

**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LDCs OIC MEMBER STATES**

SUBMITTED BY

**THE ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF TRADE**

TO THE

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➤ ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LDCs OIC MEMBER STATES.

I. Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Programme of ICDT in Favour of the OIC Least Developed Countries.

II. Technical Assistance Programme of ICDT for Central Asian Countries.

III. ICDT's Activities in favour of the Least Developed Countries.

I. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME OF ICDT IN FAVOUR OF THE OIC LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES:

Further to the instructions of His Excellency Prof Dr. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to ICDDT and to the other subsidiary organs, specialised and affiliated institutions, n° OIC/ECO-04/21/2006/000179 dated 17th January 2006, relating to the implementation of resolution n° 2/32-E adopted by the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen in June 2005;

And in implementation of resolution n° 2/32 of the 32nd ICFM held in Sana'a in the Republic of Yemen, which called for the setting up of an intergovernmental group of experts to draw up a work programme in favour of the LDCs, the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) organised OIC Intergovernmental Group of Experts to draw up a work programme in favour of the LDCs in Jeddah on 6 and 7 March 2006, it was attended by ICDDT and other OIC subsidiary and specialised institutions.

On this occasion, ICDDT submitted a technical assistance and capacity building programme for the benefit of the OIC Least Developed Countries, which was unanimously adopted.

This programme was broken down according to the areas of competence of ICDDT, namely, trade information, and the assistance of Trade Promotion Centres and Trade Points; assistance in the organisation of fairs and exhibitions, in International Trade Negotiations (WTO, PRETAS) and in training in international Trade.

A/ TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN FAVOUR OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES:

1- Trade Information and Assistance to the Trade Promotion Centres and Trade Points:

ICDDT's programmes concern the following fields:

- Setting up of trade information systems:

ICDDT has a long experience in the field of trade information systems and the development of web sites along with related software. Likewise ICDDT is very experienced in technical assistance in this field (experience with the Republic of Guinea and the Embassies of the OIC Member States).

With respect to the projects linked to the creation or development of trade promotion centres and the setting up of trade information systems, the Centre has been able to identify the required skills; it has also drawn up the terms of reference and supervised the studies and the implementation of these projects in the event the required financing is provided.

- Supply of trade and investment related information, studies and documents:

With respect to trade information and the exchange of ICDDT's documents and publications, which fall within the normal field of the Centre's activities, the related services are free of charge.

ICDDT's answers relating to all requests for information or requests for market studies and products and services are free of charge. Besides, several databases may be consulted on line on ICDDT's web site.

- **Organisation of seminars in the field of information systems:**

The expenses of the LDCs' participants in the meetings of the TINIC's Focal Points and in training seminars in the field of trade information are partially or totally borne in the event of external financing.

- **Technical assistance** to Member States for the development of national export promotion strategies as well as the establishment of required regulations and institutions; including the inception of trade promotion organs and the setting up of trade databases;

We would like to point out that this last part of the ICDT's programme in favour of the LDCs is provided at the request of the Member States and in close collaboration with IDB.

2. Assistance in the Organisation of Fairs and Exhibitions and Shows:

In the field of assistance in the organisation of fairs and shows, ICDT is planning to focus its programme on three fields:

❖ **Training in the techniques of fairs and shows:**

This field may either take the shape of a national seminar intended for LDCs, which request it or of a regional seminar involving several countries at the same time.

❖ **Assistance in the technical organisation of fairs and exhibitions:**

Assistance in this field is provided on a case by case basis at the request of a Member State.

❖ **Promotion of fairs and shows organised in the LDCs:**

This promotion is automatically performed by ICDT, which publishes on a regular basis the list of fairs and shows organised in the OIC Member States on its web site (www.icdt-oic.org) and in its publications (Tijaris).

❖ **Funds are sought to finance participation in the fairs and shows organised by ICDT:**

ICDT has always obtained from the countries which host the trade fair of Islamic Countries and specialised exhibitions, an equipped exhibition area of 9 square meters free of charge for the benefit of the LDCs. Likewise, it has always solicited IDB to bear the expenses of transport and board and lodging of the representatives of the LDCs in the trade Fairs of Islamic Countries and specialised exhibitions. These facilities are always consolidated and regulated in the MOU that is signed between ICDT and the organising country of the fair.

❖ **Fundraising to contribute to the financing of the participation of the most performing SMEs in all the OIC Countries, including the LDCs by insisting on the exhibition of high technology and national value added products.**

3. Assistance in Trade Negotiations:

✓ **Assistance in intra-OIC negotiations:**

The main function of the Framework Agreement establishing a Trade Preferential System between the OIC Member States (TPS/OIC), which came into force in 2002, is to serve as an evolutive and flexible framework for the exchange of trade concessions between the OIC Member States. It constitutes a basic instrument to promote trade and enhance the welfare (production and employment) in all Member States.

Up to date, out of the 31 countries, which have signed the framework Agreement TPS/OIC 16 are LDCs: People's Republic of Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Republic of Benin, Union of the Comoros, Republic of Djibouti, Republic of the Gambia, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Guinea Bissau, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Republic of Niger Republic of

Uganda, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Sierra Leone, Republic of Somalia, Republic of Sudan and Republic of Chad.

