted to new economic and technological changes in the world economy, such as the global delocalization of production.
3. ROO be used as trade policy instruments to promote local industries, to promote trade and investment flows, as well as regional integration.
4. North African countries be closely involved in the negotiations on any changes in ROO protocols in the near future; and measures aiming at improving this involvement be promoted.
5. More Experts in ROO be trained with a view to balance African interests in multilateral trade negotiations, simplify the rules, avoid the high compliance cost, and maximize trade creation.
6. Studies be undertaken to find out, for each product, whether the value added criteria or the change in tariff heading criteria should be applied.
7. Studies on both economic impact of the protocols on preferential ROO and sector specific ROO be undertaken.

8. North African countries, in collaboration with the ECA and AMU Secretariats hold in-depth discussions to come up with a common approach in negotiations, interpretation, management and implementation of ROO.
9. Development partners such as the USA and the EU provide technical as well as financial support to upgrade customs systems in North Africa to facilitate their compliance with the very costly and complicated ROO.
10. The results of the workshop be disseminated widely and especially to policy makers and business operators in the region.
11. As follow up of the results of this meeting, ECA, in collaboration with other regional and multilateral institutions (in particular the WTO, UNCTAD, the World Bank, the European Commission, and research institutions) raise awareness about the role of ROO to ensure better understanding of the challenges and opportunities.

## V. ACTION PLAN

The above recommendations are matched with this Action Plan identifying required activities to be undertaken towards their implementation.

### A. Raising Awareness to Deepen Understanding of ROO

#### **Required Actions:**

##### **1. In the Short-Term:**

###### *Member Countries*

- Launching awareness, advocacy and sensitization programmes on the importance of ROO as commercial policy instrument, and about their implications. In addition to policy makers in the public sector, these programmes will be opened to a variety of stakeholders, in particular the private sector and its professional organizations, chambers of commerce, and NGOs.
- Initiating nationwide consultation with the public and private sector, civil society and technical experts, and using experts who attended this meeting to facilitate the process.

##### **2. In the Medium-Term**

###### *Member Countries*

- Undertaking country assessment studies to evaluate the implications of ROO on trade and investment flows, with a particular focus on sectors that are more vulnerable and are increasingly affected by the restrictiveness of ROO, as well as sectors that could benefit from cumulation.
- Improving the mechanism of general and preferential data reporting to facilitate the analysis of the impact of ROO.

###### *ECA*

- In collaboration with development partners, exploring possibilities of assisting countries when they undertake country assessment studies.

### B. Harmonization of ROO

**Required Actions:**

**1. In the Short-Term:**

*Member Countries*

- Coordinating their efforts and initiating discussions on the best way of implementing ROO in the North African Region.

**2. In the Medium-Term**

*Arab Countries*

- Setting up a deadline to the negotiations regarding detailed ROO to increase the benefit from the cumulation of origin.

*ECA/AMU*

- Supporting North African countries' efforts towards more active participation in the design of new ROO and mutual support and common position in trade negotiations.

**C. Capacity-Building**

**Required Actions:**

**1. In the Short-Term:**

*Member Countries*

- Establishing an Evaluation Committee to assess the level of readiness of different customs authorities to deal with the issue of ROO, especially in the issuance and control a *posteriori* of different certificates of origin.
- Setting up Focus Groups responsible for periodically studying the implications of ROO and providing support to member countries in negotiating ROO.

*Member Countries/Regional and International Financial Institutions*

- Allocating funds to upgrade customs systems in member countries and to meet the requirements of the implementation of ROO.

*ECA/UNCTAD/WTO*

- Implementing regional training programmes on ROO in order to maximize trade creation in the region and ensure uniform application of ROO.

**2. In the Medium-Term**

*Member Countries/Regional and International Financial Institutions*

- Providing extra funds to study the implications of ROO.

- Set up a network of national customs administrations in order to facilitate the exchange of information.

#### **D. Follow-up**

##### **Required Actions:**

##### **1. In the Short-Term:**

*ECA/Member Countries/Regional and International Trade Institutions*

- Organizing on a yearly basis a meeting in order to review new developments related to ROO and to assess their implications on trade flows amongst North African countries and with other partners.
- Using ICTs to promote exchange of views and experiences on ROO, and set up a network of North African experts.

##### **2. In the Medium-Term**

*Regional and International Financial Institutions*

- Allocating funds for the implementation of awareness and training programmes on ROO.

