

## THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTRA-ARAB TRADE AND THE MECHANISMS OF DEVELOPMENT IN LIGHT OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to study the chronological development of intra-Arab trade until the emergence of e-commerce. and determine the concepts, metrics and the actual reality of intra-Arab trade in general. To determine the position reached by some Arab countries in their conduct of intra-Arab trade and ways to sustain, develop and benefit from it more effectively. In light of the nature of the problem and the purpose and importance of the study, the researcher relies on the deductive approach in terms of knowledge and extrapolation of scientific studies that dealt with the subject of the study, as well as the inductive approach through which the concepts of intra-Arab Arab trade and the mechanisms of its development in light of global developments are highlighted. The descriptive-analytical approach was used to answer the hypotheses of the study and to arrive at the results of the study.

The study focused on a set of conclusions and recommendations, the most important of which are :The Arab economies do not differ in their structure and components from the rest of the developing countries, as they rely mainly on raw materials and food products in their foreign trade.trends in the development of foreign trade of the Arab countries show that there is a continuous increase in the flow of imports from abroad and a decrease in export revenues, resulting in a continuous deficit in the trade balance of most Arab countries.

As for the recommendations, the Arab countries should take advantage of the WTO in their attempt to develop their trade with the outside world, conclude bilateral trade agreements to achieve gains and profits from them, and coordinate between most Arab countries for the purpose of cooperation and conclude trade agreements from them to develop intra-trade and create a free trade zone to benefit from them in Arab trade exchanges.

**Keywords:** intra-Arab Arab trade, economic integration.

### INTRODUCTION

The topic of intra-Arab trade is one of the most exciting and most attractive topics for researchers and decision makers. This importance is due to mercantilist thought, passing through the classics and neoclassicists, and this preoccupation has been intensifying since the second half of the twentieth century. It is natural that such perceptions prevail, which stem from the conviction of international enjoyment of the role and importance of trade in strengthening economic relations between states.

In fact, throughout its historical development, trade has taken a path characterized by a little stability and a lot of fluctuation as a result of the debate that arises between restricting or liberalizing it based on self-serving convictions. However, the general trend of international organizations, at least since the late forties of the twentieth century, has tended to agree on the need to liberalize intra-trade. Some economic literature describes economic integration as a process and a situation, as a process, it includes measures aimed at eliminating the distinction between economic units belonging to different states, such as the removal of barriers to trade at the state level, but as a situation, it consists in the disappearance of images of differentiation between national economies. On the other hand, a number of pioneers of theories related to intra-Arab trade called for the need for an effective role for the state in encouraging commercial activity within the framework of promoting economic activity, as they considered it one of the most important targets of economic activities, and an indicator of their development, against the background of what the increase in the volume of trade in general, whether imports or exports, or both together in the degree of maturity of economic activity with its various patterns, whether related to agriculture, industry or services. In light of the current global economic changes, Iraq needs to strengthen its economic relations, especially in the field of trade, which is still below the level of ambition.

### **Study methodology and previous studies**

#### **1.1 the problem of the study**

the Arab countries suffer from the failure of most of the experiments of unity and integration and therefore weakness in their intra-trade, and this weakness is the result of structural problems represented by weak production structures and political reasons represented by the predominance of ideological and political differences over the goal of achieving common interests, in addition to non-tariff restrictions, requirements, specifications and administrative restrictions governing them. Most of the Arab frameworks aimed at promoting intra-Arab trade have not entered into force, as most of them are still being discussed and discussed, and need more effort to rise to a higher level in the ranking of priorities of policy makers and decision makers in Arab countries. Therefore, the essence of the problem that this study is trying to address, its research, analysis and drawing conclusions and recommendations to solve it are formulated in the form of specific questions:

1. After we have entered the era of the Internet, Information Technology and e-commerce and have become the main and influential factor in intra-trade, what will be the shape of trade relations in the world
2. The technological infrastructure of the Arab countries is ready to enter the intra-Arab trade
3. Have the Arab countries that have adopted intra-regional trade been able to achieve growth in their economies
4. Are the Arab countries that have not yet entered the field of intra-Arab trade going to be isolated from the world Or should she catch up to get into it

#### **1-2 importance of the study**

the importance of the research came by highlighting the importance of supporting trade between regional blocs and identifying the developments that made intra-trade develop until the emergence of electronic commerce as a result of this development, is it possible to monitor

and identify this trade and its concepts, as well as identifying its reality in the Arab countries that practiced it and its location between countries globally and regionally, and the extent of benefit obtained from this type of trade by clarifying its impact on Arab economies and what is expected to reach in the future. In light of all this development in intra-trade, where can we find the Arab countries and is their technological infrastructure able to keep up with this progress and pursue this new type of trade Or is it still a limited infrastructure that does not live up to all these developments, and if there are Arab countries that, with the wealth available to them, were able to provide even a limited amount of technological requirements for the development of their trade, was it really able to achieve growth in them Or things have remained the same without much change.

#### 1-3 objective of the study

1. A study of the chronological development of intra-Arab trade until the emergence of electronic commerce.
2. Study the possibility of identifying concepts, metrics and the actual reality of intra-Arab trade in general.
3. Identify the position reached by some Arab countries in their conduct of intra-Arab trade and ways to sustain, develop and benefit from it more effectively.
4. Clarifying the impact of intra-Arab trade on Arab economies and their future growth rates.

#### 1.4 study assignments

The research is based on a basic hypothesis to facilitate its proof or negation in the applied aspect of research, namely:

(The development of the global information society dictates to the Arab countries the need to work hard to bridge the gap between them and the developed countries in this regard and in the direction of creating and developing intra-trade between them and the countries of the world, including economic progress and harmony with international economic conditions).

#### 1.6 previous studies

##### 1-study (Wahid Mahmoud Ramo- 2006)

Title of the research ((the possible effects of Iraq's accession to the World Trade Organization in the agricultural sector))

The aim of the research: to determine the expected negative and positive effects on the agricultural sector in the event of Iraq's commitment to multilateral international trade liberalization agreements through the statement of the development of international agricultural trade in the light of the legal framework governing international economic and trade relations in the field of Agriculture (WTO) . To analyze the reality of the agricultural sector in Iraq by analyzing the reality of production and foreign agricultural trade, and to determine the size of the possibilities available in it and the level of services supporting it. The most important conclusions: since its establishment in 1995, the World Trade Organization(WTO) has become an existing reality under which most of the world's countries are organized, and through it the vast majority of world trade amounted to more than (97%) of the total world trade exchanges of goods and services, and the number of countries of the world organized to it until the end of 2007 amounted to (152) countries constituting (79%) of the world's countries, and there are more than (30) other countries of the world, some of which

received observer status, including Iraq, some of which are waiting for having received this status, other countries are also on the way to joining .