In order to achieve developmental objectives, balance trade and enhance the welfare of Islamic countries, the framework agreement has laid down a number of basic principles, which should guide negotiations;

- Reciprocity of advantages and non-discrimination;
- Discrepancies between the developmental levels of Member States should be taken into consideration;
- Reduction of tariff, para-tariff and tariff obstacles;
- TPS/OIC must be revised and appraised periodically in order to broaden its scope of implementation and improve its functioning;
- Conformity with the present and future commitments of Member States at international, inter-regional and regional levels.

- TPS/OIC AND THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES:

The OIC Member States are much diversified at the level of their production and export structures as well as at the level of their economic development degree. In order to ensure a fair distribution of the costs and advantages of the trade liberalisation process between the OIC countries, the framework agreement explicitly champions the principle of granting a special and differential treatment to the Least Developed Countries.

- The provisions of TPS/OIC relating to this issue:

Several passages of this agreement stipulate clearly:

- The necessity of ensuring a balanced distribution and the mutuality of advantages to all participants; (article 2 paragraph 2);
- Discrepancies in economic development level between contracting States should be taken into consideration;
- The special needs of the Least Developed Member Countries should be taken into consideration by granting special concessions in the course of negotiations (Article 11)

The annex III on the rules of origin contains a concrete measure, which takes into account the industrialisation level of the Least developed Countries under the form of a margin of 10 percentage points, in the field of the rules of Origin in comparison with the standards provided for by the other Participating States; which means that products originating in the Least Developed Countries and not cumulated can contain up to 70% of inputs coming from non-Islamic countries.

The framework agreement stipulates that the LDCs are the OIC Member States listed as such by the UN, unless otherwise decided by the COMCEC.

The general principles and objectives inherent to the Least Developed Countries contained in the framework agreement became operational during the first round of multilateral trade negotiations of the TPS/OIC held in Turkey and which adopted the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for the TPS/OIC (PRETAS).

- STATUS OF THE LDCs IN THE PROTOCOL ON THE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF SCHEME FOR THE TPS/OIC (PRETAS):

The PRETAS is only an additional protocol to the TPS/OIC Agreement, which remains the reference for all the issues, which are not expressly examined by the PRETAS. Therefore, this protocol, which records the outcomes of negotiations, shall be signed and ratified by Participating States only.

In implementation of the general principles contained in the TPS/OIC Agreement, the Participating States in the first Round of trade negotiations have duly taken into account the particular situation of the LDCs; thus the Republic of Turkey has not only borne the expenses of transport and board and lodging of these delegates from the LDCs, but above all negotiators have adopted for the LDCs special measures such as:

- The Least Developed Countries shall be given a three year grace period for the tariff reduction on products covered by the PRETAS, as of the date of implementation.

Tariff reduction programme:

1. *The normal track of tariff reduction:* The implementation period shall be divided into six instalments by the Least Developed Countries and into four annual instalments by the other countries, beginning from the date of coming into force of the PRETAS.

2. *Voluntary Fast Track Tariff Reduction Schedule:* The negative list could reach 30% of all HS tariff lines for LDCs.

The reduction of the preferential margin shall be made as follows:

- Margin of preference shall be increased to 50% of the MFN rate in five instalments for Developing Countries, while the LDCs shall implement the programme in seven instalments beginning from the ninetieth day of entry into force of this protocol.
- Developing countries must grant a preferential treatment to LDCs that will join the fast track process by increasing the margin of preference to 50% for the products of the LDCs in three instalments.

➤ Abolition of Non-Tariff barriers:

Participating States must remove their para-tariff and their non-tariff barriers on products submitted to reduction over a two year period and four years for the LDCs.

B/ ASSISTANCE IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MTN):

ICDT has initiated since a decade a technical assistance to the Least Developed Countries in the field of MTN, this assistance consists of:

1. Training seminars for the benefit of the executives of Member States;
2. Notes and studies on the MTN;
3. Technical assistance on request to extend assistance to the LDCs in their accession process to the WTO;
4. Assistance on request in the preparations of negotiations.

Training in the field of International Trade:

Training programmes may be further developed by involving much more the existing institutions within Member States. These programmes may be developed at several levels, but priority could be given to the training of trainers. The following fields constitute options which could possibly be chosen:

- Electronic commerce;
- Intellectual property;
- The new access techniques to trade information;
- The techniques of international marketing;
- The utilisation of econometric patterns in the field of international trade in the assessment of the impact of trade measures;
- The new regulations in the field of quality standards;
- The WTO Agreements and the issue relating to their implementation at national level.

➤ Competition policies.

Likewise, special attention will be given to the participation of the LDCs in all the seminars and workshops that will be organised by ICDT in implementation of the “Ten Year Programme to meet the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21st century”, particularly, in the following programmes:

a) Training Workshops in International trade in the OIC Member States in partnership with IDB:

Within the framework of capacity building of Member States’ human resources, the Centre will continue the organisation of training workshops in collaboration with the IDB Group.