## **VI. EVALUATION OF THE MEETING**

At the end of the deliberations, an evaluation questionnaire was distributed to participants to get their views on the logistical aspects, the relevance of the themes of the meeting and reports presented, and meeting's outcome in comparison with their expectations. The treatment of different questions was based on a methodology using arithmetic means and simple frequencies aggregated by the number of participants.

The results of the evaluation indicated that participants evaluated positively aspects linked to the substance and organization of the meeting. They also positively rated meeting facilities, the organization of sessions, the content and presentation of background documents, the general programme of the meeting, and the relevance of the sessions in comparison with their professional activities. Participants' observations on the outcome of the meeting indicated that their expectations were met.

Regarding seminar's follow-up, the main suggestions were to:

- Deepen the research and carry out more studies on ROO;
- Organize training workshops for strengthening capacities of trade negotiators;
- Carry out studies on the region's main exports and their relationship with the ROO;
- Analyze major advantages and inconveniences of the ROO;
- Post meeting documents as well as other relevant studies from other research institutions on the SRO-NA website;
- Organize workshops on preferential ROO in the South Mediterranean region;
- Undertake research activities at national and regional levels to have a global vision; and
- Organize follow-up meetings in other countries, especially in Arab countries.

## **VIII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

Mrs. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Director of the ECA Regional Office for North Africa thanked the participants and partners for their contribution to the preparation, organization and deliberations of the workshop and committed herself to undertake the follow-up activities recommended by the meeting. She expressed the wish that the Action Plan would guide all stakeholders in their efforts towards implementing policies and programmes for harmonization and simplification of ROO. She also hoped that the Plan brings together not only member countries, but also all development partners to develop a collaborative programme aimed at using ROO rules as a policy instrument for trade promotion.

## ANNEX I.

### WORK PROGRAMME

#### **Tuesday June 20, 2006**

- 08:30 – 10:00 Registration
- 10:00 Opening Session
- Welcome address by: Mrs. *Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane*, Director, ECA Office for North Africa
- Opening remarks by: Mr. *Khalid Sayah*, Director of External Trade Relations, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Morocco
- 10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 13:00 Session 1. ROO: Definition, Basic Concepts, Trends**
- Discussant:* Mrs. *Latifa Ghrairi*, Customs Administration, Morocco
- Presentations:**
- Context, Objectives and Expected Results of the Meeting - Mrs. Aissatou Gueye, ECA Office for North Africa
  - Definition and Basic Concepts: Mrs. Nihal El-Megharbel, Consultant, ECA Office for North Africa
  - ROO - A Primer for African Trade Negotiators – Mr. Andrew Mold, ECA, TRID
- 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break
- 14:30 – 15:30 **Session 2. ROO in Bilateral Trade Agreements**
- Discussant:* Mr. *Essaid Zemmache*, Ministry of Trade, Algeria
- Presentations:**
- Mrs. Nihal El-Megharbel, Consultant, ECA Office for North Africa
  - The Algerian Experience – Mr. Ali Hernane, Customs Department, Algeria
  - ROO in the Egypt-EU Association Agreement – Mrs. Reham Mohamed, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Egypt
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30 – 18:00 **Session 2 (Cont.)**
- Discussant:* Mr. *Osama M. Salem*, General Organization for Export and Import Control, Egypt
- Presentations:**
- ROO in Euro Med Partnership – Mrs. El Mehdi Hasna, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Morocco
  - ROO in Mauritania-EU Cotonou Agreement - Mr. Wagué Ousmane, Ministry of Mining and Industry, Mauritania
  - ROO in the Trade Agreement with the USA – Mrs. Latifa Bouabdallaoui, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Morocco

#### **Wednesday June 21, 2006**

- 09:30 – 10:30 **Session 3. ROO in Regional Trade Agreements**
- Discussant:* Mrs. *Patricia Augier*, CEFI (Centre d'économie et de finances internationales), France
- Presentations:**
- ROO in the framework of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) – Mr. Ghazi Hamid, Department of Economic Affairs, AMU

