



# ICC Syria Annual Report 2024



[info@icc-syria.com](mailto:info@icc-syria.com)



[www.icc-syria.com](http://www.icc-syria.com)



+963 11 334 4391



+963 11 334 4393

## ICC Syria Chair Foreword

**Ladies and Gentlemen  
Board Members/Members  
of International Chamber of Commerce Syria,**



It is my pleasure to present to you ICC Syria's annual report for the year 2024.

This report includes various activities, trainings, and events in which ICC Syria participated or organized, at the local and international levels, in an effort to best represent the interests of the Syrian business community, and to continue being the international business voice of Syria.

We would also like to share with you the latest reports and publications issued by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and its global committees in addition to BUSINESSMED reports.

Furthermore, you can view the international and professional training courses offered by the ICC Syria and the courses of ICC Academy.

Proudly ICC Syria received the prestigious ICC-NC Star Award 2024, as one of 10 awarded out of 170 national committees, to recognize the outstanding efforts by ICC Syria in support of the Syrian private sector during the past years, and still continuing advocating the private sector interests regionally and globally.

It has been my great privilege to join my colleagues of ICC Syria board in supervising and/or participating in the activities that we describe in our report for 2023 and look very much forward to continuing to work together in the upcoming years.

**Naji Chaoui  
Chair - ICC Syria**

## About ICC Syria

The Syrian National Committee is part of the International Chamber of Commerce since 1987 and one of over 170 National Committees around the world; ICC Syria adapts and works on achieving ICC Mission and Vision by applying and implementing the updates of global business environment, which lead to maintain the positive impact in international trade.



### ICC Mission:

We Make Business Work for Everyone, Every day, Everywhere.



### ICC Vision:

We Enable Business Worldwide to Secure Peace, Prosperity and Opportunity for All.



## Activities of the International Chamber of Commerce Syria 2024



### 1. 9th ICC B-MENA Regional Consultive Group Meeting

#### 22 February 2024 Karachi - Pakistan

The Regional Consultative Group Meeting was led by ICC Georgia and hosted by ICC Pakistan.

ICC Syria Chair, Secretary General and the Administrative Consultant and International Affairs Coordinator took part of the meeting.

The following points were addressed:

- Updates from NCs and 2024 forward plan.
- NCs reports on their late/current activities and share their forward plan for the year 2024.
- Create a special Task Force to assess issues regarding financial over-compliance and the associated hurdles to doing business in the region.

Administrative Consultant presented a report on ICC Syria's activities concerning diversity and inclusion.

Summary of the presentation: Diversity and Inclusion:

- Staff - Capacity Building
- ICC Agri Food Hub
- Insurance Committee training and launching seminar
- Junior Chamber International Syria Activities •BUSINESSMED Updates.

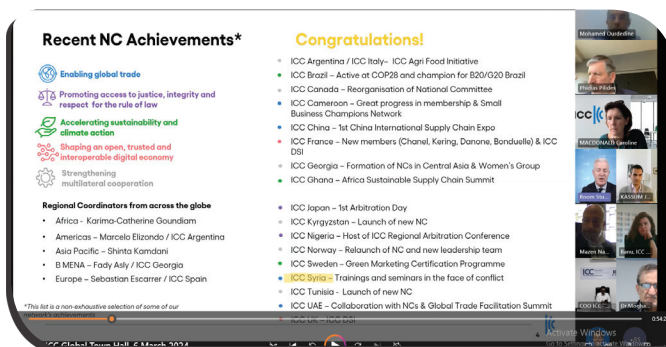


## 2. Global Town Hall all ICC NCs meeting

6 March 2024

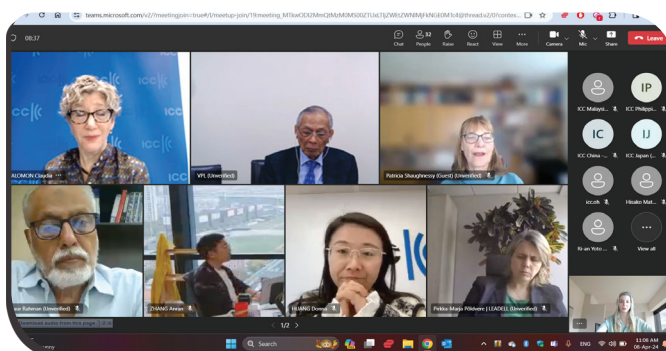
Administrative Consultant and International Affairs Coordinator attended the meeting, and during the meeting, the various national committees were briefed on the global priorities, the work program, the main achievements, and the new developments of ICC worldwide.

