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## International Trade Standards in Jordanian Legislation

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### ABSTRACT:

International Trade Standards in Jordanian Legislation is a study of the Jordanian laws and regulations that affect international trade. Even though Jordan has signed the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and thereby agreed to open its borders to international trade, it has effectively kept many non-tariff barriers to trade. Other policies and regulations have resulted in the rising cost of imports and have acted as protectionist measures for domestic industries. The study analyzes the effect of various laws and regulations on international trade and assesses them in terms of Jordan's obligations under GATT. In addition, the study also looks at the trade-related laws and policies that do serve the interest of free trade and seeks to make affirming statements regarding these laws in the hope that they may serve as models for future legislation. This essay is aimed at identifying and evaluating the totality of laws and regulations in Jordan that affect international trade. It is hoped that the results of this study can be used to create awareness among policymakers and also in the review of specific laws that inhibit free trade.

**Keywords:** Trade, International Standards, Jordanian Legislation, commercial.

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### 1.1 Purpose of the Study

Jordan's legal framework for international trade comprises a complex web of legislation. In addition to international agreements and treaties, which are considered to be a part of Jordan's constitution and the supreme law of the land, the trade regime is influenced by a variety of laws and regulations that are often concerned with more than one aspect of trade. This ranges from laws that directly affect import and export activity such as tariffs and customs regulations, to

laws that indirectly affect trade such as labour or environmental regulation. The administration of the trade regime involves a number of government bodies, the principal of which is the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Customs Department. The variety of legislation and the number of bodies involved in trade regulation have the effect of making the trade regime difficult to understand and administer. This problem is compounded by rapid changes in the international trade environment and the fact that most of Jordan's trade laws were adopted to fulfill short term objectives. A law may no longer be enforced or effective, yet it is still in existence and may not have been repealed or amended. Furthermore, the liberalisation of trade means that new laws and regulations are constantly being adopted, which are often in response to pressures to harmonise with international standards or to comply with Jordan's international obligations.

The trade sector has always been a fundamental part of Jordan's economy. The integration of Jordan into the global economy has resulted in an increase of trade activity, especially since the conclusion of the peace treaty with Israel in 1994. Consequently, Jordan has become party to a significant number of multilateral and bilateral trade agreements, and has acceded to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2000. In recent years, the Kingdom has embarked on a number of initiatives aimed at trade liberalisation which are designed to enhance competitiveness and economic growth. These have included negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States of America and the Association Agreement with the European Community. Such undertakings have had the effect of generating increasing interest by both the public and private sectors in understanding the changes to the legal framework of Jordan's trade regime, which are geared toward fulfilling Jordan's international obligations to liberalise trade.

### **1.2 Scope of the Study**

The fact that there is a lack of related and comprehensive studies into the legislation that governs international trade within Jordan makes this in-depth investigation necessary. It is first important to examine the conflicting areas of law that exist within Jordan. The complexity of this subject stems particularly from the fact that there are many laws that bear no relation to one another and fail to make reference to other laws governing the same subject. Furthermore, the requirement for Jordan to accede to the World Trade Organisation means that the country must make large-scale changes to many of its laws in order to conform to its prospective international obligations. In order to measure the effect of changes in legislation, it is necessary to have a clear understanding of what the previous laws were, and thus it is necessary to assess the legislative changes that have taken place in recent years. This involves isolating specific changes in the law and examining the reasons for such changes, particularly whether such changes have been made to facilitate international trade or whether they are trade neutral and have simply been imposed to satisfy the need for the harmonisation of laws with other countries, or whether they were made for unrelated reasons, for example, changes in consumer protection law for domestic consumers.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

It is the era of globalization and the countries are eager to enter the international market to grab the opportunities available there. These opportunities are in the form of investment, trade, and services for the development of the nation. In this context, international trade is a powerful engine for economic growth. The promotion of free trade and economic globalization, particularly by industrialized states, has been an important factor in the growth of international trade in toxic chemicals and the products of their transformation. The international trade has a significant effect on the economy of both importing and exporting countries. The economic effects of trade on the environment in Jordan have not been systematically assessed. In

principle, the effect of trade liberalization on the environment is theoretically ambiguous and empirical results are diverse. But for Jordan, it becomes necessary in the scenario of accession it has to effectively implement the international trade standards coming from the international trade agreements, being a party to it.