- The EU experience – Mrs. Miriam Manchin, Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano Università degli Studi di Milano
- 11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30 – 13:00 **Session 4. ROO in Multilateral Trade Agreements**
- Discussant:* *Mr. Kasse Aboubacry, Ministry of Trade, Mauritania*
- Presentations:**
- ROO in the Agadir Agreement – Mr. Mohamed Samir, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Egypt
  - WTO Agreement on ROO - Mr. Eki Kim, Market Access Division, World Trade Organization
  - Doha Round and ROO: Challenges for Africa – Mrs. Halima Noor Abdi, ECA/TRID
- 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break
- 14:30 – 15:30 **Session 5. Economic Impact of ROO**
- Discussant:* *Mrs. Amal El Tinay, Ministry of Justice, the Sudan*
- Presentations:**
- Mrs. Nihal El-Megharbel – Consultant, ECA Office for North Africa
  - Mrs. Patricia Augier, Director, CEFI (Centre d'Economie et de Finances Internationales)
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00 – 18:00 **Session 5 (cont.): Economic Impact of ROO: Case of specific products**
- Discussant:* *Mr. Chiheb Meghirbi, AIDMO, Tunisie*
- Presentations:**
- The Economic Impact of ROO in the Agriculture Sector – Mr. Osama M. A. Salem, International Cooperation, Egypt
  - Fisheries: Case Study of Morocco - Mr. Taoufiq Mohamed, Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime, Morocco
  - Fisheries: Case of Mauritania - Mr. Kassé Aboubacry, Promotion of External Trade, Mauritania
- Thursday June 22, 2006**
- 09:00 – 10:30 **Session 6: Management of ROO**
- Discussant:* *Mr. Hamid Rhazi, AMU Morocco*
- Presentations:**
- Management of ROO - Mrs. Latifa Laghrai, Customs Department, Morocco
  - Overall Architecture: Harmonization of ROO - Mr. Eki Kim, Market Access Division, World Trade Organization
  - Issuing Procedure of Certificate of Origin – Mrs. Henda Hassan, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tunisia
- 10:00- 10:30 Coffee/Tea Break
- 10:30- 11:30 **Presentation and Discussion of Action Plan**
- Discussant:* *Mrs. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, ECA Office for North Africa*
- Presentation**
- Mrs. Aissatou Gueye, ECA Office for North Africa
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Closing ceremony**

## ANNEX II.

### LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### ALGERIE/ALGERIA

1. Hernane Ali  
Chef de Bureau du suivi des avantages fiscaux et de l'origine  
Direction Générale des Douanes – Ministère des Finances  
Tél :213 21 72 60 00 (Ext 1228)– Fax : 213 21 74 69 61 - Email: [hernane70@yahoo.fr](mailto:hernane70@yahoo.fr)
2. Essaid Zemmache  
Sous-directeur chargé de l'Union du Maghreb Arabe  
Ministère du Commerce  
Tél: 213 21 631131 - Fax: 213 21 631154
3. El-Hadj Belharizi  
Ministre Plénipotentiaire,  
Ambassade d'Algérie à Rabat  
Tél: 212 37 76 54 74 - Fax: 212 37 76 22 37 - Email: [belharizi@netscape.net](mailto:belharizi@netscape.net)

#### EGYPTE/EGYPT

4. Osama Mohamed Abdel Monem Salem  
General Organization for Export and Import Control (GEOIC)  
Tel: 002025774561 - Fax: 2025766971  
Email: [hebamahmoud\\_22@yahoo.com](mailto:hebamahmoud_22@yahoo.com), [oabdelmouaem@yahoo.com](mailto:oabdelmouaem@yahoo.com)
5. Mohamed Samir Mohamed  
International Relations Specialist, Ministry of Trade and Industry  
Fax: 202 3421946 - Email: [m.samir@tas.gov.eg](mailto:m.samir@tas.gov.eg)
6. Ms. Reham Elsaïd  
International Trade Policies Researcher  
Ministry of Trade and Industry  
Tel. 20101928089 - Fax: 20234 22 404 - Email: [r.elsaïd@tas.gov.eg](mailto:r.elsaïd@tas.gov.eg), [reham.elsaïd@gmail.com](mailto:reham.elsaïd@gmail.com)