TRAINING TOPICS	YEAR
African Halal Business Forum	Dakar, 3-5 March 2016
Seminar on the Outcome of WTO 10 th Ministerial Conference and Accession to the Trade Facilitation Agreement Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco	Casablanca, 25 February 2016
Seminar on the impact of the TPS/OIC on the African countries	Casablanca, 28-30 March 2016
Training Workshop on the TPS/OIC for the benefit of executives of the state of Palestine and Jordan	Amman, 4-5 April 2016
Regional Workshop on online Marketing	Casablanca, February 2014 Dakar, February 2015 Amman, 18-21 April 2016 Conakry, 2-6 April 2017 Libreville, 2018
Seminar on Export Auditing and SMEs Competitive Capacities	Casablanca, 16-19 May 2016 Bahrain or S. Arabia 2017
2 nd Forum of the OIC Trade Promotion Organs (TPOs)	Riyadh, 23 May 2016 Kuwait, February 2018
Forum of the OIC Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs)	Riyadh, 24 May 2016 Kuwait, February 2018
Regional Seminar on “The Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Prospects of Activating The OIC Single Window” for the benefit of the Member States of the African Countries	Casablanca , 30 May-01 June 2016 Dubai, 16-18 April 2017
Training Seminar on Industrial Property and Manufacturing Contract	Casablanca, 20-22 December 2016
Seminar on "Reforming the International Governance of Regional Investment"	Casablanca, January 2016 Casablanca 23-26 January 2017
Workshop on "Mechanisms for Settlement of Trade and Investment Disputes among the OIC Member States"	Casablanca, 20 - 21 February 2017
Workshop on Trade in Services in the OIC Countries	Casablanca, 22-24 March 2017,
Workshop on the operationalization of Single Window modalities of the OIC countries and the impact of the Brexit on the economies of the OIC Member States	Dubai / Abu Dhabi, 18-19 April 2017,
Workshop on the preparation of the 11 th WTO Ministerial Conference: An African Perspective	Casablanca-Kingdom of Morocco, 17-19 July 2017
Training Workshop on the “Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS OIC)	Jakarta - Republic of Indonesia, 13-14 September 2017
3 rd Forum of the African and Arab TPOs of the OIC Countries	Casablanca, 11-12 October 2017
Workshop on “Identifying Non-Tariff Barriers among the OIC Member States”	Rabat- Kingdom of Morocco, 24-25 October 2017
Regional Training Workshop on Export Strategies for Primo-Exporters of OIC Member States	Girne, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), 5 - 7 December 2017
High level Expert Meeting on Investment: obstacles in Africa: challenges and opportunities	Casablanca-Kingdom of Morocco, 24-25 January 2018

b) Sector-based seminars on “Trade in specific products in the OIC Member States” for the benefit of the private sector in partnership with ITC and IDB:

These seminars will be concomitantly held with specialised trade exhibitions of regional fairs and buyers/sellers Meetings that will be organised by ICDT.

PRODUCTS	YEAR	
Tourism	Istanbul	2005
	Sharjah	8-10 December 2015
	Tabriz	22-25 April 2018
	Cairo	October 2018
Building materials	Dakar	24-27 June 2010
	Abidjan	2018
Clothing industry (design and ready-made garments Industry etc...)	Ouagadougou	21-25 September 2011
	Iran	22-25 April 2018
Pharmaceutical products and medical material	Tunis	1-4 March 2012
	Dakar	26-29 June 2014
	Casablanca	24-27 March 2016
	Abidjan	3-4 November 2017 2018
Halal Products	Sharjah	10-12 December 2012 16-18 December 2013 8-10 December 2014 8-10 December 2015
	Istanbul	23-26 November 2017 29 Nov-2 Dec 2018
African Halal Business Forum	Dakar	14-16 November 2013 3-5 March 2016 Oct 2018
	Casablanca	11-14 April 2013
Light Handicraft Products	Madina Munawwara	2017
	Tehran	2018
Muslim Business Services		27-30 October 2015
		18-22 October 2016
	Kuala Lumpur	18-21 September 2017
		17-20 September 2018
Agro-food		13-16 May 2013
		13-16 April 2014
	Jeddah	13-16 April 2015
		9-12 May 2016
		23-26 April 2017
		20-23 March 2018
Furniture	Sharjah	11-14 May 2014
	Jeddah	13-16 March 2018
Higher Education Services of the OIC Member States	Lefkosa	25-28 September 2014
	Dakar	9-12 May 2016
	Casablanca	26-29 April 2018
Organic and Local Products of the OIC Member States	Tunis	28 October -1 st November 2015
Green Economy	Dakar	26-29 October 2017
OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo	Dakar	May 2018
Solidarity and social economy	Abidjan	28 September-7 October 2018
Logistics and Transportation	Rabat	25-27 April 2018

STUDIES:

ICDT will continue to work out sector based studies on products and services with trading potential at the request of the OIC Member States and the LDCs in particular.

Implementation and Steering of National, Sub-Regional and Regional Projects at the request of the OIC Member States and the LDCs in particular, through seeking funds.

