

The Arab Mediterranean Free Trade Agreement



ATU

Agadir Technical Unit

# Data exchange between the Agadir Agreement Member Countries in framework of ATU action plan

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- **The Agadir Agreement (AA)**
- **Data Exchange between member countries**



## Agadir Agreement: (*Why?*)

### Do we need a new agreement?

- The four member states already have bilateral agreements among each other.
- Members in GAFTA

### *What is new in Agadir Agreement?*

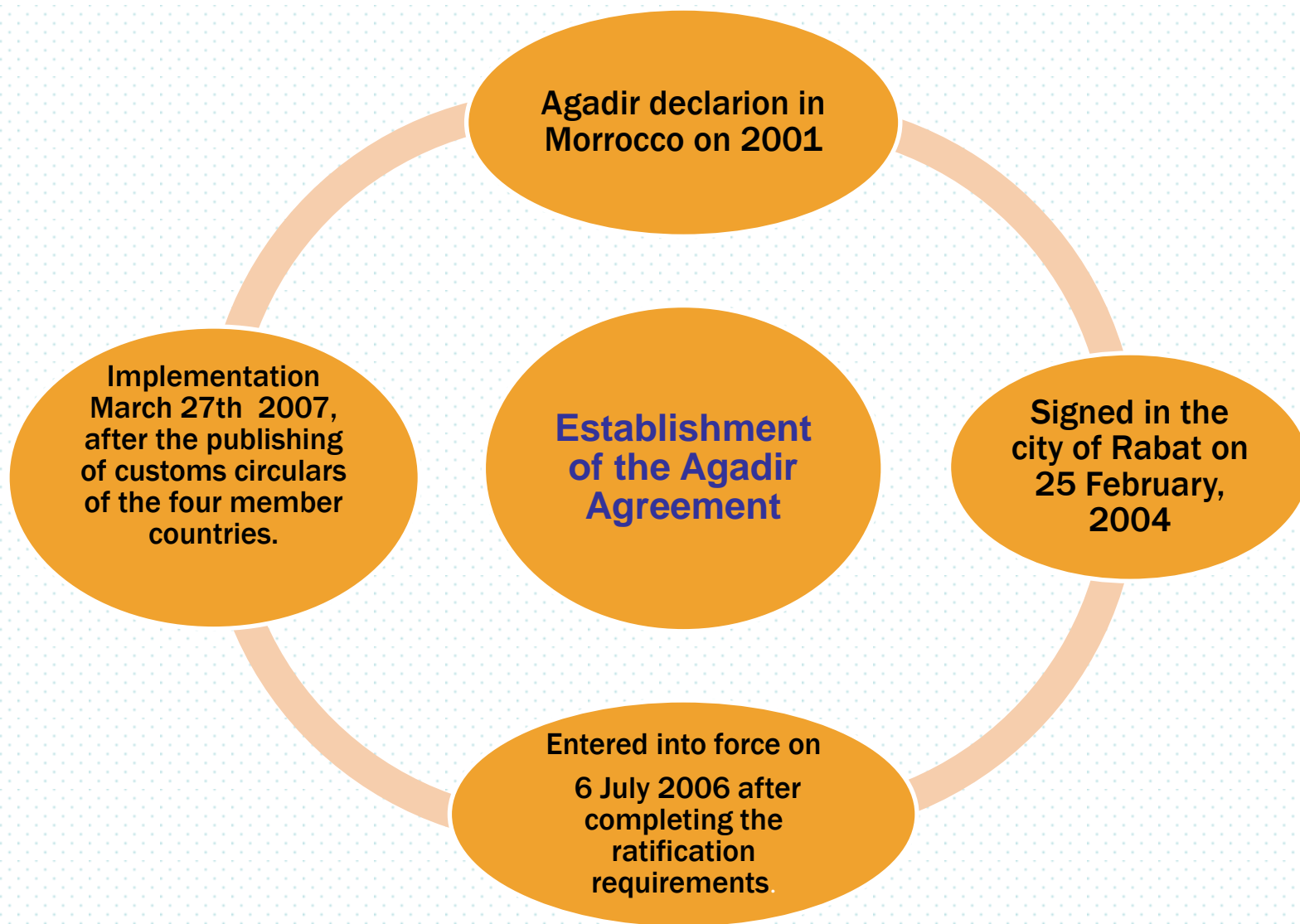


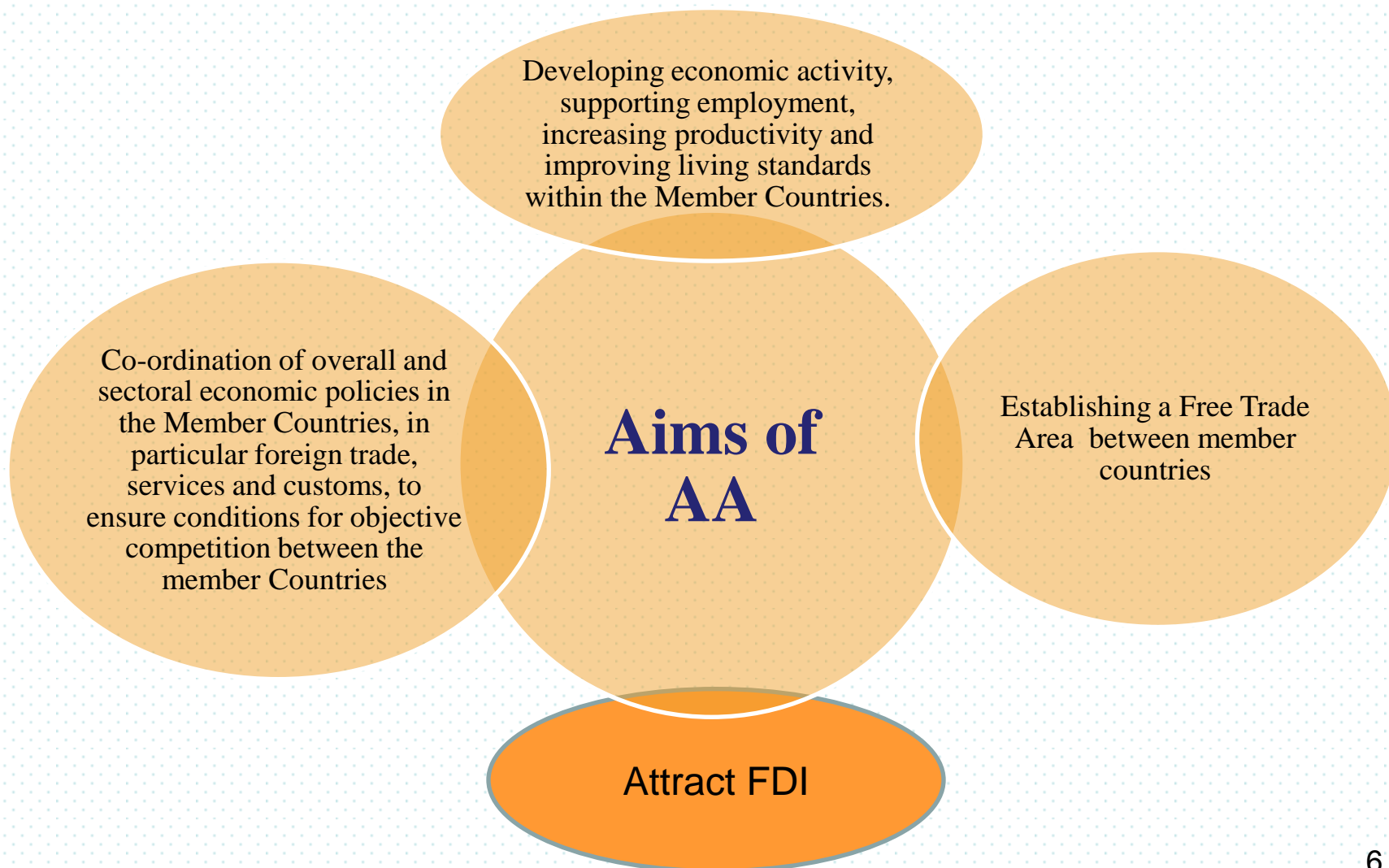
**Pan-European Area + Agadir countries  
market**

**Morocco**  
**(industrial process) Production of fruit HS 2009**

**Tunisia**  
**Packaging (HS 4819)**

**Egypt**  
**fruit HS 2009**







## Agadir Agreement:(Arrangements for liberalizing trade)

- **Industrial products: *free***
- **Agricultural and processed agricultural products: *free***
- **Trade in Services: schedules of commitments under the WTO- an opportunity to expand the agreement to cover trade in services**



## The Agadir Agreement: (Relation to other agreements)

• Contributing to the objectives of Barcelona Process concerning the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area.

AA

• The AA is in harmony with Arab league charter in supporting mutual Arab cooperation and moving in implementing Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA)

AA

• In accordance with the principals and requirements of the world trade organization (WTO) in which the four countries are members.

AA





## ATU: Mission, Objectives & Activities

- **ATU established on April 2007.**
- **Headquartered in Amman- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.**
- **Only dealing with trade technical issues covered by the AA.**

### **Objectives:**

- **Ensure the implementation of the agreement.**
- **To follow up the implementation of the Committee of Foreign Trade Ministers decisions.**
- **Providing technical advice for all matters relating to the implementation of the agreement of both the public and private sector.**
- **Providing recommendations and proposals to optimize the benefits from AA.**

### **The ATU activities under 3 main components:**

- 1. Institutional building**