It was chaired by the Secretary General, Mr. John Denton, who congratulated a group of national committees on their achievements. Proudly ICC Syria was amongst the signaled-out chambers with its activities and qualitative trainings and reactivation of the insurance committee.



## 3. Quarterly Call for National Committee and NC Arbitration Commission Representatives, and the representatives of ICC Syria in ICC Court and ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR

Chaired by the President of the Court, Mrs. Claudia Salmon, several quarterly meetings were held, in which ICC Syria participated. During them the activities of the Court and the National Committees regarding commercial arbitration and alternative dispute resolutions were present. In June 2024, the membership of ICC Syria's representatives in the International Court of Arbitration was renewed, namely: Attorney Mrs. Lina Al-Hakim and Dr. Abdul-Hay Al-Sayed. In addition to the nomination of five members from the ICC Syria's lawyers in ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR for the mandate 2024 - 2027, namely: Attorney Mr. Hussein Khaddour - Attorney Dr. Fadi Haddad - Attorney Mrs. Reem Sanoufi - Attorney Mrs. Zeina Sarkis - Attorney Mr. Fadi Sarkis.



#### 4. ICC Syria participation in the 1st ICC Court Egypt Arbitration Day

15 May 2024 - Cairo

ICC Syria participated with the presence of Attorney Dr. Walid Mansour and Attorney Mr. Ahmad Walid Mansour, ICC Syria and ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR task force member. Attending the conference was an exclusive opportunity to stay abreast of emerging trends, best practices, and recent developments in dispute prevention and resolution in the region. This dynamic event brings together legal practitioners, academics, and industry experts to provide comprehensive insights into the contemporary arbitration landscape. The



conference fosters a comprehensive dialogue, enabling participants to exchange perspectives, deepen their understanding, and contribute to the advancement of international arbitration. ICC Syria's representation is considered essential in terms of providing national expertise with the latest jurisprudential

and legal opinions in the field of international arbitration.

#### 5. ICC Syria Insurance Committee Achievements

Chaired by ICC Syria Board Member/Chairman of the United Insurance Company (UIC), with the presence of the General Manager of the Syrian General Insurance Corporation, the Secretary General of the Syrian Federation of Insurance Companies, and ICC Syria members from the leading insurance companies in Syria (United Insurance Company - Syrian Arab Insurance Company - Solidarity Alliance Insurance Company - Syrian International Insurance- AROPE Syria Company), several meetings have been held since the establishment of the committee in 2023, to discuss ways to develop the Syrian insurance market and discuss global developments in the international chamber of commerce national committees, and circulate them through seminars and trainings held by the committee in cooperation and participation with supervisory bodies and stakeholders, as well as to come up with joint proposals to develop the sector. During this period of the committee's work, four targets were achieved thanks to the cooperation between all parties of the Syrian insurance market and the significant support from the Syrian Insurance Supervisory Commission, namely:

1. "Reinsurance Practices training" during the launch ceremony of the Insurance Committee at the International Chamber of Commerce Syria - November 2023.
2. Requested the Syrian Insurance Supervisory Commission regarding cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, to issue a circular from the ministry to tourism and travel offices to deal exclusively with the licensed Syrian insurance companies when issuing travel insurance policies. The aim being to support the Syrian national economy and ensure added benefits to the national insurance companies.