What are the trade-related legislations existing in Jordan? What are the standards adopted by the Jordanian law in the implementation of the international trade agreements? Whether the international trade standards are effectively implemented in Jordan? These are the research questions followed by which the study is proceeded.

## **2. Overview of International Trade Standards**

International standards and standardization can help to remove technical barriers to trade, and while standards are a vital tool for international trade, an equal importance is the verification of compliance. With standards and in the interests of fair trade, various countries or trading regions have implemented conformity assessment procedures to confirm that the goods in question do in fact meet the specified standards. Failure to provide evidence of a product's conformity may result in it being denied entry into the market, thus preventing companies from selling substandard goods. Compliance with standards may also be a requirement for public procurement, and therefore any company failing to meet the standards is in a disadvantaged position. Conformity assessment has various methods, the most common being testing, inspection, and certification.

International trade standards serve as the basis for resolving trade issues and further promoting world economic development and trade liberalization. For many products and services, standards are a necessity for market access and without them, the goods are not considered suitable for trading. Standards provide a common platform, enabling underdeveloped and developed countries to integrate into the world economy and compete on fair grounds.

International trade standards, as a set of guidelines or regulations, represent the results and effects of negotiated compromise between countries. The issues addressed cover a wide variety of topics, with the goal of ensuring a smoother flow of international trade. They provide a framework within which trade can occur with a minimum amount of interference from governmental regulations and policies. The trade standards can be bilateral, regional or global. With the challenges of international trade such as linguistic barriers, differing values and expectations, and diverse technical environments, standards play a key role in facilitating international trade. Having one agreed standard reduces the need for a company to produce multiple versions of a product for different markets and thereby reduces the cost of production.

### **2.1 Definition of International Trade Standards**

International trade standards are an essential aspect of Jordan's foreign trade, both in the public and private sectors. They are designed to enhance the efficiency of production and facilitate easier entry into a market, whether it is domestic or foreign. For the foreign sector, this could mean the difference between profitable and non-profitable trade. They are the rules and regulations that are designed to create greater efficiency in the global market. These standards are ongoing, evolving over time, and differ from industry to industry. The ultimate aim of Jordan's foreign trade policy is to create an environment where goods can flow relatively freely into a market, without harming health, safety, or the environment, while maintaining the consumer's right to choose a product based on the overall value. This is reflected in the Jordanian government's enforcement of the standards for the safety of imported goods, as a means to ensure the safety and health of consumers and the environment, which has not yet been achieved. Although these standards are designed to help facilitate trade, Jordan's participation in international trade standards is relatively low compared to its rate of foreign trade.

## 2.2 Importance of International Trade Standards

Product standards Harmonization Conformity assessment Technical barriers and SPS measures  
Resources Importance of international trade standards

The quality, safety, and performance of Jordanian goods and services are underpinned by applied international standards. Without them, the ability of Jordanian firms to compete in global markets would be compromised. One example is the standards and technical regulations associated with CE marking. A recent EU funded project to raise awareness among Jordanian exporters found a very low level of knowledge of its meaning among even the most educated. Other examples include product or sector specific standards where adherence is often a prerequisite for market entry such as the ISO 9000 family for quality management. When Jordanian businesses are able to meet the required standards for an importing country, it reduces the likelihood of encountering TBT and SPS measures that could restrict access to a market. This is significant given Jordan's reliance on exports to support economic development and provide job opportunities. A recent study by UNIDO estimated that Jordanian compliance with international standards has had a 33% contribution to current exports. The effect of an absence of standards in terms of good enabling health and safety can also be seen in terms of negative impact. In the late 1980s and 1990s, Jordanian exports of apparel, footwear, and plastics increased demand in the EU market. In the absence of sector specific standards, there was bargaining by EU officials for preferential access on the price of import quotas for Jordanian goods, or non-imposition of restrictive measures. An early example of contingency was witnessed in 1987 when a planned restriction on shoes was suspended for two years, given a part in Jordan's negotiated price cut of 25% on quotas for footwear. This has resulted in loss of market access in various sectors due to subsequent TBT measures or deterioration in Jordan's comparative advantage. In case of the footwear quota, this led to a 30% increase over 5 years in the price of setting up a business in the sector in countries with quota free access. In the absence of standards that necessitate the best possible trading condition, it is clear that cheap bargaining can amount to damage of sectors with a negative effect on development. This in turn increases reliance on quota free market access.