2-study (Khalid Mohammed Khalil- 2011)

Search title ((intra-GCC trade))

Objective of the research: to identify the relative importance of intra-GCC trade in the process of integration of these countries. And to deduce the factors influencing the volume of intra-trade between these countries. The review of policies and procedures that will encourage intra-trade exchange to help coordinate their policies and trade relations, towards countries, blocs and other economic groupings .

The most important conclusions: the integration process requires the unification of laws, regulations and procedures in various economic sectors to provide equal opportunities for individuals and institutions .it is important to address transport obstacles through the rapid unification of traffic regulations and procedures applied to the passage of modes of transport between the GCC countries. to study the causes of high transport costs between the GCC countries while working to establish joint transport companies, especially in the field of land and coastal transport.

3-study (al-Bakri Riad and Mohammed Barzin Sheikh-2018)

Title of the research ((the role of intra-trade in activating economic integration case study of the European Union as a model))

The aim of the research is to shed light on the theoretical basis of the phenomenon of economic integration and its most important stages and to reveal the relationship between economic integration and intra-trade. And then study the experience of the European Union and review the most important repercussions on the International and internal Arena in the process of its integration.

The most important conclusions : economic integration is an advanced formula of economic relations, which includes all the measures agreed by the member states of the Union to remove restrictions on the movement of intra-trade among themselves. the success of economic integration requires the absence of differences between member states, whether political and economic.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### **Economic integration (concepts and pillars)**

The modern world is living today in the era of large economic blocs, and this requires us to think seriously and realistically about the need to establish economic cooperation between all countries," as economic cooperation, work and coordination between countries is one of the most important areas through which it is possible to gather the word and unite countries and peoples and move from mere cooperation and coordination to advanced stages of integration and economic unity.

### **2-1 the concept of economic integration**

The term economic integration refers to the process of economic convergence in its various forms, and the stage of economic unity is considered the final stage of economic integration, which has become one of the topics characterized by economic literature and has been and

remains a regional and global demand, where its basic idea is based on several facts, including the following: (Magli, 2014: 65)

1. the world is divided into rich and poor independent countries, and there is no single country that can be economically satisfied with its potential, either in terms of natural resources, human energy, or in terms of the scope of the market in it, hence the existence of foreign trade among countries, which means the movement of goods, services and production elements between them.
2. Foreign trade is witnessing intense competition between most countries that reaches the point of domination and colonization to seize the resources of other countries and take away their wealth and to find a market for the disposal of goods and services.
3. Countries use several economic policies in their competition, including the quantitative and tariff restrictions imposed by them to limit the flow of foreign goods and services to protect national industries, and also work to provide incentives to attract the resources they need from capital, human competencies and technology, which contribute to their development.
4. That developed and capitalist countries with great potential and strong economies take over the bulk of foreign trade and small economies remain dependent on them, and this increases the supremacy of globalization.

For all this, the idea of economic integration between groups of countries with similar conditions has taken shape, and this idea is based on two main things : (Magli, 2014: 65)

- 1- Removing barriers to the flow of goods and services, and achieving the optimal use of available resources among the integrated group of countries.
- 2- finding the best ways to establish economic relations between these countries based on cooperation that leads to the collective benefit of the diversity of Natural, financial and human resources, enabling them to achieve economic development that benefits the common benefit among them.

That the phrase or term economic integration has been interpreted in different forms, economists have differed on the definition and definition of the term economic integration, integration, cooperation, agglomeration). This difference in definition is due to the fact that some economists who have studied and written in this field define economic integration, sometimes according to its causes and other times according to its goals, so we see that the term integration has not received a general agreement between various specialists and economic writers, as well as other concepts and definitions that specialize in Economic Sciences in general. This difference is generally due " to the divergence and difference in the opinions and point of view of these economists about the proposed integration between a group of countries, whether it is in the form of bilateral agreements, cooperation between two states, or in the form of regional integration between a group of countries in order to create an economic bloc (Wafi, 2007 : 31)

Balassa defines economic integration as a process and a state, as a process it includes actions and measures that lead to the abolition of discrimination between units belonging to different National countries, and if we consider it as a state, it can consist in the absence of various forms of tariffs between national economies.

(Abu state, 2007: 7)

Economist Gunnar (Gunnar Myrdal) believes that the concept of integration must include work to increase production efficiency within the formed economic bloc, while giving equal economic opportunities to the members of this bloc regardless of their policies.

The Economist (Machlup) says that the idea of full economic integration involves the actual benefit of all the opportunities that are followed by the efficient division of labor, he adds that within any Integration Zone, factors of production and goods are used and exchanged primarily on the basis of calculating social services such as health, education and Social Security, and companies benefit from subsidies and tax exemptions. (Abdul Rahim, 2002: 22)

The Economist tin Bergen defines integration on the basis that it contains two negative and positive aspects. Integration in its negative aspect refers to the cancellation and exclusion of certain tools in international economic policy, and the positive side refers to the supportive measures aimed at eliminating inconsistencies in taxes and fees between countries aimed at integration, and the necessary reorganization programs to address the problems of transformation and transition (Abu state, 2007: 7).

From here, it becomes clear to us that the comprehensive concept of economic integration as a form of international economic relations between two or more countries, works to remove all customs and non-customs barriers to trade transactions and the free movement of factors of production between them, and it also ensures the Coordination of economic policies between member states in addition to creating a kind of division of labor in order to increase productivity with equal opportunities for each member state. Economic integration in its modern concept remains a continuous political, economic and social process towards the establishment of equal integration relations between integrated countries by creating mutual economic interests and achieving commensurate joint returns by creating more overlap between their economic structures in order to achieve high growth rates.

