



**Agreement for
Economic and Social Cooperation and Coordination
between the Lebanese Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic**
[Informal Translation]

The Government of the Lebanese Republic,

And

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic,

Based on their privileged fraternal ties set out in the Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty concluded between them in Damascus, on 22 May 1991,

In implementation of the final provisions providing for the conclusion of special agreements between both countries as a complementary part thereof in the fields covered by this Treaty,

And of the provisions of Articles 1 and 2 of the Treaty,

Seeking to derive utmost benefit from the economic and human potential available in the two countries and to mobilize it to their benefit in the light of the prevalent economic system in both countries,

Desirous of reaching the highest degrees of economic coordination and cooperation between both countries in order to establish strong and developed economic bases that would lead to better living standards for the peoples of both countries,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1:

Establishing the highest degrees of cooperation and coordination between the two countries in such a way as to ensure their basic interests, and seeking to gradually accomplish this on a basis of reciprocity with a view to reaching economic integration through the adoption of the following principles:

1. Freedom of persons' movement between both countries;
2. Freedom to stay, work, employ and practice economic activity in conformity with the laws and regulations in force in each country;
3. Freedom of exchanging national commodities and products;
4. Freedom of capital transfer between both countries;
5. Freedom of transportation, transit and use of transportation means within and between both countries;
6. Freedom of bequest and inheritance as well as freedom of possession within the framework of the laws and regulations in force in both countries.

Article 2:

For the implementation of Article 1, both states shall endeavor to gradually establish a common market between them through:

- a. Granting a freedom of movement between both countries for the Lebanese and Syrian citizens through the abolition of restrictions limiting such freedom,
- b.
 - Proceeding with the coordination of internal charges imposed on national goods exchanged between both countries in order to reach equality in these charges and, thereafter, liberating them from the restrictions imposed on exchanges between them;
 - Proceeding gradually with granting the freedom of exchanging national goods and products between both countries, the liberation thereof from all restrictions and their exemption from



customs duties and their complements, according to the lists of goods and products on which equal domestic charges are imposed as approved by the Economic Committee provided for in this Agreement;

- Organizing the certificates of origin in both countries in conformity with the principles set in the Common Arab Market Agreement, and in what concerns the body issuing it and the information contained therein, in such a way as to ensure the validity and accuracy of this information;
 - Coordinating both countries' legislation regarding transportation, communications and transit in such a way as to guarantee freedom of work and equal opportunities for the persons working in those sectors.
- c. Coordinating agricultural policies so as to contribute to the development of the agricultural sector in its vegetal and animal sections, thus achieving food security, and so as to guarantee and protect the producers' interests in both countries, taking into account the agricultural calendar adopted by the Joint Agricultural Committee.
Initiatives shall be taken, in this field, to create joint marketing establishments and set up joint exhibitions, Cooperation and coordination shall be established in technical fields, especially in applied scientific research, agricultural guidance, sanitary protection and quarantine, breeding and grafting;
- d. Coordinating policies enhancing industrial activity so as to induce the promotion of the industrial sector in both countries and setting up joint industrial projects of vital interest for both sides;
- e. Cooperating and coordinating in the fields of electrical power, hydraulic and oil energy, mineral resources and establishing joint projects ensuring the interests of both countries;
- f. Coordinating the tourist policy and working for the creation of a single tourist tour through operations aiming at the stimulation of such activity, the establishment of joint projects and the coordination and unification of promotion and marketing operations in this field;
- g. Granting both countries' nationals the freedom to work, employ, stay and practice various economic and vocational activities, in such a way as to guarantee equal opportunities for them in conformity with the laws and regulations in force in each country respectively;
Initiatives shall be made in this field for developing the legislation governing labor and social security in both countries respectively, thus narrowing the differences between them in what concerns rights, obligations, contributions and benefits;
- h. Cooperating and coordinating in the field of health and social affairs;
- i. Granting facilities for capital transfer between the two countries in such a way as to guarantee freedom of trade between them and to establish joint ventures;
- j. Coordinating between their taxation and financial legislation in order to encourage the establishment of joint economic ventures, taking mainly into consideration, in this field, the coordination and unification of privileges, guarantees, facilities and exemptions as well as the implementation of the provisions of the relevant agreements in force that were concluded within the framework of the Arab League and its affiliated Arab organizations;
Initiatives shall be made in this field to ensure the avoidance of double taxation on both states' taxpayer nationals, in conformity with the principles of the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation signed within the framework of the Arab League;
- k. Coordinating the methods of statistical classification and categorization in both countries and the establishment of a data processing center in the departments concerned in economic information (industry, agriculture, trade, transportation, tourism etc...);
- l. Coordinating the economic and commercial dealings with other countries and with the regional and international organizations.

