



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



UN trade &
development



International
Trade
Centre

Concept Note

2nd UfM Study Visit on International Trade and Investment Policy

16-18 June 2026

WTO/ UNCTAD / ITC

Geneva, Switzerland

While investment and trade policies are crucial for fostering sustainable and inclusive economic growth, the current policy landscape presents several challenges emanating from geopolitical tensions, structural inequalities, environmental concerns, new technologies, and considerable shifts in global economic dynamics. The UfM region features skewed trade flows between and within both shores of the Mediterranean. Several sub-regions are still not able to attract a steady stream of investments.

During their [11th UfM Trade Ministerial Conference](#), the Ministers in charge of Trade reaffirmed in a joint statement their commitment to support relevant multilateral initiatives towards achieving the [UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). In the same vein, they welcomed the ongoing work in the World Trade Organization (WTO) on new initiatives, among which “Investment Facilitation for Development” (IFD) supported to date by over 120 WTO members representing three-quarter of the WTO membership.

Acting upon its mandate, guided by the priorities of the Pact for the Mediterranean and the UfM Vision Statement, and conscious of the current challenges in the region, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean will join hands with the [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#), [UN Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#), and the [International Trade Centre \(ITC\)](#) to organise the second study visit for stakeholders from the MENA region and the Balkans on 16-18 June 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland, with the aim of introducing them to the ecosystem, acquainting them with programmes and initiatives underway, and exploring potential synergies and transfer of knowledge.

During the three-days visit, the participants will take stock of recent multilateral ministerial meetings and conferences to reflect on their implications for trade and investment policies in the Euro-Mediterranean region, as well as be familiarized with a broad spectrum of policy-related issues including trade finance and climate action, green trade, trade and inclusiveness, trade in services, inclusive investment provisions, global trends in international investment agreements (IIAs), e-commerce and digitalisation. Through presentations, focused group discussions and case-studies, the study visit will employ a broad range of instruments to maximize the benefits of the visit to the participants. The takeaways from this study visit will inform future UfM activities in the field.