3. Provided the Syrian Insurance Supervisory Commission with a study by the Insurance Committee on the outcomes of the questionnaire from nine leading insurance companies, which was circulated to them, on the impact of raising the limits of compulsory car insurance compensation without raising premiums by companies. This proposal was discussed during the Board meeting of the Syrian Insurance Supervisory Commission, headed by the Minister of Finance, in addition to the proposals submitted by Syrian Insurance Supervisory Commission and the Syrian Federation of Insurance Companies. The outcome of these interventions and meetings led to the raise of compensation ceiling paid to those affected by traffic accidents, with the view to strengthen the social and humanitarian goal of insuring civil liability towards others in vehicle insurance (compulsory insurance), and in line with the goal of achieving the principle of compensation on which insurance is based, especially with regard to the medical costs incurred by the person affected by the traffic accident, as well as compensating the largest part of the material damage to the property to third parties, in addition to continuing the gradual increase in death and disability compensations for the heirs of the deceased in vehicle accidents.
4. Apply the Syrian insurance companies' mechanism in providing all kinds of insurance contracts with a QR Code to obtain the contractual terms online, to replace printing the terms on paper. This result is due greatly to the comprehensive study drafted by Attorney Mr. Ahmed Haddad - ICC Syria Legal Advisor and submitted by ICC Syria insurance committee to the Syrian Insurance Supervisory Commission regarding the proposed legal mechanism for this digital transformation in drafting contracts between the insurer and the insured.

This achievement was obtained thanks to the successful and rapid coordination between the Syrian Insurance Supervisory Commission and the Ministries of Justice and Communications and other relevant authorities, and after receiving the first request for electronic issuance of insurance contracts from a private insurance company, the Commission granted its approval during the month of August 2024 for the first case of issuing general terms of an insurance contract using the QR-Code method. This outcome is an essential step on the path of digital transformation in the insurance sector, and the role of digitization in cutting costs in printing, and preserving the environment as a result of saving paper consumption.

We are proud of the fact that the report of ICC B-MENA Regional Consultive Group, which was presented during ICC World Council meeting on June 11, 2024 in Paris, included the mention of the achievements of ICC



Syria among the achievements of the region in terms of projects that support women (as Vice President and Director of the thematic Committee of the Union of Mediterranean Confederation of Enterprises), and the activities of the Insurance Committee.

## 6. Participation in ICC Agri-Food Hub Initiative

The initiative kicked off during the informative session on the framework of the 13th World Chambers Congress in Geneva 2023, by more than 12 NCs including ICC Syria, covering all regions of the world.

ICC AFH aims to generate new services and tools customized for the food sector, that help NCs to develop business opportunities; access to International Organizations and build capacities to bring new members.

ICC AFH network is continuously growing. Over the past year, we have had the pleasure of welcoming **ICC Paraguay, ICC Greece** and the **Private Sector Foundation Lesotho**,

bringing us to a total of **25 National Committees and Chamber Members** in the ICC Agri-Food Initiative.

Since 2023 many meetings have been conducted to discuss the opportunities in the agriculture sector, which was attended by ICC Syria.



## 7. 10th ICC B-MENA Regional Consultative Group Meeting - ICC HQ

10 June 2024, Paris - France

The Regional Consultative Group Meeting was led by ICC Georgia.

ICC Syria represented by Secretary General, and the Administrative Consultant and International Affairs Coordinator.

The following topics were discussed:

1. Update on recent ICC HQ activities by the ICC Secretary General.
  - Mainly stressing the fact that the project for a task force examining the complaints of various B-MENA NCs about overcompliance by banks on implementation of economic sanctions regulations, has been approved by B20 group.



- The online survey on financial inclusion and on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) circulated to members and local Chambers, supported by multiple Chambers of Commerce in the region, ICC has created a survey to gather insights from businesses across the B-MENA region about how financial over-compliance impacts business access to financial services

and their ability to operate which has been proven to affect regions differently, the Task Force focuses on critical issues, raised from the survey results, and develop solutions to discuss with international stakeholders like the G7, G20, and FATF.

2. Reports from National Committees, ICC Syria Secretary General presented an introduction of ICC Syria's activities and highlighted the importance of B-MENA RCG project for a task force now in the process of being setup, with a view to tackle the occurrence of over compliance of banks regarding the implementation of sanctions. Also invited the NCs to reestablish insurance commissions as this sector is very important in international trade facilitation, and exposed ICC Syria's activities and plan for the 2024.