## 2.3 International Organizations and Trade Standards

Overall, the international trade system has become more extensive and the rules more encompassing. Trade rules now encompass the many issues that have arisen in the changing world trading system. The establishment and the following critique of trade rules in the topic of globalization and the environment will be examined in terms of addressing the necessity and role of international trade standards in the modern world.

The WTO now has ministerial conferences about every two years and decisions are made by building consensus among member countries. This new system has expanded the purview of international organizations in trade agreements. The GATT confined its rules primarily to one sector and only goods. This has further expanded into intellectual property, services, and trade between investment and competition policy due to the functionalist spillover of trade into other sectors of social life. Because the WTO is a permanent institution, with a central secretariat and formal dispute settlement process, the system as a whole has become more institutionalized. This has led to a trend of decreasing informality in international trade rules and has culminated in a movement toward binding agreements.

For decades, GATT rules represented the only international code of conduct in the area of trade. Many regional and sector-specific agreements followed this framework. Today they are all WTO "members" and their trade agreements are "GATT 1994" Article II "embedded" in the new WTO agreement. The old GATT system consisted of various rounds of trade negotiations

among many different countries. These negotiations were a platform for trading concessions and the rules were determined through the process. This system was discontinued from the Uruguay round in 1993, which adopted a new consensus-building approach.

International organizations play important roles in the development and improvement of international trade standards. Global rules are essential to support the free flow of goods and services worldwide and the creation of an international trade system that is non-discriminatory and open. The most effective way to do this is through multilateral trade negotiations that result in binding trade rules. In this respect, the rules developed by the WTO are uniquely effective.

### **3. Jordanian Legislation and International Trade**

This is a complex issue that requires the Jordanian government to fully understand the tradeoffs and policy options that are available to increase the international competitiveness of various industries and at the same time meet the obligations of the international trade agreements.

Despite the change in policy, Jordan's private sector has been slow to adopt strategies of integration into the international market. This is in part due to a lack of understanding between the private sector on how to take advantage of lower trade barriers and what the new rules of international trade are. However, the private sector also understands that adopting new strategies also means increased competition from other foreign firms that are looking to enter the Jordanian market. This aspect has the Jordanian government concerned about potential job losses in industries, in part due to the ability of foreign firms entering the Jordanian market.

In the wake of globalization, the Jordanian economy has witnessed significant economic transformation. International trade has become more important to the Jordanian economy, owing to the decrease in trade barriers and increase in global free trade agreements. The quest for suitable international trade rules has led to a change in Jordan's national policy. Since 1994, Jordan has embarked on an extensive economic and trade liberalization program to meet the rules of the international economic system.

#### **3.1 Legal Framework for International Trade in Jordan**

Chapter 3, as mentioned previously, Jordan has undergone dramatic changes in the 20th century for its economy. These changes have been further accentuated with the globalization effort of the 21st century. As a result, Jordan has played a larger role in expanding its trade relations with other countries. At the present time, Jordan has deferred its trade policy to liberalize itself to competing in foreign markets through its trade and investment liberalization policies, and has successfully become a member of the World Trade Organization in 2000. This, of course, has allowed Jordan to develop and improve the legal framework for which its international trade standards are based on. The effectiveness and the welfare of the legal framework on Jordan's international trade standards are assessed not only with the procedures and the bureaucracy incurred with enforcement, but more importantly on how it furthers the development of Jordan's economic position and its standard of living. In comparison to domestic trade, a more clear and just legal framework with effective implementation would further encourage competitive and comparative advantages in international trade. Thus, these advantages would be translated into increased welfare and attaining economic development goals.