## **2-2 advantages of economic integration**

Economic integration brings many advantages and the need for it is increasing at the moment, and its success and continuity depend on these advantages that it achieves for member states, which are reflected in the gains

One of the advantages of integration is the following (Akram, 2002: 60). (Boiled, 2014: 70)

- 1- Deepening and consolidating international economic relations within a stable regulatory framework among all member states of the bloc.
- 2- diversification of opportunities for the exploitation and use of resources available in the member states and increasing their commercial usability in various fields of production, as the extension of the borders of the countries of economic integration" and the increase in production possibilities leads and diversifies and deepens and increases the dependence of the member states on each other in obtaining their requirements and meeting their needs of goods and factors of production, where all available energies are exploited by the combination of factors of production, some of which may be available in one country such as vast lands or large labor and does not have the necessary capital for investments that is available in another country..
- 3- The expansion of the market size as economic integration leads to solving the problem of the narrow scope of the market, and therefore all the different products find wider markets

and a larger area, including the creation of new industries to meet and respond to the volume of internal demand, and therefore this leads to the expansion of the region or the circle in which member including increasing production and operating production capacities, and the expansion of the market size leads to an increase Specialization and division of labor between the member states of the bloc .

- 4- The existence of a better climate and conditions for intra-integration trade between the member states on the one hand and between them and the rest of the world on the other hand due to the complementary arrangements between the countries participating in the bloc or economic integration.
- 5- Confronting the major economic blocs that have spread globally, as integration provides an opportunity for the bloc countries to be a match for these blocs.
- 6- working to create a strong economy that can face other economies in terms of the ability to negotiate and reach appropriate terms of dealing with these economies, economic integration gives the integrated countries as a whole a special strength and importance in the international economic field much better and greater than they received individually before integration, and this strength and economic importance enables them to dictate their conditions and demands on other economies and strengthen the position and status of member countries in bargaining and improve their trade exchange rates .
- 7- Facilitating the use of technicians and manpower, exploiting and employing their skills and working to develop them in the interest of integration, better and on a larger scale.

### **2-3 foundations of economic integration**

Economic integration is about organizing and deepening economic relations between a group of countries with common interests and benefits among themselves, therefore there must be economic relations first, and this integration should be based on a set of important and necessary foundations, the most important of which are the following:

(Saleh Kamal Center for Islamic economics, 2012).

- 1- The proximity between the integration member states to facilitate the free passage and movement of goods and people in addition to the ease of communication.
- 2- Cultural, social and economic homogeneity because integration is ultimately human relations between the populations of integrated countries, as the success of economic integration between two or more countries depends on the fact that these countries have homogeneous cultural, social and economic systems.
- 3- Diversity in terms of the difference in available resources and products among countries, as well as environmental diversity because integration in one of its components is the grouping of different parts into one economic entity.
- 4- The existence of unused capacities in each country and integration among them can benefit from them, as well as from the balanced development of productive forces in the countries joining the economic integration.
- 5- Taking advantage of the advantages of specialization and the division of labor between the countries joining the bloc, as a result of the freedom of exchange and the transfer of production elements between these countries, and the rationalization of the economy.

- 6- the trend of economic productive institutions towards integration to take advantage of the advantages of large production in a better way, which constitutes a dynamic factor that works to develop and modernize production and keep pace with modern technology at various stages of production and its processes.
- 7- The countries joining the economic integration aim to coordinate their foreign policies towards the outside world, both in terms of qualitative and quantitative restrictions or in terms of the treatment granted to some countries that help encourage exchange with them to demand for products and achieve optimal operation.
- 8- Develop a joint development plan, which allows the mobilization of economic resources, which leads to avoiding bottlenecks that often hinder the implementation of joint projects.
- 9- Coordination of economic planning projects of the countries joining the economic integration, which achieves the establishment of integrated and interconnected industries according to economic foundations, and allowing the establishment of joint projects on modern bases that adopt science and technology.
- 10- The best use of the economic activities of the member states of the bloc according to the scientific and optimal economic bases.

### **2-3 forms and stages of economic integration**

The literature of International Trade Economics shows that economic integration between countries is achieved through passing through successive stages, where at each stage an obstacle to integration is overcome. The following are the stages to use as an input to review the reality and indicators of Economic Work among the countries of the Islamic world, and these stages are: (Balassa, 2016, :102).

- 1- Preferences: Exchange countries provide preferential treatment among themselves in order to achieve mutual benefits, and a preferential trade agreement means a set of actions taken by certain countries intended to ease restrictions that impede the exchange of products among themselves, such as the abolition of quotas, for example, which is the simplest degree of economic integration.
- 2- Free Trade Zone: This is the second stage of integration and is considered of great importance because success in the subsequent stages depends heavily on it, and the establishment of a free trade zone aims to achieve free movement of goods and services between two or more countries, and this is done on two levels
  - Elimination of tariffs and customs duties on the movement of goods across the national borders of member states while remaining separately with non-member states
  - Liberalize the provision of commercial services by allowing the commercial presence of legal persons (companies) and natural persons (individuals), by offering to provide services in the other country.
- 3- customs union: the process of establishing the Free Trade Area is followed by the establishment of a customs union between the member states and the additional step, after the abolition of customs duties, is the unification of customs systems and tariffs between the countries of the bloc on the one hand and the outside world, this is done through the unification of the customs tariff for imports of the member states of the union at a certain rate in addition to the establishment of a central fund for customs revenues with the aim

of redistributing these revenues among the member states in order to expose the countries whose revenue from customs refrigerants may be affected as a result of the establishment of the Union.

- 4- the common market is the fourth stage of integration in the creation of the common market, which involves the free movement of goods and services in addition to the freedom of movement of production elements, labor, and capital between member states, Member States' investments are treated as national investments and thus receive the same rights and privileges, individuals benefit from social services such as health, education, and Social Security) and companies benefit from subsidies and tax exemptions.
- 5- economic integration (monetary union) this stage is considered very important in the ladder of integration, and involves the previous stages in addition to the coordination and unification of economic policies between the member states, where through this stage a unified link is created and a central monetary authority is established so that the member states have a unified link and a unified monetary policy with respect to the currency exchange rate, interest rates and the foundations of regulation and control over the banking sector.
- 6- Economic unity (unified economic Authority): the last stages of economic integration, in addition to the stage of economic integration, require the establishment of a single supreme authority that dominates all economic aspects of the member states. Economic Work is coordinated at all levels, such as Public Finance, International Trade, and labor markets.