#### LIBYE/LIBYA

7. Zwawi Abdulfatah S.  
Customs Expert, Customs Administration  
Tel: 218 21 33 35 394 - Fax: 218 21 333 53 94 - Email: [ico@libyancustoms.org.ly](mailto:ico@libyancustoms.org.ly)
8. Tarik M'hammad Ali El Najjar  
People's General Secretariat for Economy, Trade and Investment  
Tel: 218 912186331 – Fax: 218 21 4808705 /06 – Email: [EQTISAD@yahoo.com](mailto:EQTISAD@yahoo.com)
9. Ms. Asma Zaid  
Counselor in Rules  
People's General Secretariat for Economy, Trade and Investment  
Tel: 218 91 377 48 32 – Fax: 218 21 480 87 06 – Email: [EQTISAD@YAHOO.COM](mailto:EQTISAD@YAHOO.COM)
10. Soulaymane Salem Ajal  
General Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry  
Tel: 218 92 519 66 75  
Fax: 218 21 480 87 05

## MAROC/MOROCCO

11. Khalid Sayah  
Directeur des relations commerciales internationales  
Ministère du commerce extérieur  
Tél: 212 37 73 60 74
12. Abderrahim Announi  
Chef du Bureau service des règles d'origine  
Administration générale des Douanes et Impôts indirects  
Tél: 212 79 31 96 10 / 57 93 23 - Fax : 212 37 71 78 06 - Email: [a.abderrahim@douane.gov.ma](mailto:a.abderrahim@douane.gov.ma)
13. Zakaria Asmama  
Cadre, service des règles d'origine  
Administration générale des Douanes et Impôts indirects  
Tél: 212 37 57 94 54 - Fax : 212 37 71 78 06 - Email: [z.asmama@douane.gov.ma](mailto:z.asmama@douane.gov.ma)
14. Ms. Naima Tadlaoui  
Chef de service de la coopération régionale du système des Nations Unies  
Direction de la Coopération multilatérale, Ministère des affaires étrangères et de la coopération  
Tél: 212 76 93 39 90  
  
Mlle Malika Ousalah  
Secrétaire des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération  
Direction de la Coopération multilatérale, Ministère des affaires étrangères et de la coopération  
Tél: 212 37 66 00 58 - Email: [ousalah@maec.gov.ma](mailto:ousalah@maec.gov.ma)
15. Khalid Naciri  
Chef de Division UMA, Ministère des affaires étrangères et de la Coopération  
Tél: 212 37 66 00 47- Email: [khalidna@maec.gov.ma](mailto:khalidna@maec.gov.ma)
16. Arradi Alaoui Hicham  
Ingénieur d'Etat (DPI)  
Ministère de l'industrie, du commerce et de la mise à niveau de l'économie  
Tél: 212 37 66 00 20 - Fax : 212 37 66 00 21 - Email: [arradi@mcinet.gov.ma](mailto:arradi@mcinet.gov.ma)
17. Moulay Aziz Drissi Yahyaoui  
Chef de service  
Ministère du commerce extérieur  
Email: [drissiaziz@mce.gov.ma](mailto:drissiaziz@mce.gov.ma)
18. Taoufiq Mohamed  
Chef de Division des Investissements et de la programmation  
Ministère de l'Agriculture du Développement Rural et des Pêches Maritimes  
Tél: 212 37 68 82 89 - Fax : 212 37 68 82 94 - Email: [taoufiq@mpm.gov.ma](mailto:taoufiq@mpm.gov.ma)
19. Ms. Nadia Kriem  
Ministère de l'Agriculture du Développement Rural et des Pêches Maritimes  
Département des Pêches maritimes  
Rabat  
Tél: 212 37 68 82 68 - Fax : 212 37 68 82 94 - Email: [kriem@mpm.gov.ma](mailto:kriem@mpm.gov.ma)
20. Ms. Latifa Ghrairi  
Chef de Service  
Administration des Douanes  
Tél: 212 37 57 93 22- Email: [L.ghrairi@douane.gov.ma](mailto:L.ghrairi@douane.gov.ma)
21. Ms. Asmaa El Mkhentar  
Ministère du commerce extérieur  
Tél: 212 37 706321 / 89 - Fax: 212 37 70 32 31  
Email: [elmkhentar@mce.gov.ma](mailto:elmkhentar@mce.gov.ma) – [elmkhentarasmaa@yahoo.fr](mailto:elmkhentarasmaa@yahoo.fr)