### 3. Global Partnerships & Development

- ICC One-click SME Tool Kit.
- Update on Model Contracts now available from HQ.
- Membership Data evolution.
- New NCs information: formation of ICC Iraq and ICC Tajikistan.


We are proud of the fact that the report of ICC B-MENA Regional Consultive Group, which was presented during ICC World Council meeting on June 11, 2024 in Paris, included the mention of the achievements of ICC Syria among the achievements of the region in terms of projects that support women (as Vice President and Director of the thematic Committee of the Union of Mediterranean Confederation of Enterprises), and the activities of the Insurance Committee.

## 8. Permanent Heads meeting

### 11th June 2024 - ICC HQ Paris, France

National committee representatives from 46 countries including ICC Syria represented by Secretary General, and the Administrative Consultant and International Affairs Coordinator, met in Paris for governance and network, and have attended annual meetings of "Permanent Heads" aiming to strengthen engagement and collaboration.



**ICC** 

**ICC REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP (RCG) – [BMENA]**

**2023-2024 REPORT**

- Please indicate the date and venue of the meetings held since last ICC World Council session in June 2023.**  
(note: RCGs are expected to meet at least one a year, either virtually or physically).  
- 19<sup>th</sup> of June, 2023, Geneva, Switzerland, President Wilson Hotel  
- 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2024, Karachi, Pakistan, Movenpick Hotel
- Please highlight key work areas or initiatives led by ICC globally that have been particularly relevant for your region in the past 12 months:**  
- Cooperation between NCs and chambers  
- CoE  
- NC Connect  
- WCF  
- Global Learning and the Academy  
- DRS
- Please highlight common needs, challenges, or ideas which NCs in your region have collectively expressed in the past 12 months:**  
- Cultural and Political policies of ICC HQ  
- Taskforce that was subsequently created based on the Financial Compliance  
- CRS/TTA Clarification in Bank & Corporate Compliance
- Please list any recent NC initiative in your region which you believe is worth flagging as particularly innovative or successful:**  
- ICC Syria- Women Empowerment program  
- Insurance Committee Activities  
- ICC UAE- Trade Annual Summits



## 9. ICC World Council on

11th of June 2024 - ICC HQ Paris, France

ICC Syria represented by Secretary General, and the Administrative Consultant and International



Affairs Coordinator and Mr. Naji Chaoui voted online on the GA decisions.

ICC has announced the election of five new members to its Executive Board bringing a diverse range of experience to ICC's work programme under the leadership of newly elected Chair Philippe Varin.

## 10. International Chamber of Commerce Syria - General Assembly 2024

Seven Gates Hotel Damascus - 05 November 2024

ICC Syria General Assembly for the year 2024, was held at Seven Gates Damascus Hotel on Tuesday, November 05, 2024,

Were present, as well, Deputy Minister, and representatives of the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection, Corporates Directorate and ICC Board Members and members within the quorum limitation as defined by the bylaws of the International Chamber of Commerce Syria.

ICC Syria Chair opened the General Assembly by welcoming the Deputy Minister, as well as all members present. Mr. Chaoui affirmed that the Syrian business community has shown resilience and dynamism despite the challenges. Mr. Chaoui also emphasized the role of



international chambers of commerce, including ICC Syria, in fostering effective communication with stakeholders and economic decision-makers at both national and global levels.

ICC Syria 2023 Annual Report, in addition to TIR and BUSINESSMED activities were overviewed by ICC Syria Chair.

Board Member / Head of Insurance Commission, addresses the importance of strengthening Syria's insurance sector with global expertise and unifying national efforts to enhance the insurance market. He noted that ICC Syria had initiated the



reactivation of the Insurance Commission at the national level, aiming to establish it as a foundation for its eventual re-establishment internationally. This initiative received strong support from ICC Paris and from many national committees.

The budget for 2023 was approved by the members of the General Assembly.

The GA was followed by honoring ICC Syria's sponsors during the year 2024.