#### **2-4 importance of economic integration**

Most of the experiences of economic integration indicate that most of the forms of this integration, which have met with varying degrees of success, have a political essence, which achieves its interests represented in the removal of everything that hinders the movement of goods, people and heads. By adopting a package of agreements and a series of measures that oblige each of them to take executive steps to coordinate their economic policies. (Al-Abdali, 2010: 124)

There are a number of realistic factors and considerations that call for countries to enter into symbiotic integration, including the following:

- 1- the state of backwardness and disintegration on which the economies of these countries exist.
- 2- aggravation of economic and commercial dependence abroad.
- 3- poor production in the region.

Based on the previous analyses, some recommendations and strategies can be proposed for the development of trade exchanges between countries, including the following: (Al-Shukri, 2007: 2)

- Attention to specialization in production among countries according to comparative advantages.
- Encouraging small and medium-sized industries to invest in technology to improve production, raise the quality of products and design them in line with international specifications.

- Attention to the transfer and localization of technology, the establishment of scientific research centers and industrial development, and encouraging the private sector to invest in new non-traditional sectors, there is no future for economic integration without coordination and unification of economic policies among the Arab Maghreb countries, and we cannot limit ourselves to asking these countries to provide the components of human welfare to societies without assuming responsibility to participate in providing some of the components that undoubtedly contribute to raising the degree of development .

## **Intra-regional trade**

### **3-1 The concept of intra-Arab trade**

The intra-Arab trade represents the applied aspect of the Arab economic unity agreement, and the market was established by a decision issued by the Council of economic unity No. 17 on 13/8/1964, and the decision included the direct provisions, goals and means of the same, as included in the Arab economic unity agreement, except for the freedom of ownership, inheritance and bequest, the decision to establish the market was signed by Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Kuwait, the latter country apologized for ratifying the decision, and the market became effective on 1/1/1965, as it was later joined by Arab countries others such as Libya, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen, this has been scheduled to be fully exempted from customs duties Taxes were paid on 1/1/1974, however, according to an amendment made to the convention in 1969, it was decided to increase the exemption rates from 10% to 20%, so that the period was reduced to 1/1/1971. (Narrator, 2013: 290)

The Arab Inter-market agreement has adopted the principle of activating intra-trade and increasing the volume of trade exchange by abolishing customs duties and quantitative restrictions, as an input to Arab economic integration, and this is evidenced by the following points:

### **General principles**

The Arab Inter-market agreement included a number of principles, the most important of which are: (Burhan, 1989: 164)

- 1- Launching the free exchange of agricultural and animal products, natural resources and industrial products between the contracting parties.
- 2- Fixing the fees and taxes in force before the issuance of the decision, so that no state may impose a fee or tax or increase fees and restrictions imposed on agricultural or animal products, natural resources or industrial products.
- 3- Implementation of the principle of the most-favoured-nation with regard to its e xchanges with non-member states of the Arab economic unity agreement.
- 4- The contracting parties may not impose any internal tax or duty on local products exchanged between them that exceeds the internal duties or taxes imposed on similar local products or on their raw materials.
- 5- Exemption of agricultural and animal products, natural resources and industrial products from the customs issuance fee.

6- Preventing the re-export of products exchanged between member states to outside the market only after obtaining the approval of the exporting countries, unless the products have undergone an industrial conversion process.

**Establishment of a free trade zone:** the market decision, according to the texts it came up with, aims at liberalizing trade exchange and establishing a free trade zone .it dealt with the provisions of liberalizing the movement of agricultural goods, natural wealth and industrial products between member states, without there being any provision dealing with the free movement of production elements, people, Capital, economic activity, work and residence (Abdul Aziz, 2009: 30).

**The customs union** was entered by the Council of Arab economic unity at its fourteenth session in 1970 by Resolution No. 411, which provided for the inclusion of Resolution No. 17 of 1964 on the unified customs tariff to the market decision, as of 1/1/1973, that is, the council wanted to develop the Free Trade Area and move from it to a customs union, and therefore the Customs Committee sought to develop the unified customs law, which consists of (294) articles to address all aspects of Customs Tariff unification between member states to the outside world, i.e. the construction of the customs wall because the free trade area itself has not been realized between the member states. (Brahimi, 2012 : 134)

#### **Activating the Arab common market**

With the Council of Arab Economic Unity realizing the urgent need to activate the existing intra-Arab market within the scope of the agreement, a serious effort has begun to achieve this goal, an executive program has been prepared to resume the application of the decision of the inter-Arab market based on Resolution No. 1092 issued by the session (68) dated 21/12/1998, and under this program, Customs and non-customs duties are gradually canceled over a period of three years starting from the first of January 2000, where they are reduced by (40%), and in the first of January 2001, a reduction of (30% the remaining (30%) will be reduced on the first of January 2002, thus achieving full exemption.

The direct objective of the executive program is to resume the full gradual application of the market provisions by all states parties, the program also aims to activate the previous executive instructions issued by the market Agreement, and revive the spirit of commitment to it among the states parties, and the activation of the current market is an encouraging step and paving the way for the establishment of a major Arab common market in the future, as activation could provide a successful model for the experience of full liberalization of trade and economic integration among the seven states parties, and with the accession of the rest of the GCC states to it, thus the executive program serves the development of the Integrated National Economic Project, and also accelerates the full implementation of the Arab free trade zone The grand one.(Al-Bejawi, 2004 : 101)

#### **Agreement on facilitation and development of trade exchange between Arab countries**

This agreement was approved by the economic and Social Council in 1981, and it came into force on 26/11/1982. The agreement was ratified by Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq,

Lebanon and Yemen and then joined by Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Palestine, but this agreement is more developed than the agreement to facilitate trade exchange of 1953, where it surpassed it in capacity and comprehensiveness, perhaps the most important thing that distinguishes it: (Abboush gifts, 2000: 34)

- Coordinated linkage between the production and exchange of goods, in particular by shifting production, equitable distribution of benefits and burdens, and granting preferential treatment to Least Developed Countries.
- Abolition of Customs and non-customs duties imposed on agricultural and livestock products, mineral and non-metallic raw materials and goods produced by Joint Arab projects.
- Gradual reduction of customs duties on manufactured goods
- Gradual protection of Arab goods and products from the competition of foreign similar goods.
- Allowing any member state to grant preferential treatment to another Arab country, both through bilateral and collective agreements ((Al-Rawi, 2013 : 29)

### **3-2 Challenges facing intra-Arab trade**

Based on the field studies carried out by the league of Arab states to identify the obstacles and problems that have stood in the past and still stand in the face of increasing intra-Arab trade, they can be summarized as follows: (Shaaban, 2005: 62)

#### **1-political reasons**

The Arab countries have allied individually with different camps in the world and have built strong relations with them, and this has been reflected in the relations of the Arab countries with each other, and this in turn has led to the weakening of Arab trade and economic relations.