22. Ms. Mounia Taïb  
Chef de Division / Responsable investissement  
Ministère de l'Industrie  
Tél: 037 76 74 90 – Fax : 212 37 76 35 37 / 37 66 00 21 – Email: [mouniat@gov.ma](mailto:mouniat@gov.ma)
23. Ms. Latifa Bouabdallaoui  
Ministère du commerce et de l'industrie  
Tél: 212 61 22 11 16 - Fax : 212 37 76 64 45  
Email: [elbouabdellaouil@mcinet.gov.ma](mailto:elbouabdellaouil@mcinet.gov.ma), [elb\\_latifa@hotmail.com](mailto:elb_latifa@hotmail.com)
23. Sabbari Hassan  
Ministère du commerce et de l'industrie  
Tél: 212 68 29 27 69- Fax : 212 37 76 06 75 – Email: [hassans@mcinet.gov.ma](mailto:hassans@mcinet.gov.ma)
24. Ms. Hasnae El Mehdi  
Administrateur  
Ministère du commerce extérieur  
Tél: (212) 37 70 63 21- Fax : 212 37 70 32 31 - Email: [elmehdi@mce.gov.ma](mailto:elmehdi@mce.gov.ma)
25. Brahim Chouqui  
Chef de service des relations avec les institutions internationales  
Ministère des Finances et de la Privatisation  
Tél: 212 37 67 73 69 / 061 37 37 18 - Fax : 212 37 67 73 57 - Email: [b.chouqui@dtfe.finances.gov.ma](mailto:b.chouqui@dtfe.finances.gov.ma)
26. Ms. Zakia El Midaoui  
Chef de Division des organisations et conférences à Caractère économique et commercial  
Direction de la Coopération multilatérale, Ministère des affaires étrangères et de la coopération  
Tél: 212 37 66 00 58
27. Ms. Hariri Jihan  
Inspecteur Divisionnaire  
Ministère des Finances - Direction du trésor et des finances extérieures  
Tél.: 212 37 67 73 69/ Mob. : 212 63 68 84 84 - Email: [j.hariri@dtfe.finances.gov.ma](mailto:j.hariri@dtfe.finances.gov.ma)
28. Nasser Chouqui  
Inspecteur  
Ministère des Finances et de la privatisation  
Tél: 212 37 67 73 68 - Email: [n.chouqui@dtfe.finances.gov.ma](mailto:n.chouqui@dtfe.finances.gov.ma)
29. Ms. Fatima Boutarbouch  
Chef de service des manifestations économiques  
Ministère du Commerce extérieur  
Tél: 212 37 70 18 46 – Fax : 212 37 73 51 43 - Email : [boutarbouch@mce.gov.ma](mailto:boutarbouch@mce.gov.ma)
30. Adil Diani  
Ingénieur Agroéconomiste  
Direction des relations commerciales internationales, Division OMC  
Ministère du Commerce Extérieur  
Tél: 212 37 70 63 21 - Fax : 212 37 70 32 31 – Email: [diani@mce.gov.ma](mailto:diani@mce.gov.ma)
31. Lahoual Kouider  
Chef de division des relations commerciales avec les pays arabes et les organisations régionales  
Ministère du Commerce Extérieur  
Tél: 212 74 05 73 93 – Fax : 212 37 70 32 31 - E-mail: [lahoual@mce.gov.ma](mailto:lahoual@mce.gov.ma)
32. Yassine Ezzaani  
Ingénieur d'Etat  
Ministère de l'industrie et commerce  
Email: [ezzaani@mcinet.gov.ma](mailto:ezzaani@mcinet.gov.ma)

33. Elbachir Zahreddine  
Ingénieur d'Etat  
Ministère du commerce extérieur  
Tél: +212 74 05 73 95 – Fax : 212 37 70 32 31 - E-mail: [belbachir@mce.gov.ma](mailto:belbachir@mce.gov.ma)
34. Ms. Errabi Hanaa  
Ingénieur d'Etat  
Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Mise à Niveau de l'Economie  
Tél: 212 37 76 59 51 – Fax : 212 37 76 35 37 – Email : [errabi@mcinet.gov.ma](mailto:errabi@mcinet.gov.ma)
35. Mohammed Benjelloun  
Chargé d'études  
Ministère du Commerce extérieur  
Tél: 212 37 70 63 21 – Fax : 212 37 70 32 31 – Email: [benjelloun@mce.gov.ma](mailto:benjelloun@mce.gov.ma)