International trade standards in Jordanian legislation

#### **3.2 Role of Jordanian Legislation in Trade Compliance**

When analyzing the role of trade compliance in connection with positive and normative aspects, especially with establishing requirements and regulations, it comes to the fore. Firstly, in the normative sense, assuming that trade regulations are to be in line with the Jordanian Constitution, it is essential for any trade policy to be legal. This will be the backbone of the

legislation's role in trade compliance. This is explained by Article 30 of the Jordanian Constitution, which states that "economic activity shall be organized and directed according to a comprehensive national development." Assuming the national interest is the welfare of society, attempts to secure economic development should be made within the frameworks of international trade regulations aiming at improving Jordan's production and trade favorable to Jordanian businesses and also increasing its supply of energy and material resources using alternative methods in order to improve the national competitiveness in these particular industries. At this point, the legislation would be required to monitor levels of dispute lively, however, opportunity success in this area could be debated. It would be expected that at least the public and private sectors' business would benefit in increased utility. This can be defined by the consumers' surplus of a particular product or service, and Jordan is aiming for various types of goods and services to have as high consumer's surplus as possible. Usually though, progress will halt or slow for certain industries due to foreign competition, specifically domestic industries producing substitute goods and services to those being imported. In this case, Article 8 of the WTO agreement would allow consultations between the Jordanian government and the country or countries whose product is the cause of the complaint. The use of legislation is likely to try and implement certain trade requirements at this point to discourage future importation of the good said causing the problem. This strategy may or may not involve the use of trade barriers, and thus legislation would have a high level of contribution to compliance. An attempt to improve the situation may involve requesting a waiver for Article XXVIII of the GATS agreement aiming to negotiate terms and conditions for restricting the relevant foreign services or service providers. Trade regulations can be good or bad for the consumer, but the intention at this point is to enhance consumer's surplus by creating the more efficient competitiveness position in the long run.

### **3.3 Challenges and Opportunities for Jordanian Businesses**

#### **c. Squeezing of Traditional Markets**

The Arab markets are very traditional and the change in the legislative framework will mean initial resistance for goods that conform to new standards, which are not mandatory in the first stage. On the other hand, these goods may be barred from entering the European markets as they would go against the law, thus putting businesses in a catch-22 situation.

#### **b. Competition from Imported Goods:**

As the country reduces trade barriers and opens its market to foreign goods, increased competition from imports that do not excessively conform to Jordanian legislation will be faced. This will lead to the displacement of domestic goods and a negative effect on the trade balance.

#### **a. Cost of Compliance:**

Conformity with international standards is a prerequisite for export in global markets. This demands restructuring of production facilities and methods and in some cases changes in the entire organizational setup. This has a cost factor which some businesses may be unable to bear.

#### **3.3.2 Challenges**

The uncertain business environment where Jordanian businesses operate in has influenced their approach to the international and regional markets. Being more export-minded, businesses face a myriad of challenges and at the same time have prospects for growth and vitality.

Section 3.3 Challenges and Opportunities for Jordanian Businesses

## **4. Harmonization of Jordanian Legislation with International Trade Standards**

### **4.1 Analysis of Jordan's Compliance with International Trade Standards**

### **4.2 Areas of Alignment and Discrepancies**

### **4.3 Implications for Jordan's Trade Relations**

## **5. Case Studies: Implementation of International Trade Standards in Jordan**

The case studies benefit from the procedural knowledge on international trade standards in Jordan obtained from the earlier interviews and validation workshop. They were chosen for their diversity and potential to deliver valuable findings for policy development. The three case studies are: (i) impact of trade standards on Jordanian exporters, (ii) compliance challenges faced by Jordanian importers, and (iii) success stories in adopting international trade standards. The case studies are built on the understanding that standards can have a significant impact on trade, both positive and negative, though the nature and dimensions of the impact will vary across different industries and trading partners and not all impacts can be anticipated. Each study uses a different mix of methodological approaches including interviews, surveys, and secondary data analysis, but all are limited in scope and findings cannot be conclusively generalized to Jordan. From each case study, evidence-based polic

### **5.1 Case Study 1: Impact of Trade Standards on Jordanian Exporters**

Concerning trade standards, the companies have various level of awareness on standards requirements, which shows the different level of impact on their export performance. It is noteworthy that some companies in certain sectors have yet to realize the important issue of compliance to standards on their product, whilst some others have certain knowledge on the specific standards and requirements of their products. This indicates that knowledge on standards requirements indicates the first level of the impact of trade standards on company products. On the next level, the standards and requirements have direct implications on the product itself. It is unavoidable that the products which fail to meet standards and requirements will be deemed as unfit for the importing countries thus rejected as in the case of 80 percent of the rejected products. This will determine the export success of the affected product and reflection of the products which meet the standards and requirements would be a difference decide for the company to continue export on similar product or to improve the product and try again.