#### **2-economic reasons**

These reasons are related to the monetary and financial restrictions imposed by the Arab countries as follows: non-tariff restrictions non-tariff restrictions represent a major obstacle whose effects cannot be minimized in delaying the implementation of the goals of the region, and almost outweigh other obstacles in their impact

#### **3-the problem of duties and taxes with a similar effect to the Customs Tariff and the absence of the service sector in the region:**

The problem of duties and taxes with a similar effect to the customs tariff the imposition by Arab countries of duties and taxes with a similar effect to the customs tariff imposed on Arab goods imported from Arab countries will lead to disruption of the effect of Customs reduction and additional taxes and fees are one of the main obstacles to the optimal implementation of the GAFTA program, for example, stamp duties and consular fees, which are calculated as a percentage of the value in Arab countries, statistics and customs services fees as a percentage of the imported value, in addition to fees of public interest, such as veterinary fees and road traffic fees, and these are all fees and taxes that affect the value of the goods And it cost her.

#### **4-excessive application for exceptions to customs discounts and failure to activate the dispute settlement mechanism:**

The greater Arab free trade area faces difficulties resulting from excessive requests for exceptions to customs reductions, which are feared to affect the obligations of countries and not achieve the goals envisaged by the region. The Council of the League in its fourteenth Council (Beirut March 2002 in its Resolution No. 233) confirmed the following (not to grant any new exceptions after the expiration of the time period specified for the currently existing exceptions except in the strictest limits and according to criteria consistent with the text of Article (15) of the agreement to facilitate and develop trade exchange between Arab countries), with respect to for the member states of the region.

#### **5-weakness of some components and detailed establishment rules**

With regard to the components, the most prominent of which is represented by the means of land and sea transport communications, especially that these means are almost non-existent between the Mashreq and Morocco, which makes trade between the two sides of the Arab world be non-existent and low, and this is considered one of the difficulties suffered by intra-Arab trade, in addition to the Arab trade exchange being based on geographically close countries, the cost of trade between different Arab world countries, specifically the cost of Transportation, is another obstacle to intra-Arab trade, as the Arab Maghreb is geographically closer to Europe than to the rest of the Arab Mashreq and the Arabian Gulf, and in general, the lack of regular means of transportation between Morocco the Arab Levant The complexity of the borders between the Arab countries and the length of time are among the most obstacles to the liberalization of trade between the Arab countries, which requires the establishment of sufficient shipping lines to increase Arab exports, in addition to the establishment of a number of companies operating as shipping lines service, such as insurance, customs clearance and road transport companies, as well as work on the development of an agreement regulating road transport (transit) between the Arab countries.

#### **6. Similarity of economic and social structures**

The similarity of the economic, productive and social structures in the Arab countries has led to a fear of opening the Arab markets to some of them and has led to the similarity of export industries at a time when the Arab countries are focusing on Increasing their exports, in addition to the high export prices compared to what is imported from different countries of the world.

#### **7. Issues related to harmonization with international controls**

There are some difficulties related to the rules and controls that the greater Arab free trade area will set for itself, such as specifications, intellectual property, certificates of origin, the environment, and others, and whether the region will commit itself to ISO or WTO rules, or the rules of the European Union, especially after many Arab countries began to apply international controls and standards as a necessary requirement of globalization.

### **8-lack of information and data on intra-Arab trade**

Public and private sector institutions suffer from a lack of economic and commercial information related to the commercial laws and legislations specific to the Arab markets and the lack of official information related to trade facilities, the most important of which are Customs Services, storage, transportation, banking, insurance, consulting and a lack of information related to markets and various goods, consumption patterns, specifications, standards, quality and quality. Usually, they resort to bulletins and analyses issued by external sources from the Arab markets.

### **3-3 Negative effects**

At the forefront of the negative effects are the following: (Mohammed, 2017: 216)

- 1- The disappearance of the independence of political decision in each country and the integration into the framework of world politics and global political decision under the supervision of educational requirements controlled by the United States of America .
- 2- The loss of Independent National Economic and social development and the trend towards integration into the world market and the global development of the market .
- 3- The high unemployment rate everywhere in the Arab countries by forcing them to follow economic stabilization and structural adjustment programs in order to encircle them and achieve the demands of globalization.
- 4- The Arab countries are turning into a vast market for the consumption of goods produced by major global companies and monopolies.
- 5- The relative importance of raw materials in the field of contemporary economic activity is declining, and their prices are constantly fluctuating, which means a decrease in Arab resources, especially since the Arab countries are producers of these resources and some of them depend on oil mainly.
- 6- The new division of labor at the international level, as some countries have been allocated in the field of advanced technology and other countries in the field of traditional mining and agricultural industrial production, and the Arab countries do not fall within the scope of the first level.
- 7- National Small and medium-sized enterprises are subjected to competition, which leads to their bankruptcy and integration into global monopolistic companies if desired.
- 8- The displacement of national capital to the countries that offer the best temptations.
- 9- Imposing conditions and restrictions on national domestic production in order to take on a global character.

### **3-4 Positive effects**

The positive effects are summarized by the following things: (Shaaban, 2005: 2)

- 1- The increased possibility of communication with the world and the resulting large exchange of services and knowledge, which leads to the integration of the world and its increasing interconnection with each other, and the widening circle of cultural cohesion, which ultimately leads to creativity and development.
- 2- Pushing local producers to improve quality and specifications among local producers and international companies on the other hand.

- 3- Raising local wages in order to match the global market and global wages, which is intended to start the process of improving incomes in these countries
- 4- Obtaining assistance from advanced financial or financial and international institutions with the aim of improving living conditions and production at the same time.
- 5- Improving and developing social services in these countries with the aim of stopping migration to developed countries because it has become the only concern of developed countries.