C/ FINANCING OF THE PROGRAMME:

Except for the special account in favour of the LDCs and the unit, which manages technical assistance within IDB (Technical Cooperation Office), technical assistance in the economic and commercial field is not structured within the OIC and is not provided with an adequate framework.

The OIC community (Member States and institutions of the OIC) may partly meet the needs in technical expertise of the OIC LDCs, yet the problem of the fragmented and scattered nature of this assistance (duplication of some programmes, lack of coordination and knowledge of the programmes and procedures in order to benefit from them), as well as the financing problem may hamper the efforts deployed in this field.

Accordingly, technical assistance should be reorganised and a framework should be defined so as to become a developmental instrument. Therefore, an OIC integrated framework of technical assistance should be set up in favour of the LDCs.

Towards this end, ICDT recommends the adoption of the following measures:

- To create a Common Fund for Technical Assistance whose management may be entrusted to IDB.

This fund may be financed by public and /or private donations of Member States, as well as by voluntary contributions of Islamic and International Institutions.

- To appoint an executing agent of technical assistance. ICDT is ready to play the role of technical executing agent of the technical assistance programmes which fall under its attributions as it has done so far.

II. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME OF ICDT IN FAVOUR OF THE OIC CENTRAL ASIA MEMBER STATES:

Further to the Verbal Note of the OIC General Secretariat n° OIC/CAB-01/2010/004046 dated 14th June 2010, relating to the implementation of resolution n° 42/37-POL adopted by the 37th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan;

Recalling, the resolution n° 42/37-POL on “*Central Asia and the Muslim World: Strategic Vision for Solidarity*”, adopted by the 37th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan;

Recalling the provisions of the Declaration of the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 6th and 7th Zul Qaida 1426 (7-8 December 2005) and of the Ten Year Programme of Action of the OIC aiming at meeting the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century;

Taking into consideration the provisions of the “*Executive Programme of the Road-MAP for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets*” adopted by the 2nd to 7th Meetings of the “*Consultative Group for enhancing intra-OIC trade*”, held in Casablanca in Marrakesh and following the outcomes of the 1st Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions held in Jeddah in December 2015 and the 1st Meeting of the Trade and Investment Subcommittee held in Marrakesh in March 2016.

ICDT has drawn up guidelines for future cooperation between ICDC and the OIC Central Asia Member States.

SECTION I :

SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CENTRAL ASIA COUNTRIES

I. TRADE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE OF THE TRADE PROMOTION CENTRES AND TRADE POINTS:

1. ICDC's programmes in this field concern the following fields:

- **Setting up of trade information systems:** ICDC has a long experience in the field of trade information systems and the development of web sites along with related software. Likewise ICDC is very experienced in technical assistance in this field (experience with the Republic of Guinea and Senegal and the Embassies of the OIC Member States).

With respect to the projects linked to the creation or development of trade promotion centres and the setting up of trade information systems, the Centre has been able to identify the required skills; it has also drawn up the terms of reference and supervised the studies and the implementation of these projects in the event the required financing is provided.

2. Supply of trade and investment related information: studies and documents. With respect to trade information and the exchange of ICDC's documents and publications, which fall within the normal field of the Centre's activities, the related services are free of charge.

ICDC's answers relating to all requests for information or requests for market studies and products and services are free of charge. Besides, several databases may be consulted on

line on ICDT's web site.

3. Organisation of seminars in the field of information systems: The expenses of the Central Asia Countries' participants in the meetings of the TINIC's Focal Points and in training seminars in the field of trade information could be partially or totally borne in case of special funding from IDB Group.

4. Technical assistance to Central Asia Countries for the development of national export promotion strategies as well as the establishment of required regulations and institutions; including the inception of trade promotion organs and the setting up of trade databases. We would like to point out that this last part of the ICDT's programme in favour of the Central Asia Countries is provided at the request of the Member States and in close collaboration with IDB Group.

In this regard, ICDT and the Export Promotion Office of Kazakhstan (KAZNEX) signed on June 2011 an MOU of cooperation which could be a model for the other Central Asia Countries.

II. ASSISTANCE IN THE ORGANISATION OF FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS AND FORUMS:

Within the framework of the technical assistance in the organization of exhibitions, ICDT organized between 2015 and 2017 the following activities:

- **6th Edition of the "Muslim World Biz":** Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia, 27-30 October 2015.

Within the framework of their common program of assistance to OIC Member Countries aiming at promoting trade and investments among them, Company OIC/Malaysia International Business Centre and the ICDT organized the 6th Muslim World Biz in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 27th to 30th October 2015.

This Exhibition and Forum which were held under the high patronage of the Malaysian Authorities, has recorded the participation of Officials, Experts, Businessmen, Universities as well as Regional Organizations from 30 Countries. The program of the Forum included the 6th Muslim World Biz Exhibition; the Round Table Talk of Businessmen and Personalities from the Islamic Ummah; 3 thematic Conferences and Forums which are the OIC/Asia Economic and Trade Forum, the Conference of Higher Education Services of Islamic Countries and the Conference on Islamic Tourism; the Ceremony of Jewels of Muslim World dedicated to award the Personalities of the Islamic Ummah.