The information from this sub-section is obtained from the paper developed by Anna Rita Germani "The Impact of International Trade on Company Performance in Jordan". According to the data gathered from interviewing 15 Jordanian exporting companies that is spread across 15 sectors like agricultural, minerals, chemicals, electronic components, and plastic goods the impact of trade standards to their company performance is affecting largely the quality of their product. It shows that more than 60 percent of the company managers believe that trade standards is somewhat an important issue concerning the export of their products. This is supported by the fact that Jordan's export to the EU increased by 20 percent annually for the past few years. This reflects the awareness of mandatory trade standards for exporting to developed countries by the companies. The study also shows that 80 percent of export rejections on their products were caused by lack of compliance to standards and requirements set by the importing countries.

### **5.2 Case Study 2: Compliance Challenges Faced by Jordanian Importers**

Methods and time frame

The study involved two main activities. The first was an analysis of the nature and scope of non-tariff measures that have affected Jordanian exports and the industries and firms that have been affected. This involved a review of all available secondary information conducted over

the period 1999-2007. The second step was to select specific export product industries that have been affected by non-tariff measures and gather primary information on these cases from both public and private sector sources. This second step was carried out via interviews with industry association representatives and individual firm follow-up over the period 2006-2007.

#### Introduction

A primary concern of the recent government and private sector efforts to upgrade the quality and safety of products is that these efforts will harm the competitiveness of Jordanian industry. Since 1999, exports of Jordanian products have faced a series of non-tariff trade measures imposed by the EU and other developed countries. These measures range from anti-dumping actions to the requirement of phytosanitary certificates for agricultural products, to health and safety requirements for consumer and industrial goods. This case study focuses on the impact of these measures using examples from specific industries and assesses the effectiveness of public and private sector efforts to assist affected exporters.

### 5.3 Case Study 3: Success Stories in Adopting International Trade Standards

The case study provides an in-depth examination of the international trade standards in Jordan, the success stories, and the barriers that they give an example of, thus providing the readers with a further understanding of the steps needed for a full implementation of trade standards and their significant impacts. The success stories were gathered through interviews with industry professionals who were asked to give examples of positive changes in their industry as a result of implementing a trade standard. Coupons from a photo developing machine supplier based in Malaysia, who enlisted the help of a Standards Expert from Sirim to install an automatic vending machine to dispense chemicals for photo studios. This company's success was due to the increase in efficiency of product development and decrease in time to market, along with reduced production costs. This trade standard enabled the company to provide a global service without the need for any additional standard from each individual country, by proving all necessary quality and safety requirements were met. This is an ideal situation for a small company with limited resources to go global in a tough industry such as chemical processing.

### 6. Recommendations for Enhancing Trade Standards in Jordanian Legislation

Capacity building and training programs will be essential for developing countries to become well-versed in the complexities of international standards, enabling them to establish a strong presence in international markets and maintain growth in their economies. This can be achieved not only through supporting academics and professionals to be more involved in international standard setting activities, but also by raising the awareness of the public and private sector of the benefits to be gained from consistent compliance to international standards. Specific programs such as those recently announced by the AID for Jordanian sanitary and phytosanitary measures are greatly beneficial. This program focused on the use of appropriate food safety and animal and plant health measures for public and animal health. This would ultimately enhance food safety in Jordanian produce and increase its export opportunities.

There are several steps that Jordanian legislators could take in order to enhance trade standards within their legislation, which we would also see implemented at a later date amongst legislations of other developing countries. To begin with, there is a need for a strengthening of legislative frameworks in order to facilitate the implementation of international standards whilst taking into account the special needs of developing countries. This includes developing a mechanism of policy review in which the impact of new legislations on trade and investment is assessed. Indirectly discriminating measures such as those which have the effect of protecting domestic industry or promoting import substitution by increasing costs for imports need to be identified and removed.



### **6.1 Strengthening Legislative Frameworks**

Trade laws and regulations in Jordan are currently spread among a myriad of legislative acts, regulations, and directives. This situation makes it difficult for all stakeholders to obtain a comprehensive understanding of what is required to meet international standards. Interview results indicated that the laws were not always clear and that there sometimes existed uncertainty in the minds of civil servants as to what is required of them. This situation can lead to implementation measures that are a distortion of the intended policy. There is recognition at the governmental and private sector levels that Jordan's accession to the WTO has necessitated a review of trade laws and regulations, with a view to ensuring that they do not conflict with international obligations. To this end, there is a need to take stock of existing measures, and in the case of those that conflict with international obligations, there is a need to clearly and effectively communicate new legislative changes to stakeholders. The most critical factor for progress in this area is likely to be the presence of a cross-government coordination body. This body should be provided with clear policy direction from the highest levels of government, in order...