These positives will appear within the framework of the globalization system, but these positives may not equate with the negatives .some countries may get fewer positives than negatives and become tied and restricted within the framework of a global system that brings only problems to their economy and their societies only new hardships and dependencies. the issue is different among Arab countries. some get more positives and others get negatives. this issue is related to the size of the state, its political weight in the region where it lives, the size of its industrial and commercial advantages and its ability to deal with the global market.

### Applied aspect

In the subject of our study related to determining the impact of intra-trade policies in light of global developments in the exports of a sample of developing countries, many previous economic studies indicate that there are other variables affecting total and manufactured exports in addition to intra-trade policies in light of global developments, and we will show two models for identification, which are as follows :

- 1- The dependent variable . The values of manufactured exports Y2 in the sample countries were used as a dependent variable during the research period .
- 2- Independent variables . The following variables were used as independent variables in the construction of standard models: :
  - A. Foreign exchange rate (X1).
  - P. The size of the industrial sector (X2).
  - C. The exchange rate of trade (X3).

The intra-trade policies under global developments have been expressed through the imaginary variable, which can be the result of the matrix of independent variables, and therefore a value of (Zero) was given for the years preceding the emergence of intra –trade policies under global developments 2003-2023 and a value of (1) for the years in which the intra-trade policy prevailed under global developments-and this applies in standard functions and for all sample countries . The study includes a time series ranging from 2003-2023

In order to prove the research hypothesis, time series data were used, as they reflect the changes that occurred in the values of total and manufactured exports and in each individual country after converting from current figures to fixed figures to exclude the economic effects reflected in current values.

For the purposes of estimation and analysis, a standard model was used with several formulas and for various cases of multiple linear regression based on the usual least squares method, as it gives the best unbiased linear estimates, the stage of characterizing the standard model is followed by the preparation of its mathematical form, that is, the expression of the economic variables mentioned above in a mathematical formula as follows:

$$Y = f(X_1, X_2, X_3)$$

Thus, the relationship described above can be formulated as standard and in the following form:

$$Y_1 = B_0 + B_1X_1 + B_2X_2 + B_3X_3 + U_1$$

Since the:

**Y**= Dependent variable

**B0**= Intersection parameter, which represents the coefficient that takes a value when the independent variables take zero values.

**B1...B3**= Regression parameters whose value indicates the amount of the effect produced in the dependent variable when the value of the independent variable changes by one unit.

**X1...X3**= Independent variables.

**U1**= A random variable that represents non-explanatory (qualitative) variables that were not included in the estimated model.

The following is an explanation of the above-mentioned variables and their impact on the total and manufactured exports of the sample countries, with prior clarification of the nature of the relationship between these variables in accordance with the concepts of economic theory and previous studies in this regard .

1. variables affecting total exports :

▪ Population growth (X1) :

The high rates of population growth and the consequent increase in the population are one of the main features of developing countries, as population growth is one of the important determinants in its impact on the growth of exports, whether its impact is negative or positive through the impact of population growth on the supply of exports of different countries .

▪ Gross domestic product (X2) :

The increase in real income accompanying economic growth affects the behavior of both producers and consumers .on the one hand, producers try to take advantage of the increase in available resources or technical progress in order to increase production and reduce costs for export expansion, and on the other hand, consumers try to spend the increase in their real incomes on domestic and imported goods.

▪ Ratio of raw material exports to total exports (X3) :

Developing countries have tried to focus on the export sector as the best sectors to obtain the necessary financial resources for economic development, especially after the emergence of theories and studies that call for reliance on the development of leading sectors through investments where the payback period is very short, such as export industries or the export sector, which in turn leads to other investments related to

Variables affecting manufactured exports

▪ Foreign exchange rate (X1) :

The foreign or foreign exchange can be understood as the process of exchanging a national currency for a foreign currency.the ratio on the basis of which such exchange is carried out is known as the exchange rate (Exchange-Rate). in other words, the exchange rate represents the number of units of national currency corresponding to a number of units of foreign exchange in a certain period of time.

▪ Setting the free exchange rate and the official exchange rate :

The forces of supply and demand for foreign exchange interact, the demand for foreign exchange (local currency supply) is a demand derived from the demand for goods and services, this means that the demand for foreign exchange decreases with an increase in the exchange rate due to an increase in the number of units of the national currency paid for one unit of foreign currency, that is, an increase in the prices of foreign goods and services, and the opposite happens when the exchange rate decreases, that is, there is an inverse relationship between the required quantities of foreign exchange and the exchange rate, because the required quantities of foreign exchange decreases with an increase in the exchange rate and increases with a decrease, while the foreign exchange supply (demand for national currency) is a demand derived from the demand of foreigners for goods and services With an increase in the exchange rate, the foreign exchange supply increases, because an increase in exchange rates leads to a decrease in the prices of local goods and services in foreign currency, which leads to an increase in the demand of foreigners for these goods and services, which means an increase in the exchange rate decrease, that is, there is a direct relationship between the foreign exchange supply and the exchange rate and decreases with its decrease .

▪ The impact of devaluation on exports :

The main effect of raising the exchange rate (devaluation) is a decrease in the prices of goods and services in the devalued country of its foreign currency in foreign currency relative to the prices of other countries, making the goods produced more competitive in both the domestic and foreign markets .

Industrial sector size (X2) :

Most economists agree that manufacturing affects exports by increasing industrial output due to the need of the local market in industrial branches that are in high demand in international markets, which contributes to increasing exports of manufactured goods and due to the high prices of manufactured goods and the relative stability of these prices compared to raw materials, exports of manufactured goods will achieve greater and more stable returns than exports of raw materials, which provides an important source of financing industrial investments and thus leads to the development and rapid growth of this sector .

The first stage estimates the impact of the specific variables of the Industrial Export Promotion Policy, represented by the growth of industrial output, the exchange rate, and the rate of trade exchange, and the multiple linear regression model was adopted according to the linear formula, and the results are as follows:

$$Y = 3.48 + 1.88X_1 - 0.0001X_2 + 0.021X_3 \quad R_2 = 0.84$$

$$t^* \quad (4.68) \quad (1.98) \quad (11.84) \quad F = 53$$

Y = The ratio of the value of industrial exports to the value of total exports, which reflects the policy of encouraging industrial exports.