#### **MAURITANIE/MAURITANIA**

36. Wagué Ousmane  
Chef de service des études et de la Promotion Industrielle  
Ministère des Mines et de l'Industrie  
Tél: 222 525 72 66 - Fax: 222 525 72 66 - E-mail: [wagueousmane@yahoo.fr](mailto:wagueousmane@yahoo.fr)
37. Kasse Aboubacry  
Chef de service des accords commerciaux internationaux  
Ministère du commerce de l'artisanat et du tourisme  
Tel: 002226488764; Fax/ 00 222 525 10 57 - Email: [ahkasse@Yahoo.Fr](mailto:ahkasse@Yahoo.Fr)

#### **SOUDAN/SUDAN**

38. Eltah Isameldin Ibrahim  
Director General Foreign Trade  
Ministry of Foreign Trade  
Tel: 249 183 77 89 13 - Fax: 249 183 77 89 13 -  
Email: [esamtash@maktoob.com](mailto:esamtash@maktoob.com) – [esamtah@maktoob.com](mailto:esamtah@maktoob.com)
39. S. Amal Hassan El Tinay  
Registrar General of Intellectual Property  
Ministry of Justice  
Tel: 249183760580/249912 555 329/249912166116 - Fax: 249 183 77 98 41  
Email: [amaleltinay@yahoo.com](mailto:amaleltinay@yahoo.com)

#### **TUNISIE/TUNISIA**

40. Ms. Henda Hassan  
Sous-Directrice chargée du Centre des formalités Exportation  
Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Tunis  
Tél: 21671350300 - Fax: 21671 354744/71 258 910 - Email: [ccitunis@planet.tn](mailto:ccitunis@planet.tn)

#### **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

##### **ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (ICTD)**

41. Rachid Azaroual  
Chargé d'études, CIDC -Casablanca  
Tél: 022 31 49 74 - Fax: 022 31 01 10 – Email: [icdt@icdt.org](mailto:icdt@icdt.org)

##### **ORGANISATION ARABE DU DEVELOPPEMENT INDUSTRIEL ET DES MINES (AIDMO)**

42. Nahim Abderrahim  
Expert/planification - Bureau de planification et du suivi, AIDMO  
Tél: 212 60 54 14 10 – 212 37 772600/01/04 – 212 37 771336/38/39 – Fax : 212 37 77 8821  
Email: [aidmo@arifonet.org.ma](mailto:aidmo@arifonet.org.ma)

43. Chiheb Meghirbi  
Expert des Règles d'origines auprès de l'AIDMO  
Rue Hamadi Redjeb – 8060 Beni Khiair  
Tunis  
Tél: 16 22 158 159 – Mob: 216 22 15 8 159 - Email: [mch\\_tn@yahoo.fr](mailto:mch_tn@yahoo.fr)

#### **UNION DU MAGHREB ARABE (UMA)**

44. Hamid Rhazi  
Expert à la Direction économique  
Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA)  
Rabat  
Tél: 212 37 67 12 85 – Fax: 212 37 67 12 53 - Email: [SG.UMA@maghrebarabe.org](mailto:SG.UMA@maghrebarabe.org)

#### **WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO)**

45. Eki Kim  
Counselor, Market Access division  
Rue de Lausanne 154  
GenèveTel: 41 22 739 55 84 – Fax: 41 22 739 57 70 - Email: [eki.kim@wto.org](mailto:eki.kim@wto.org)

#### **CORPS DIPLOMATIQUE**

46. RÉGION WALLONNE ET BRUXELLES-CAPITALE  
Takis KAKAYANNIS  
Attaché Economique et Commercial Région Wallonne et Bruxelles-Capitale  
C/o Consulat Général de Belgique  
9, rue Al Farabi - 20000 Casablanca  
Tél.: 00 212 22 26 80 27 - Fax : 212 22 22 98 12  
Email : [awex@menara.ma](mailto:awex@menara.ma), [awex.bxl.mor@casanet.net.ma](mailto:awex.bxl.mor@casanet.net.ma)

#### **UNIVERSITES**

##### **INSTITUT DES ETUDES AFRICAINES**

47. Mustapha Machrafi  
Professeur- Chercheur  
Institut des Etudes Africaines - Université Mohammed V – Souissi  
3 Bis, Rue Innaouen – BP 8968 - Rabat, Agdal  
Tél: 037 776579- Mob.: 060729600 – Fax: 037778425 - Email : [iea@enssup.gov.ma](mailto:iea@enssup.gov.ma),  
[machrafi@free.fr](mailto:machrafi@free.fr)