## 11. Introductory Workshop: «International Trainings on ICC Rules in International Arbitration, Law, and Trade Finance»

### Faculty of Law, Damascus University - 4 December 2024

In an effort to empower university students and familiarize them with available opportunities to plan and develop their professional career paths in line with global advancements in international trade and arbitration.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Syria, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law at Damascus University, organized an introductory workshop titled "International Trainings on ICC Rules in International Arbitration, Law, and Trade Finance."

The workshop, held under the patronage of the President of Damascus University, took place on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, in the presence of Law Faculty Dean Attorney Dr. Sinan Ammar, ICC Syria Chair Mr. Naji Chaoui and Board Member/Head of Insurance Commission Mr. Marwan Affaki.

It was presented by distinguished representatives from ICC Syria: Mr. Ahmad Haddad, Attorney and International Arbitrator, Board Member, and Legal Advisor and Ms. Mouna Kiwan, Administrative Consultant and Certified Trainer.

Approximately 130 third-year, fourth-year, and postgraduate law students from Damascus University attended the event, which covered several key topics, including:

- \* ICC Court of Arbitration in Paris and its role in commercial dispute resolution.
- \* Documentary Credits (UCP600) and their standardized practices.
- \* Incoterms® 2020 and their application in international trade.
- \* Uniform Rules for Collections (URC522).



## Union of Mediterranean Confederation of Enterprises - BUSINESSMED Activities



### **GCC Business Forum - BUSINESSMED**

**26 February 2024 - Dubai -UAE**

Upon the request of the Union of Mediterranean Confederation of Enterprises (BUSINESSMED), Ms. Mouna Kiwan represented ICC Syria as a member country of BUSINESSMED and in her quality as the ambassador of the Union. She stressed the pivotal role of BUSINESSMED as the primary regional representative of the private sector in the Mediterranean Basin, and articulated its unwavering commitment to fostering collaboration between the Mediterranean and MENA region, advocating for foreign direct investments, and facilitating socio-economic integration.

Additionally, Ms. Kiwan emphasized the dedication to supporting regional employers, strengthening the business ecosystem, and driving forward regional integration, social dialogue, and policy making initiatives.

The premier B2B Development event drew representatives from international organizations, Gulf officials, and big tech companies.

This event served as a platform for business worldwide with a vested interest in projects within the GCC region and fostering International Cooperation.



## Activities of TIR Syria and the International Road Transport Union (IRU)



**During 2024, TIR Syria collaborated with various Arab and international transport companies to facilitate the movement of Syrian exports and support the Syrian international transport fleet.**

Following the war in Lebanon and the closure of the Al-Masna' border crossing, TIR Syria - through the International Chamber of Commerce Syria - worked on opening and operating alternative border crossings, particularly Al-Dabbousiya and Al-Areeda, to ensure the uninterrupted flow of goods to and from Syria by land.

Through these efforts, the International Chamber of Commerce Syria contributed to maintaining the continuity of supply chains and securing safe and efficient routes for Syrian exports despite the regional challenges.

### IRU General Assembly

**7 June 2024 - Geneva - Switzerland**

### TIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY - 75 years of shaping road transport

IRU membership bodies, including the passenger and goods transport councils (CTP and CTM, respectively), and the General Assembly members including ICC Syria's representative, met in Geneva.

In the presence of IRU Chair Radu Dinescud and the Secretary General of the International Road Transport Association, Mr. Umberto de Pretto, the following topics have been discussed:

1. The latest updates on the coordination with the external authorities in all TIR area.
2. IRU alternative energy call to governments.
3. IRU Position on accelerating the decarbonization of road transport through the faster uptake of alternative fuels.
4. IRU Position on the need for a global framework on the governance of transport data.
5. New corridors in the Arab Region.





## ICC Syria International & Professional Trainings



ICC Syria starts providing the international training on “**Incoterms®2020**” developed by the International Chamber of Commerce Paris, which entered into force on 1 January 2020 and the training on Introduction to **Documentary Credits** & ICC Uniform Customs and Practice 2007 revision (**UCP600**).

In addition to Professional Trainings on **Effective Administrative & Communication Skills for Business** and **Customer Service**.

The trainings designed for businessmen/women, managers in the sectors of banking, insurance, transport companies as well as owners of import, export and customs clearance companies, moreover, to the participation of experts from various private and governmental sectors.