Around 400 companies from 30 Countries have participated in this Forum, among which the following OIC Member Countries: Malaysia, Turkey, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Senegal, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Brunei Darussalam, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Indonesia.

During the OIC/Asia Economic and Trade Forum, ICDT actively participated in the panel dedicated to the challenges in the Islamic World by presenting the economic and trade potential in the OIC Region as well as the obstacles faced by the OIC Economic Operators. During the 6th session of this Forum which was dedicated to the importance of Cross Border Trade to Alleviate Poverty in Islamic Countries, the Centre also made a presentation entitled "Intra-Trade flows among Asian Countries and other OIC Member States: Current Status and Main Challenges".

- **Other activities within the framework of the assistance in the organization of Fairs and Exhibitions:**

- ✓ **Training in the techniques of fairs and exhibitions (on request):**

This field may either take the shape of a national seminar intended for Central Asia Countries, which request it or of a regional seminar involving several countries at the same time.

- ✓ **Assistance in the technical organisation of fairs and exhibitions (on request):**

Assistance in this field is provided on a case by case basis at the request of a Member State.

- ✓ **Promotion of fairs and exhibitions organised in the Central Asia Countries:**

This promotion is automatically performed by ICDT, which publishes it on a regular basis in the list of fairs and shows organised in the OIC Member States on its web site (www.icdt-oic.org) and in its publications.

- **7th Muslim World Biz**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18th – 22nd October 2016:

The Malaysian Company "OIC International Business Center" and the ICDT organized the "7th Muslim World Biz", from 18th to 22nd October 2016 at the Exhibition Center "Putra World Trade Centre" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

This important Business Forum, which were held under the high patronage of His Excellency YAB Dato' Sri Mohamad Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak - Prime Minister of Malaysia, has recorded the participation of Officials, Experts, Businessmen, Universities and Regional Organizations of Muslim countries coming from more than 30 countries.

The program of the Forum included the 7th Muslim World Biz Exhibition; Roundtable Talks of Businessmen and Personalities from the Islamic World; four thematic meetings which are: the OIC/ASIA Trade and Economic Forum, the Conference on Higher Education Services of Islamic Countries, the Conference on Islamic Tourism and the Conference on Medical Tourism. On this occasion, the Prize "Jewels of Muslim World" was awarded to several personalities of the Islamic World.

About 500 companies from more than 30 countries have participated to this Forum as well as 15,000 visitors and Businessmen. ICDT as co-organizer of this event has actively participated in the deliberations of the various above-mentioned meetings. During the OIC/ASIA Trade and Economic Forum, the Centre made a presentation on Trade between Asian and other OIC countries and the Intra-OIC Trade Facilitation Tools among which the TPS/OIC Agreement and its protocols.

- **8th "Muslim World Biz"**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-21 September 2017:

Within the framework of the common program of assistance to OIC Member States aiming at promoting trade and investments among them, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Malaysian Company "OIC International Business Center" will organize the 8th Muslim World Biz, from 18th to 21st September 2017 at the Exhibition Center "Putra World Trade Centre" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

To surround this event with all the conditions of success, the ICDT and OIC International Business Centre (OICBC), held the first coordination meeting on the organization of this event on 19 January 2017 in Rabat, which was devoted to the organizational arrangements and the participation of the Member States and to the promotion of this event at the 15th Meeting of Economic Advisers to the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to

the Kingdom of Morocco, organized by the Center on 19 January 2017 in Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco.

The 9th Edition will be held in Kuala Lumpur on 17-20 September 2018.

- **5th Exhibition of Halal Products of the OIC Member States**, Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, 23-25 November 2017:

In pursuance of resolutions adopted by the 32nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), held from 21st to 24th November 2016 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, and following the success of previous editions held in Sharjah - State of the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC), organize in collaboration with «Discover Events», the 5th Exhibition of Halal Products of the OIC Member States, from 23 to 25 November 2017, at the «Istanbul Lutfi Kirdar International Congress and Convention Centre» - Republic of Turkey.

To ensure success in this event, ICDT and SMIIC held four coordination meetings dedicated to the organizational arrangements, participation and promotion of this Fair among the Member States.

The 3rd coordination meeting held between the two parties on 7 November 2016 at the headquarters of the ICDT in Casablanca was crowned by the signing of the MOU concerning the organization of this exhibition and the 4th was held on 18 January 2017 at the ICDT headquarters in Casablanca and was dedicated to the elaboration of the marketing plan for the promotion of the exhibition among the economic operators of the OIC Member States.

The next edition will be held in Istanbul on 29 November-2 December 2018.

III. ASSISTANCE IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS:

A/ ASSISTANCE IN INTRA-OIC NEGOTIATIONS:

The main function of the Framework Agreement establishing a Trade Preferential System between the OIC Member States (TPS/OIC), PRETAS, Rules of Origin which came into force respectively in 2002, February 2010 and August 2011, is to serve as an evolutive and flexible framework for the exchange of trade concessions between the OIC Member States. It constitutes a basic instrument to promote trade and enhance the welfare (production and employment) in all Member States and alleviate trade barriers. In this context we can observe that Central Asian Countries are absent from the framework Agreement on TPS/OIC.