- 2. Regional trade facilitation**
- 3. Awareness raising**



## Electronic Exchange of Information between customs authorities in Agadir countries

### Objectives:

- Enhancing trade through speed the release of products procedures
- Fighting fraud
- Removing NTBs among member states

All the above accordingly will contribute to achieve the objectives of the agreement to increased regional coordination and develop trade among Agadir countries.



## **Electronic Exchange of Information between customs authorities in Agadir countries**

- **The decision of the first Customs Joint Committee meeting: Establishing a system for electronic exchange of information among Agadir countries following.**
- **The aim is to facilitate trade by establishing one system to connect all the member states and enable them to exchange the customs information electronically.**
- **Several meeting were conducted and attended by senior IT officials from customs authorities in the member countries.**



## Electronic Exchange of Information between customs authorities in Agadir countries (cont.)

- Identifying the system used in the exchange of information process to connect the four customs authorities. (Web Services - Pull )
- Identifying data fields. [DATA.xlsx](#)
- Identifying Reference tables. [Morroco\RT MOROCCO.XLSX](#)
- Testing period. (going on)
- Lunching electronic exchange. (expected 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2016)



## Upcoming events

- **The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of IT team work - December 2015**
- **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Customs Committee Meeting - 2016**
- **Signature of the AEO Mutual recognition Agreement**
- **Agreement on electronic data exchange between customs administration**
- **Lunching the Electronic Exchange of Information between customs authorities**



## Challenges

- **Lake of IT infrastructure**
- **Similarly of economies**
- 
- **Interference of policies and Strategies on the regional level**
- **Lack of coordination between regional communities and organizations**

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**Thanks for your attention**

**AGADIR TECHNICAL UNIT**

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