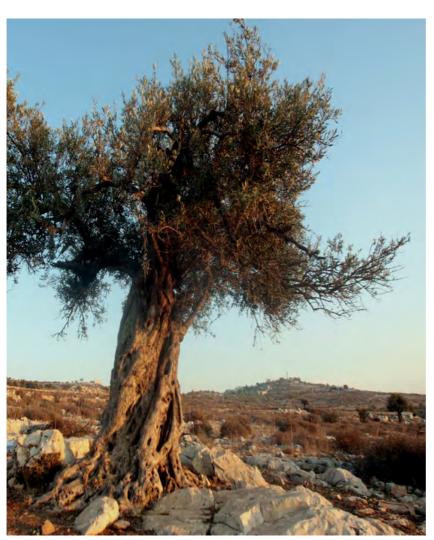
STATE OF PALESTINE: COMPANY PERSPECTIVES

AN ITC SERIES ON NON-TARIFF MEASURES











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The report on the State of Palestine, part of a series of publications assessing the impact of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) on the business sector, aims to increase transparency and help better understand the trade impediments faced by the Palestinian business sector - analyses survey findings and compares them to other sources on NTMs to identify regulatory, procedural and infrastructural obstacles in the State of Palestine; sectors covered include agro-business, leather and footwear, textiles and clothing, stone and marble, handicrafts, wood, furniture and paper, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, manufacture of plastics, and metal and engineering. Includes bibliographical references (p.74).

Descriptors: State of Palestine, Non-Tariff Measures, SMEs, Trade Policy.

For further information on this technical paper, contact Ms. Ursula Hermelink (ntm@intracen.org).

English

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ITC, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland (www.intracen.org)

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Foreword

For the State of Palestine, trade is an important tool for achieving greater economic resilience, development and poverty reduction. In 2011, the International Trade Centre (ITC) joined forces with national partners and stakeholders to actively support the State of Palestine's trade development.

Comprehensive needs assessments have served to identify existing trade obstacles and inform a National Export Strategy setting out how to realize untapped trade and development potential. These assessments include a large-scale business survey on non-tariff measures (NTMs), which in a world of relatively low tariffs have emerged as a major source of trade-related costs.

The report, "State of Palestine: Company perspectives", is the latest in ITC's series of publications on NTMs. It documents business experiences with regulatory and procedural trade obstacles, based on the more than 230 Palestinian exporters surveyed. The report will complement the State of Palestine's National Export Strategy, a roadmap for sustained growth that identifies key potential export sectors and points to specific reforms and institution-building to overcome constraints on export competitiveness.

Palestinian companies encounter manifold challenges in their international business operations. The NTM survey results find that institutional inefficiencies and infrastructural deficits have a significant impact on Palestinian exporters, implying that the State of Palestine has significant scope to facilitate trade for Palestinian businesses independently of the wider political and economic context, which also merits action.

This publication puts the private sector perspective at its centre. It highlights the concerns of Palestinian micro and small enterprises in particular. As a by-product of the survey, the report contains valuable information on the characteristics of Palestinian exporters, for example with respect to ownership by women, turnover or share of exports in total sales.

As such, the report and its recommendations, by adding the private sector voice, should contribute to the design of feasible trade solutions for the State of Palestine as well as to the much wider global discussion on trade facilitation. Going forward, ITC stands ready to accompany the State of Palestine on its way towards "Trade-led prosperity, made in Palestine".

Arancha González
ITC Executive Director

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