**Article 3:**

1. The committee for Economic and Social Affairs, constituted by virtue of the Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty, shall be responsible for the achievement of the goals mentioned in Article 2 of this Agreement. It shall include the competent ministers in both countries.
2. The meetings of the Committee for Economic and Social Affairs shall be chaired by the Lebanese side when held in Lebanon and by the Syrian side when held in Syria.
3. The Committee shall take its decisions by mutual agreement and submit them for adoption to the Higher Council provided for in the Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty signed by the two countries.
4. Without prejudice to what is approved by the Higher Council according to the provisions of Article 6, paragraph (e) of the Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty, the Committee's decisions shall enter into force upon their adoption by the Higher Council and in conformity with the provisions of Article 6, paragraph (d) of the Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty.
5. The competent ministers for economic and social affairs may hold bilateral meetings in order to follow up cooperation and coordination matters within the framework of their work.

Article 4:

- a. The Committee for Economic and Social Affairs shall be assisted by sub-committees, The following technical sub-committees shall be formed of the representatives of the competent public administration and the entities representing the social and economic sectors in both countries respectively:
 1. The Economic Committee shall have the competence of dealing with and coordinating economic, commercial and financial matters, including the circulation of persons and their work, the transportation of goods, transfer of capital, as well as import, export and customs matters and other economic concerns;
 2. The Agricultural Committee shall have the competence to deal with and coordinate agricultural affairs in both their vegetal and animal sections;
 3. The Industrial Committee shall have the competence to deal with and coordinate industrial policies and projects;
 4. The Tourist Committee shall have the competence to deal with and coordinate the tourist matters affairs and archeological issues;
 5. The Committee for Transportation, Communications and Transit shall have the competence to deal with and coordinate matters relating to transportation, transit, communications and telecommunications;
 6. The Committee for Energy and Mineral and Water Resources shall have the competence to deal with and coordinate matters related to water, electrical, oil and mineral projects;
 7. The Committee for Health, Social Affairs and Labor shall have the competence to deal with and coordinate matters related to health, social affairs and labor;
 8. A Permanent Planning Committee, formed of specialists from both countries shall be also established to elaborate and submit proposals leading to develop this Agreement in order to attain the aims provided for therein, particularly the establishment of a common market between Syria and Lebanon;
 9. A Secretariat and a Department for Economic and Social Affairs shall be constituted within the framework of the General Secretariat.
- b. The technical sub-committees shall be formed of an equal number of delegates from both sides; those delegates shall be appointed within one month as from the entry into force of this Agreement.



- c. The technical sub-committees shall submit their recommendations, in their fields of competence through the competent ministers, to the Committee for Economic and Social Affairs for the consideration and adoption thereof.
- d. The Committee for Economic and Social Affairs shall determine, by its own decision, the working procedures of the technical sub-committees.

Article 5:

1.
 - a. In order for the two countries to pass on to the stage of desired global coordination, with a flexibility that takes into consideration the capacity of each of their respective economies to assimilate the changes required by the coordination process, it shall be gradually proceeded to carrying out the objectives detailed in Article 2 of this Agreement.
 - b. The import licenses for industrial products of national origin, provided for in Article 4 of the 1953 Economic Agreement and its Amendments, shall be cancelled and replaced by statistical forms. The same customs and financial provisions applied to import licenses shall be applied on these forms.
 - c. It shall be proceeded to the adoption of the Arab certificate of origin prepared according to the Agreement on Facilitation and Development of Commercial Exchanges between Arab countries in what concerns the establishment of the national identity of the goods exchanged between them.
2. The provisions of the 1953 Economic Agreement and its Amendments shall remain in force until the commercial relations between both countries are organized, in accordance with the principles provided for in Article 2 of the Agreement for Economic Cooperation and Coordination, signed between the two countries on 16/9/1993.
3. The Committee for Economic and Social Affairs may, following the approbation of the Higher Council, reexamine any measure in the light of the evaluation of its actual results on the national economy in each of the two countries, in a way that ensures their peoples' basic interest and speeds up the accomplishment of the objective of desired coordination between them.

Article 6:

1. This agreement is deemed to be complementary to the Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty signed by the two countries in Damascus, on 22 May 1991.
2. This Agreement shall be ratified according to the constitutional procedures in each of the two contracting countries and shall enter into force on the day following the date of exchange of its ratification instruments.

Made in two original copies in Beirut on 16/9/1993.

For the Lebanese Side
The Minister of Economy and Trade
Hagop Demerdjian

For the Syrian Side
The Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade
Doctor Mohammad Al-Amadi