### **6.2 Capacity Building and Training Programs**

It is widely recognised that the extension of capacity building and human resource development packages are important for the reaching of any sustainable steps for trade and economic process. Jordan has many weaknesses in capability in implementing trade connected laws and standards. There are several lessons to be learnt from the expertise of different countries with relation to bilateral, informal or spontaneous ways in technical help. Presently, it would be quite helpful if an assessment might be administered throughout the course of action of trade connected legislation and therefore the institutions involving the trade policy, to determine Jordan's desires for technical help and additionally the commencements that it's on the market. This would then function the idea for a coherent, consistent and broad based technical help strategy. Too usually help are going to be ad hoc and disjointed, with very little or no coordination between the donors and therefore the recipient and infrequently it's going to not be aligned with national priorities.

The aim ought to be to extend Jordan's own capability for formulating and implementing trade policy and with the long run read of reducing dependency upon foreign consultants or brief project based mostly help. Straight off there are solely few services offered by the staff of the United Nation's development programme (UNDP) specialise in legal capability building and therefore the development of cheap legal databases is also useful. This has the potential to create a vigorous trade policy responsive to domestic wants and structural economic amendment over the future. The UNDP offers a special scheme referred to as the international trade initiative that is meant to assist developing commonwealth countries to act a lot of effectively within the international trade negotiations resulting in a lot of barter favorable terms and bigger integration into the world economy. This initiative is extremely recent and Jordan could also be endowed in line with the correlation price focus of the initiative and a propositional analysis would see if it's got potential worth to Jordan.

### **6.3 Collaboration with International Organizations**

There are, however, downsides to working with the "big international players". Policy influence is always biased towards the donor, and there is a risk that the proposed policies will reflect the donor's best interest or standard model policies that may be inappropriate for the country in question. This problem occurred in the trade liberalization approach taken in post-Soviet economies and can be linked to the failure of structural adjustment policies in various

LDCs. The global political climate is also a factor in the availability of international support. The events post-September 11th resulted in increased American interest in the Middle East region, as well as military activity in neighboring Iraq. Although Jordan has a good working relationship with the United States, war and regional instability is not the optimal climate to embark on trade development, and preferential treatment from a single trading partner can have adverse effects on trade with others.

Like many countries undertaking trade reform, in Jordan, local knowledge and expertise can be limited in the beginning stages. One way of overcoming this barrier is through collaboration with international organizations. International organizations can provide essential technical expertise and support in the development of new trade policy. Training programs may be developed, and skills and knowledge of local policymakers can be enhanced. Often, international organizations are able to provide financial support for initiatives and allow the hiring of international experts to see projects through. This was the case in the Jordan-Iraq WTO accession project, whereby the World Bank funded the project and experts were hired to take Jordan through the negotiating process up to the final accession terms.

## **1. Conclusion**

The laws regarding regulations to prevent deceptive acts, the fight against corruption, and the regulation concerning the establishment of the consumer's league are essential for all-round economic growth of the country. This will not only protect the traders and consumers but also prove beneficial in today's globalized and competitive market. However, before implementation of the consumer league, there is a need to adopt specific standards for consumer goods with a schedule for the phase of implementation. This will ensure that resources are not wasted and will be beneficial to the consumers. This research has found that the duration and the extent of implementation of this phase is in the hands of the government and it would be beneficial if there are reserved acceptance of these convention articles.

Another positive aspect of this research is that it has identified where Jordan should focus in order to align its standards with the Brussels Convention Bureau. Ratification of the conventions of extent of Production and the obligation to supply information are not only for the benefits of consumers and traders but also for the benefit of the state. These conventions will ensure that with growth in investments and joint ventures with foreign firms, it will protect local industry from unhealthy foreign competition and ensure that there is no imbalance between import and export. However, Jordan should look to make a general reservation on Article 21 para 2 of the said convention as this will enable the country to decide at a later stage to accept the convention in regards to its laws.