X1= The growth rate of industrial output.

X2= The rate of trade exchange.

X3= Technical progress.

It is clear from the above equation that there is a direct correlation with an impact factor of (1.88) between the growth rate of industrial output and industrial exports, which means that an increase in industrial output by one unit will lead to an increase in industrial exports by (1.88) alone.

It can be said in general that the interaction between manufacturing and exports is related to the trade policies applied, whether they are going in or out. Inward-facing policies, which are usually referred to as the import compensation policy, provide incentives in favor of local production and against trade. therefore, under outward-facing policies, the relationship between manufacturing and exports is positive and strong, unlike inward-facing policies, which negatively affect exports, especially of raw materials, if new industries are based on the abundance of resources that were destined for export, and manufactured exports do not increase, as manufacturing is often carried out under an import compensation policy behind walls of Protection makes its products uncompetitive in price as well as in quality in international markets .

▪ Terms of trade (X3):

The issue of studying trade exchange rates is of great importance in all countries of the world because the return achieved by any country from trade depends entirely on the status of trade exchange rates , through which the state can take care of the size of the relationship between the prices of its exports and import prices, in case export prices exceed import prices, this means that trade exchange rates are in the interest of the state, and vice versa. the importance of studying exchange rates in developing countries is clear when these countries experience a decrease in their export prices compared to import prices as a result of the unregulated transfer of income from poor countries to rich countries, making the direction of exchange rates in the interest of the latter Without the first .

There are several types of terms of trade, each type is determined by the method used to calculate it . From a practical point of view, it is noted that the net trade exchange rate is generally used and will be adopted in calculating the terms of trade of the sample countries in this research.

As for how the terms of trade affect exports, most researchers in this field agreed that the impact is positive or direct, as the shift of exchange rates against a certain country or against a certain commodity or a group of goods means that the country concerned in order to obtain a quantity of imports must export a larger amount of exports, which is reflected in the impact on the standard of living and development rates, and in the letter of Karim Mahdi Al-Hasnawi assumed that the value of exports in Iraq is a function of the volume of imports and trade exchange rates, and in this study, two formulas were used, namely the linear formula and the logarithmic formula, the value of exports in Iraq is a function of the volume of imports and trade exchange rates, and in this study, two formulas were used, namely the linear formula and the logarithmic formula, the value of exports in Iraq is a function of in estimating the impact of trade exchange rates and the volume of imports on the value of The relationship between the two independent variables and the dependent variable was positive for both, and the determination coefficient reached (0.96), indicating that both independent variables, the trade exchange rates, and the volume of imports explain (96%) of the changes in the value of total exports.

After describing the model, preparing its mathematical formula and then explaining the variables adopted in this study, the subsequent establishment of the stage of estimating the parameters of the model variables as an important part and a later stage in this study, in which mathematical tools were used to convert the function into a probability equation in

order to estimate its indicators and over the time series (2013-2023), this is done using the method of multiple linear regression for the presence of more than one independent variable and in order to reach the best results, a standard model was applied in three formulas: and inverted) and at a moral level (5%) and in order to choose the best formulas the goodness of Fit is allocated The third stage of the preparation of the model for testing, in which the accuracy of the parameters of the estimated model is tested by using statistical ( $R^2$ ,  $t$ ,  $F$ ) and standard (DW, Klein) tests . By which the extent to which the signals of the estimated parameters and their sizes correspond to the concepts of economic theory is determined, as in the following formula :

A-statistical tests :

1- Test ( $t$ )<sup>(1)</sup> t-test : this test is used to confirm the significance of the estimates obtained, i.e. it is necessary to indicate whether the independent variables affect the dependent variable or not, because the hypothesis to be tested is the hypothesis of nothingness and the alternative hypothesis, as in the following formula :

- The hypothesis of nothingness is:  $B = 0$

-Alternative hypothesis  $0 \rightarrow H_i: B$

2- Test ( $F$ )<sup>(2)</sup> : this test is used to confirm the overall statistical significance of the regression equation.

3- Determination coefficient test ( $R^2$ ) : this test is used to find out the extent to which independent variables are able to explain the changes in the dependent variable, that is, it shows the percentage of the total deviation in the dependent variable as a result of changes in the independent variables (Koutsoyiannis, 2019, 121), and due to the fact that the determination coefficient exaggerates the size of the correlation or its degree between the independent variables and the dependent variable because it increases in most cases when adding new variables to the model modified correlation coefficient ( $R^2$  – Adjusted) because it increases or decreases by adding new variables to the model and gives a more accurate correlation degree between the independent variables and the dependent variable and takes into account the number of views and the number of variables in the model and thus eliminates the bias in the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ).

P. Standard tests:

1- Durbin – Watson test (DW): this test is used to detect the phenomenon of self-correlation between the values of successive random variables, based on the calculation of the residuals caused by the use of linear regression of Ordinary Least Squares (Koutsoyiannis, 2019, 114-116).

<sup>1</sup> - If the calculated value of ( $t$ ) is greater than its Tabular value at a certain moral level, measured in degrees of freedom ( $k$  - ) in this case, we reject the hypothesis of nothingness, which states that there is no causal relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable and that the value of the parameter does not differ from zero, that is,  $0 = B$ , and we accept the alternative hypothesis, which states that there is a causal relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable and that the value of the estimated parameter is not equal to zero, that is,  $0 \neq B$ , and is equal to the estimated value, but if the value of ( $t$ ) calculated is less than from its tabular value in this case we accept the hypothesis of nothingness and reject the alternative hypothesis.

<sup>2</sup> - The ( $F$ ) test is summarized by the following formula: If the calculated value ( $F$ ) is greater than its Tabular value, then the estimated function is statistically significant, so we reject the hypothesis of nothingness  $0 = H_0 : B$ , and accept the alternative hypothesis  $0 \neq H_i : B$ , and vice versa, if the calculated value ( $F$ ) is less than its Tabular value, then we accept the hypothesis of nothingness and reject the alternative hypothesis of uncertainty Statistical significance of the estimated function

2- Klein test: this test is used to detect whether there is a condition of multilinearity between independent variables or not.

