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North Africa: Foreign Trade Ministers and representatives of the private sectors are meeting in Marrakesh (19-20 February 2007)

ECA Office for North Africa organizes with the Moroccan government the North African Development Forum. The theme chosen this year is : Trade for growth and job creation.

Beside the Member States of the ECA-NA (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia), partners and stakeholders from other regions who are interested in promoting their trade and investments in North Africa are also taking part in this important event which will be organized at the ministerial level. The organizers of the Forum expect a strong presence of representatives from West Africa, the Middle East, North America and Europe.

The Forum will focus on the dimensions and interactions between trade opening, economic growth and job creation. The event will also be marked by speeches that will be delivered by government and private sector representatives from the region, as well as interventions by eminent experts and researchers.

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa will make an opening speech and Mr. Hassan Abouyoub, Moroccan Roving Ambassador will also make an opening intervention as a prelude to discussions on the theme "Trade and Integration in North Africa, where are the challenges today ?". The Forum will be concluded by a ministerial dialogue chaired by H.E. Mustapha Mechahouri, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Trade.

The Forum will take place on 19-20 February 2007 at the Palais des Congrès in Marrakesh. Information on technical and logistical issues are regularly updated on the Forum website : www.northafricaforum.org.

Journalists accredited to cover this event are requested to fax the duly filled-out accreditation form to Fax NO : 037 67 52 82.