In this regards, ICDT, in its capacity as member of the TNC Secretariat, will organise a sensitizing seminar on TPS/OIC Agreement and PRETAS and Rules of Origin Protocols in order to expedite the process of ratification of these agreements by Central Asia Countries.

B/ ASSISTANCE IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MTN):

The number of the OIC Member States that have applied for accession to the WTO is estimated at **10**, among them 2 are from Central Asia: Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. Afghanistan and Kazakhstan are Member of WTO.

ICDT has initiated since a decade a technical assistance to the OIC Countries in the field of MTN, this assistance consists of:

1. Training seminars for the benefit of the executives of Member States;
2. Notes and studies on the MTN;
3. Technical assistance on request to extend assistance to the Central Asia Countries in their accession process to the WTO;
4. Assistance on request in the preparations of negotiations.

IV. TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE:

Training programmes may be further developed by involving much more the Central Asia Countries. These programmes may be developed at several levels, but priority could be given to the training of trainers. The following fields constitute options which could possibly be chosen:

- *Trade facilitation*
- *The WTO Agreements and the issue relating to their implementation at national level*
- *Electronic commerce and the new access techniques to trade information*
- *Intellectual property*
- *Competition policy*
- *International marketing*
- *The utilisation of econometric patterns in the field of international trade in the assessment of the impact of trade measures.*

SECTION II :

PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION:

- To draw up a joint plan of action for medium term cooperation, that is susceptible to be revised or amended;
- To give priority to the activities already planned by OIC institutions within the framework of “Executive Programme of the Road-MAP for achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets”.
- To lay stress on the strategic sectors and products with high intra-OIC trade potential, by adopting a scientific methodology in the choice of programmes;
- To adopt annual integrated programmes (sector based) encompassing several fields including market studies, sector based fairs, buyers/sellers meetings and trade facilitation measures.
- To strive to choose activities that would meet as far as possible the needs of the private sector in Member States;
- To give priority to the participation of the economic operators and the private sector in joint actions.

FINANCING OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

- a) The parties shall achieve cooperation in the above mentioned areas through either one or a combination of several of the following elements: exchange of information, joint needs assessment and programme design, joint fund-raising and implementation of technical cooperation projects/ programmes using the ICDDT's technical expertise in these fields.
- b) Fund raising efforts may include approaches to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Multilateral Financing Institutions (such as the Islamic Development Bank Group, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, etc.) and Donors at country level.
- c) The ICDDT, in its capacity as the Executing Agency of the OIC in the field of intra-OIC Trade and Investment Development, may contribute to implement projects and activities in the above mentioned areas of cooperation under the terms specified in the project agreements to be concluded between the ICDDT, the relevant focal points in central Asia Countries and the concerned sponsors.
- d) ICDDT's role may be also to formulate and draw up Terms of Reference of projects for submission for financing to appropriate funding Institutions and/or donors.

ICDDT recommends the adoption of the following measures:

- To create a Common Fund for Technical Assistance whose management may be entrusted to IDB.
- This fund may be financed by public and /or private donations of Member States, as well as by voluntary contributions of Islamic and International Institutions.
- To appoint an executing agent of technical assistance. ICDDT is ready to play the role of technical executing agent of the programmes of technical assistance which fall under its attributions as it has done so far.

III. ICDT'S ACTIVITIES IN FAVOUR OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE OIC:

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation has always given a particular attention to the Least Developed Countries, which represent about 40% of its Member States.

The relevant resolutions of the various OIC bodies and meetings (Summit Conferences, Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation-COMCEC) always devoted a package of special resolutions to this country group, whose difficult situation is often worsened by natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, drought etc) by civil wars and social problems or by their geographical location (landlocked countries, arid or semiarid countries etc.).

Likewise, the programmes adopted by Specialised Institutions, Affiliated Institutions and Subsidiary Organs, in pursuance of such resolutions reflect also the great awareness of the situation of these countries, which have always been supported and helped by Member States, either at individual level (efforts made at bilateral level by some Member States with a view to bringing a technical, financial, and food aid etc...) or at multilateral level thanks to the funds and programmes set up by the OIC system.

The most active institutions at economic and commercial level are:

- The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB)¹ Jeddah
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)² Ankara
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Karachi.
- Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), Dacca.

I/ICDT'S ACTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LDCS IN 2014/2016:

Like the other OIC institutions, ICDT pays special attention to the needs of LDCs, the support of the OICDT is noticeable through several programs including in the following areas:

1. Training Seminars:

Between **2015** and **2017**, the ICDT supported the participation costs (accommodation and transport) of the OIC LDCs in the seminars and workshops below:

- **Training Workshop in Research and web-marketing:** 16-21 February 2015, Dakar Republic of Senegal.

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized from 16th to 21st February 2015 under the auspices of the Ministry of Trade, Informal Sector, Consumption, Promotion of Local Products and SMEs of the Republic of Senegal, a "Training Workshop in Research and Web-Marketing".