Assessing the impact of intra-trade policies in light of global developments on total Iraqi exports:

### 1- second term 2003-2012:

The measurement formulas mentioned above in estimating the impact of economic factors on Iraq's exports during the second period indicated that the semi-logarithmic formula has given the following best results.

$$Y_{1:2} = -2.606 + 1.013 \log X_1 - 0.584 \log X_2$$

$$t^* \quad (1.227) \quad (3.421) \quad -(1.781)$$

$$\bar{R}^2 = 0.85 \quad F = 26.444 \quad D.W = 1.685$$

The explanatory power of the estimated model indicates that (85%) of the changes in Iraq's exports during the second period are explained by the changes in both (population X1) and (GDP X2) and did not show a significant (the ratio of exports of raw materials to total exports X3) because this variable is unable to pass statistical tests.

The elasticity of X1 (0.474) This can be explained by the fact that if the country exploits the increase in GDP in increasing the production of goods representing import substitutes and reducing goods intended for export, the relationship between increasing GDP and increasing the value of exports turns into a negative inverse relationship.

The impact of intra-trade policies can be clarified in light of global developments in Iraq's exports during the period (2013-2023) as in the following formula:

$$Y = 6.788 + 2.323X_1 + 0.145X_2 + 1.989X_3 - 4.867X_4$$

$$t^* \quad (6.609) \quad (7.985) \quad (2.338) \quad (52.385) \quad (0.569)$$

$$\bar{R}^2 = 0.93 \quad F = 87.779 \quad D.W = 1.155$$

### 2- the second term 2013-2023:

In order to estimate the impact of economic factors on Iraq's exports, several estimation formulas were used, and the linear formulas gave the best results as follows.

$$Y_{1:1} = -6.834 + 2.30X_1 + 0.229X_2 + 2.317X_3$$

$$t^* \quad -(3.877) \quad -(4.435) \quad (2.920) \quad (2.043)$$

$$\bar{R}^2 = 0.81 \quad F = 21.813 \quad D.W = 1.491$$

The value of the adjusted determination coefficient indicates that (81%) of the changes in Iraq's exports are explained by the changes in the variables included in the estimated model. The flexibility of (X1) reached (0.086) units, and the positive signal of the parameter of this variable is that the increase in the population leads to an increase in the age groups capable of working and this allows them to work in various production fields, which reflects its impact on increasing the volume of production and exports.

The elasticity of (X2) reached (0.2) units, and the positive signal of the parameter of this variable is consistent with the study of the economist Tyler, which he applied to a sample of (55) developing countries, in which he showed a positive relationship between the growth in GDP and export growth. In addition, he pointed to the positive relationship between export

growth and capital formation in the sample countries during the aforementioned period, which justifies the centrifugal relationship between the above-mentioned variable and the adopted variable.

The elasticity of (X3) reached (0.579) units, and the positive signal of the parameter of this variable finds its explanation in the fact that the economy of Iraq is characterized by an agricultural export sector and educated working hands with high productivity, and Iraq exports wheat, rice and dates (www.mogatel.com) Iraq was able to increase the demand for its agricultural products.

The formula described above indicates that the intra-trade policies in light of global developments have a moral impact on Iraq's exports during the second period, due to the appropriateness of the organization's policies with the reality of Iraq's economy.

The state of comparison between the impact of independent variables on Iraq's exports in both periods can be clarified through the following table:

Table(1) The impact of independent changes in Iraq's total exports during the periods 2003-2012, 2013-2023

$Y_{1:2}$ $\bar{R}^2 = 0.85$ $F = 26.444$ $D-W = 1.685$	The first period from 2013-2023				$Y_{1:1}$ $\bar{R}^2 = 0.81$ $F = 21.813$ $D-W = 1.491$	The first period from 2003-2012			
	$X_i$	$X_1$	$X_2$	$X_3$		$X_i$	$X_1$	$X_2$	$X_3$
	$B_i$	2.30	0.229	2.317		$B_i$	1.013	-0.584	
	$t^*$	4.435	2.920	2.043		$t^*$	3.421	-1.781	

### CONCLUSIONS

1. It turned out that the Arab economies have common characteristics, including dependence on a single commodity, crude oil, to finance the growth of their economies, as the bulk of their trade is foreign.
2. The Arab economies do not differ in their structure and components from the rest of the developing countries, as they rely mainly on raw materials and food products in their foreign trade.
3. The trends in the development of foreign trade of the Arab countries show that there is a continuous increase in the flow of imports from abroad and a decrease in export revenues, resulting in a persistent deficit in the trade balance of most Arab countries.
4. The trends in the development of intra-Arab trade showed a decrease in the percentage of intra-Arab trade in yen during the study period and its limitations, due to the similarity and similarity in goods and services produced by Arab countries.
5. Most of the exports and imports in intra-Arab trade are concentrated between neighboring Arab countries due to the low cost of transportation and ease of marketing.
6. The ratio of intra-Arab trade to the total intra - Arab trade of the  $\rho t$  - form is only a limited percentage that does not exceed% % at best, even with the end of the transitional period of the implementation of the Free Trade Area, and one of the reasons for the low level of intra-Arab

trade is . The similarity and similarity between the economies of the Arab countries, and the proportion of the weight of oil in intra - Arab trade is lower than in total trade, which means that the growth in intra-Arab trade, albeit limited, is partly caused by the growth of non-oil trade.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1-the need for Arab countries to benefit from the World Trade Organization, in their attempt to develop their trade with the outside world, and to conclude bilateral trade agreements to achieve gains and profits from them.

2-coordination between most Arab countries for the purpose of cooperation and the conclusion of trade agreements for the development of intra-trade and the creation of a free trade area to benefit from in Arab trade exchanges.

3-the need to pay attention to scientific seminars and conferences on Arab foreign trade, as well as intra-regional trade as an attempt to increase the importance of trade cooperation between Arab countries.

4-Preparation of an integrated strategy that can be implemented in stages to establish a network of roads, means of transport and communications and reduce costs that represent a constraint to the expansion of intra-Arab trade and its balanced growth, as well as activating the work of the Arab export insurance program to create the appropriate climate for investment in the field of intra-Arab trade, as well as the establishment of unified customs points between common Arab countries at the borders to avoid repeated inspections and audits and standardize systems and procedures related to intra-Arab trade.

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