##### **FACULTE DE DROIT, RABAT**

48. Ms. Chekrouni Djamila  
Professeur  
Tel: 212 61216760- Email: [d.chekrouni@menara.ma](mailto:d.chekrouni@menara.ma)

##### **UNIVERSITE MOHAMED V- Souissi**

49. Mohammed Rachid Aasri  
Professeur Chercheur  
Madinat Al Irfane  
Tel: 212 66 69 63 61
50. Mohammed NADIF  
Professeur- Chercheur  
Faculté de Droit- Souissi- Madinat Al Irfane  
Rabat  
Tel: 212 66 15 34 49- Email: [mohammednadif@yahoo.fr](mailto:mohammednadif@yahoo.fr)

51. Ahmed El Abdouni  
Enseignant- Chercheur  
Faculté de Droit- Salé ALJADIDA  
Salé  
Tel: 212 61 07 57 57 - Fax : 212 37 83 06 01 - Email: [abdouni5a@yahoo.fr](mailto:abdouni5a@yahoo.fr)

#### **SYSTEME DES NATIONS UNIES**

#### **ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**

52. Ghassane El Falah  
Chargé d'Administration  
OMS - Rabat  
Tél: 212 37 63 22 59 – Fax : 212 37 63 22 09 – Email : [gelfalah@who.ma](mailto:gelfalah@who.ma)

#### **PERSONNES RESSOURCES**

53. s. Nihal El Megharbel  
Senior Economist  
Egyptian Center for Economic Studies  
Nile City building-Corniche El Nil, Ramlet Boulaq,  
North tower, Cairo 11221  
Tel: 2024619037 – Fax: 2024619045 – Mob: 20106067099 - Email: [nmagdy@eces.org.eg](mailto:nmagdy@eces.org.eg)
54. Ms. Patricia Augier  
Directrice du CEFI  
Centre d'Economie et de Finances Internationales  
EA 3782 – Université de la Méditerranée (Aix-Marseille II)  
Tel: 00 33 4 42 93 59 93 - Fax: 00 33 4 42 38 95 85 - Email: [paugier@univ-aix.fr](mailto:paugier@univ-aix.fr)
55. Ms. Miriam Manchin  
Post Doctoral Researcher  
Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano Università degli Studi di Milano  
Milano, Italy  
Tel: 39 02 50 32 15 35 - Fax: 39 02 50 32 15 05 – Email: [miriam.manchin@guest.unimi.it](mailto:miriam.manchin@guest.unimi.it)

#### **ECA/CEA SECRETARIAT ADDIS ABABA**

56. Andrew Mold  
Trade and Regional Integration Division / TRID  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)  
P.O. Box 3001  
Addis Ababa  
Tel: 251 11 544 3311 - Fax: 251 11 5513038 - Email: [amold@uneca.org](mailto:amold@uneca.org)
57. Ms. Halima Noor Abdi  
Regional Advisor  
ECA Geneva Interregional Advisory Services  
Bocage Annex, Pavillon I, Office 59  
United Nations Geneva  
8-14 Ave. de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Tel: 41 22 917 58 62 - Fax No: 41 22 917 07 72 - E-mail: [HNOORABDI@unog.ch](mailto:HNOORABDI@unog.ch)

#### **ECA/CEA SECRETARIAT RABAT**

Bureau de la CEA pour l'Afrique du Nord  
Tél: (212 37) 67 45 95- 67/ 67 50 12 - Fax : (212 37) 67 52 82  
Email: [srcd-na@uneca.org](mailto:srcd-na@uneca.org) – Site web : [www.uneca-na.org](http://www.uneca-na.org)

Ms. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Directrice  
Abdelillah Ouaqouaq, Economiste principal  
Lamine Gueye, Démographe  
Ms. Aissatou Gueye, Economiste  
Ms. Semia de Tapia, Chargée des affaires sociales  
Ms. Yemenushal Bekele, Chargée de l'administration et des finances  
M. Jean Paul Gondjé, Expert en TIC  
Ms. Zohra Ben Boubaker, Secrétaire principale  
Ms. Karima Bekkari, Assistante administrative  
Mohamed Mossadek, Assistant de recherche  
Ms. Aouatif El Arroud, Assistante financière  
Ms. Naima Sahraoui, Secrétaire  
Ms. Latifa Guerma, Secrétaire  
Mlle. Nisrine Ezzaouya, Secrétaire  
Hichan Bargui, Stagiaire  
Ms. Aneta Dolegowska, Stagiaire