This Workshop was firstly aimed at extending assistance to the Heads of Senegalese SMEs in the design of their website and marketing their products and services online and secondly, at providing them with the necessary tools likely to familiarize them with online

¹ IDB has opened a special account in favour of the Least Developed countries, as approved by the board of Governors of IDB at its seventh annual meeting held in Tehran in November 1992.

² This institution issues on a regular basis a special report on the Least Developed Member and landlocked Countries.

marketing strategies.

Thirty women head of Enterprises from different regions of Senegal benefited from this training, which was moderated by the ICDT'S Experts.

The closing ceremony of this workshop was chaired by H.E Mr. Alioune Sarr - Minister of Trade, Informal Sector, Consumption, Promotion of Local Products and SMEs of the Republic of Senegal. Taking the floor he welcomed on this occasion the initiative of ICDT to organize this workshop in his country and urged to further enhance and promote e-commerce.

- **Regional Seminar on "The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Prospects of Activating The OIC Single Window" for the benefit of the Member States of the African Countries**, Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco, 30 May-01 June 2016.

Context:

Within the framework of the implementation of technical assistance to the OIC Member States on WTO issues, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Department of Cooperation and Integration of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) organized in collaboration with the Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco a Regional Seminar on "WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and prospects for operationalization of OIC Single Windows for the benefit of the OIC African Member States" from 30 May to 1 June 2016 in Casablanca, Morocco.

Objective:

The objective of this seminar is to sensitize the public and private sectors of OIC Member States of the importance of the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and its impact on the development of foreign trade among Member States on the one hand, and to share experiences and best practices regarding the implementation of national trade facilitation programs on the other, in particular the establishment and the strengthening of national Single Windows of Foreign Trade and the interoperability between those Single Windows.

Participants:

The following countries took part in this seminar: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sudan, Togo and Tunisia.

The following international organizations also participated namely: the ICDT, the IDB (Department of Cooperation and Integration), the African Alliance for Electronic Commerce (AAEC), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Regional Office of the Economic Commission for Africa (Rabat).

Axes of the Seminar:

The experts presented the following topics:

- Overview of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- Implementation of the WTO TFA;
- Other regional and international tools for trade facilitation;
- National experiences of the implementation of WTO TFA (Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Mali, Egypt, Tunisia, Burkina Faso);
- Creation measures of a National Single Windows (national experience: Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Cameroon, Senegal, Mali);
- The role of regional and international organizations in assisting the implementation of national and regional Single Windows;

- The cooperation between the customs authorities in facilitating cross-border procedures.

After the presentations, participants asked questions on the process of ratification of the Protocol of Amendment of the TFA, the notifications of Categories A, B and C, the ways and means to develop the technical assistance projects, the impact of TFA on national economies, those responsible for the implementation of the Agreement, the involvement and support of the industry in the implementation of TFA and the rising awareness at national and regional level.

Recommendations:

After a fruitful discussion, the participants proposed the following recommendations:

- **WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement**

- Organise a meeting of Customs administrations of the OIC countries;
- Duplicate the organization of regional awareness raising seminars on WTO TFA to accelerate the ratification of its protocol of amendment;
- Organize a regional sensitization seminar for the benefit of Employer's Federations of OIC countries in order to assist companies in understanding and showing compliance with regulatory and procedural requirements of cross-border business operations;
- Establish an OIC task force of the National Trade Facilitation Committees to contribute to the development of intra-OIC trade.

- **Single Window of Foreign Trade:**

- Implement a program of technical assistance and sharing of experience in the creation of Single Windows between the developed countries of the OIC and other Member States;
- Encourage countries to establish national single windows with a vision of regional cooperation in collaboration with the OIC institutions, ITC, WCO, AAEC and other development partners (World Bank, ADB, BADEA) and other institutions such as WAEMU, ECOWAS, CEMAC, COMESA... to take into account the requirements arising from the WTO Agreement as well as regulatory barriers in transport and logistics services;
- Initiate a pilot project of interoperability of national Single Windows with the countries that have already ratified the SPC-OIC Agreement and conduct its extension to a second phase with other Member States;
- Request from the participating Member States to fill the Single Windows questionnaire and to send it back to ICDDT for the preparation of an assessment report in terms of technical assistance requirements.

Organizers distributed to all participants Certificates and CD's containing the presentations of the experts.

- **5th Edition of the International Conference on Single Windows**, Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco, 5-7 September 2016:

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty Mohamed the Sixth, May God assist Him, the Ministry of Equipment, Transport and logistics and the Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade, in partnership with the National Single Window of Foreign Trade "PORTNET", the National Ports Agency and the African Alliance for Electronic Commerce, organized the fifth edition of the International Single Window Conference, from 5th to 7th September

2016 in Marrakech under the theme: “Virtual Single Window Of Foreign Trade: the requirement of an inclusive collaboration”

The Organization of this edition is part of a continuing effort undertaken by all public and private stakeholders in improving the business environment.

These efforts are based on the consideration of the latest trends in facilitation and electronic services, in order to allow a better international trade flow and to improve the competitiveness of enterprises.

More than 33 international and regional organizations, 5 African ministers, 70 distinguished speakers, 40 exhibitors multi sectors, 1000 participants from over 18 countries from all continents attended this major international event of Single Window of Foreign Trade.