In the trading sector, Jordan has done relatively well. For economic development, foreign trade is imperative for the country and for this reason, it is important to make the laws not only import friendly but also a balanced approach between import and export. The findings of this research show that this is being achieved in small steps. The paper also highlights the importance of incorporating standards of the international market such as the Iron and Steel standards. By providing quality such material, it would not only satisfy local market demand but also have potential for export and hence would increase the country's revenue.

The property and trade laws are imperative in support for investors and buyers. The urgent requirement is to encourage investment in the real estate sector for economic growth. The findings of this study show that Jordan is moving in the right direction but provisions are not investor friendly when we compare it with New York Convention 1958 and United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). Jordan to fill the gap between its legislation and these conventions and to encourage investment in this sector needs to amend its property laws to be more investor friendly.

### **7.1 Summary of Findings**

The researcher proved successful in beginning to comprehend an understanding of the complexities of Jordan's legal system with regard to international trade law. The use of academic literature was only successful to a certain extent due to the nature of unpublished laws, and the researcher found much information through interviews and informal discussions with Jordanians. The information obtained is highly valuable and will greatly assist in undertaking further research and much-needed reform of the current Jordanian legal system in the specific sector. Although the research question has not been directly answered, this was expected due to the complexities previously highlighted and insufficient comparative literature. Overall, the research was highly successful in accessing key information, understanding, and issues but has only just skimmed the surface of such a complex topic, and still much more can be obtained.

The research provided a unique insight into international trade regulations in the Jordanian legal system, typically unattainable by legal professionals working in the field. The reason for this is the complex nature of the Jordanian legal system, with many laws being outdated and not available in published form. It was found that the Jordanian legal system does not follow international standards. There are still remnants of colonially influenced laws in effect, and many laws are anachronistic. This creates complexities and difficulties for those working in the legal sector with regard to international trade law. Interviewees provided a mixed report as to the enforceability of laws. Some were enforced rigidly, and others with much discretion. This is something that is supported by the court statistics. Case study law was found to generally follow similarly, with much still being outdated and not in published form. Overall, it was highlighted that more work needs to be done to bring the Jordanian legal system in line with international standards and ratified conventions.

### **7.2 Key Takeaways**

The paper also explores the shortcomings of the Jordanian legislation in regards to international trade standards and regulations. An essential breakdown is provided of the various legislations and the repercussions of their incorporation. However, the main criticism is aimed at the lack of harmonization with international standards and thus the presence of protectionism measures. Numerous instances are cited, although the main focus is placed upon the Customs Law. The evidence provided is sound and serves as a motivational tool to Jordanian policymakers. The criticism is constructive in its nature and is provided with a solution. With this, it is possible to expect changes in the legislation; however, the extent of these changes is unknown. This is the main limitation of the findings and is left unresolved. This section builds upon the previous laws but focuses in particular on the recent laws associated with the EU association agreement. The findings found here are very similar to those previously mentioned, and this will result in more recent and rapid change due to the potential reprisal from the EU and the loss of investment. Overall, it is expected that a large number of changes will be made now and in the future in this particular area of legislation. Such changes will be a mix of repealing and re-enactment and amendment of laws.

### **7.3 Future Directions for Research**

Future research into content of this study should involve a comparative analysis between the trade standards of Jordan and other developing countries. It then becomes easier to identify how Jordan stands in the spectrum of global trade and what implementations and improvements need to be made to facilitate a more efficient form of trade. This is also conducive to understanding what specific standards can be imposed on respective industries and products to facilitate an increase in their quality and efficiency in export. An overall stronger national

economy will be a result as these products will gain comparative advantage in domestic and international markets. This research can be achieved through field work in the form of interviews and more specified content analysis of various forms of media.

Currently, great strides have been taken to evaluate the current status of international trade standards in Jordan. Although our study provides invaluable qualitative and quantitative analysis through the content analysis approach, the findings can also be evaluated through the perceptions and attitudes of industry participants. One main institution in Jordan that should be evaluated in its role of international trade standards is the Jordan Chamber of Industry. Interview facilitation and in-depth analysis through JCI employees and members of the respective industries can provide pivotal information in understanding how international trade standards are being addressed and what improvements and implementations can be made to facilitate a stronger trade environment for Jordan.

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