For More Information, Kindly scan the QR Code of ICC Syria Training Brochure.



### ICC Academy



The ICC Academy is incorporated in Singapore and It is a subsidiary of ICC Paris.

The Academy is advertised on the ICC Paris website.

The courses offered are specialist courses recognized globally by the most important authorities and institutions in the business world.

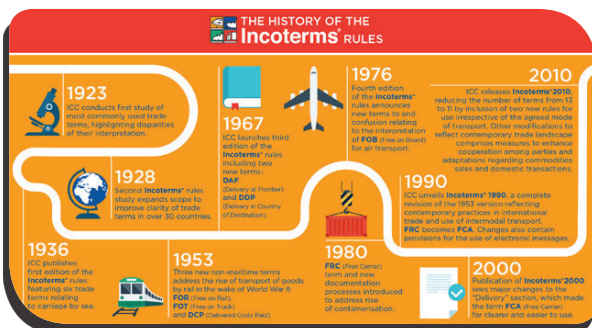
National Committees are encouraging people to register in the Academy.



## ICC Syria Active Commissions

ICC commissions are specialized working bodies composed of business experts nominated by ICC national committees that examine major issues of practical concern to world business and that work together to address cross-cutting subjects. They prepare policy products, including statements to inform and shape intergovernmental discussions and resulting policy, as well as rules and codes to facilitate international business transactions.

1. Arbitration and ADR Commission
2. Banking Commission
3. Commercial Law and Practice Commission
4. Intellectual Property Commission
5. Environment & Energy Commission
6. Digital Economy Commission
7. Insurance Commission



## Junior Chamber International Syria (JCI Syria) Activities 2024



### National Level:



- JCI Syria under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism held the 2024 First Annual General Assembly meeting in Damascus.
- The event included a splendid opening Ceremony in a traditional Khan, the GA meeting in the National Museum of Damascus with a cultural atmosphere and debate and public speaking.

### International Level:



- JCI Syria attended the AME presidents meeting in Grand-Bassam.

JCI Syria for the second year was present in the JCI Rise Academy in parallel to the NPM.



- JCI Syria won 4 awards at the JCI 2024 Africa and Middle East Conference. Additionally, 11 star members and 2 Star Presidents completed the Program and were certified during the closing ceremony.



- Two representatives from JCI Syria graduated from the 26th Africa and the Middle East Leadership Academy also participating as first timers.

JCI Syria's 2024 NSG has actively participated in the 2024 JCI Academy in Fukui/ Japan.

## Ten Outstanding Young Persons International Competition: (TOYP)

JCI Syria nominee Mouhamad Kawas won the TOYP Top 10 for the Business Economics and/or Entrepreneur Accomplishment.



## ICC-NC Star Award for ICC Syria ICC Week in Paris, 17 - 20 June 2025

The Syrian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC Syria) participated in the ICC Week in Paris presented by ICC Syria Chair, Board Member/Head of Insurance Commission and the Administrative Consultant/International Affairs Coordinator, joining over 100 delegations from 170 national committees across the globe.

Proudly ICC Syria received the prestigious ICC-NC Star Award 2024, as one of 10 awarded out of 170 national committees, to recognize the outstanding efforts by ICC Syria in support of the Syrian private sector during the past years, and still continuing advocating the private sector interests regionally and globally.

This recognition reflects ICC Syria team's successful execution of ICC mission (Making Business Work for Everyone, Every Day and Everywhere).

We thank the ICC HQ directory and team, and we pledge to continue our shared mission.





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Dispute Resolution Service



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Speed through customs with  
**your passport for goods**



**WORLD  
CHAMBERS  
NETWORK<sup>®</sup>**



**ICC Commercial Crime Services**  
Helping business stay in business



**International Maritime Bureau (IMB)**



**Imb Piracy Reporting Center**



**Financial Investigation Bureau (FIB)**



**Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau (CIB)**



**Fraudnet**

ICC Initiative:

**BASCAP**

Business action to stop  
Counterfeiting and Piracy

**BASIS**

Business action to stop  
the information Society



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