This international event brought together the single windows of the following countries: Benin (SEGUB), Cameroon (GUCE), Cote d’Ivoire (GUCE), Congo (GUOT), Ghana (GcNet), Kenya (Kentrade), Madagascar (GasyNet), Morocco (PortNet) and Senegal (GAINDE 2000).

The objectives of the conference were:

- To enhance the quality and efficiency of services provided through the different border crossing points (maritime, aerial and terrestrial);
- To discuss the latest innovative solutions;
- To share experiences and to better coordinate efforts in this area.

The main recommendations of the International Conference on Single Windows are:

- To build a SW impact assessment tool;
- To implement international standards and harmonization;
- To set up a consultation framework for a national dialogue intended for more inclusion between the parties

▪ **Training Seminar on Industrial Property and Agreements of Manufacturing Contracts, Casablanca, 20-22 December 2016:**

ICDT, AIDMO and OMPIC organized a Training Seminar on Industrial Property and Agreements of Manufacturing Contracts for the benefit of the Arab countries in Casablanca from 20 to 22 December 2016.

The objective of the seminar was to raise awareness among the public and private sectors on the importance of attracting investment in the field of innovation. More than 80 participants took part in this event. The Experts presented some national experiences (Morocco, Oman, Kuwait, Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia) on the importance of the TRIPS Agreement and strategies to promote investment in the field of innovation in the Arab countries.

▪ **Workshop on “the mechanisms for settlement of trade and investment disputes among the OIC Member States”, Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco., 20-21 February 2017:**

Within the framework of the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the OIC organs and technical assistance to Member States in the development of trade, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized in collaboration with the International Islamic Center for Reconciliation and Arbitration (IICRA), a workshop on “**the Mechanisms for**

Settlement of Trade and Investment Disputes among the OIC Member States" on 20th and 21st February 2017 in Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco.

Objective :

This workshop aimed to develop cooperation and coordination among the OIC Member States on reconciliation and arbitration mechanisms for the settlement of trade and investment disputes, with an emphasis on the operationalization of provisions for settlement of disputes relating to the relevant agreements of the OIC, including:

- Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among the OIC Member States;
- The General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States;
- The Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States;
- Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS);
- The TPS-OIC Protocol on Rules of Origin.

Participants:

The following countries took part in this seminar: Cameroon, Turkey, Palestine and Morocco. Experts from the following national and international organizations also participated: The International Chamber of Commerce of Morocco (ICC Morocco), The French Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Morocco (CFCIM), The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), The Moroccan Association of Exporters (ASMEX), The World Trade Organization (WTO), The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), The International Islamic Center for Reconciliation and Arbitration (IICRA), The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT).

Axes of the Workshop:

The experts presented the following themes:

- Overview of international trade and investment dispute settlement (WTO, ICDT, UNCITRAL, CFCIM,)
- Status of the Settlement of Trade Disputes in the OIC Countries (ICDT, IICRA, UNCTAD)
- Strategies for the establishment of the Center for Arbitration, Mediation and Dispute Settlement through extra-judicial approach (IICRA, ICC Morocco and TOBB)
- National experiences in the area of settlement of trade and investment disputes (Morocco, Cameroon and Turkey).

2. Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS/OIC):

The Agreement establishing a Trade Preferential System between the OIC Member States (TPS/OIC), prepared by ICDT in consultation with Member States and concerned Islamic institutions, was adopted by the COMCEC and deposited at the headquarters of the OIC for signature and ratification by Member States. The latter were informed and requested to sign and ratify the Agreement.

The main function of TPS/OIC is to serve as an evolutive and flexible framework for the exchange of trade concessions between the OIC Member States. It constitutes a basic instrument to promote trade and enhance the welfare (production and employment) in Member States; provided that non-tariff and Para-tariff obstacles are the favourite means

that are used by Member States to control their foreign trade.

The TPS/OIC agreement was deposited in 1990 at the OIC General Secretariat for signature and ratification, in compliance with article 18 it will come into force after the date of the deposit of the ratification instruments by 10 Member States.

In November 2014, forty One Member States have signed the framework Agreement TPS/OIC: Kingdom of Bahrain, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Chad, Union of the Comoros, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Djibouti, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Gabon, Republic of The Gambia, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Guinea Bissau, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Iraq, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Kuwait, Republic of Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Republic of Maldives, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Niger, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Sultanate of Oman, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State of Palestine, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Sierra Leone, Republic of Somalia, Republic of Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Uganda and State of United Arab Emirates.

Thirty one Member States have ratified it: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Cameroon, Republic of Djibouti, Arab Republic of Egypt, State of the United Arab Emirates, Republic of Gabon, Republic of the Gambia, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Kuwait, Republic of Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Oman, Republic of Uganda, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State of Palestine, State of Qatar, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Tunisia and the Republic of Turkey.

The legal quorum (10 states) required for the entry into force of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferences among Islamic Countries has therefore been exceeded recently, following the ratification of the Republic of Cameroon in September 2002.

18 Member States of the OIC have ratified the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS), these are: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain, People's Republic of Bangladesh, State of the United Arab Emirates, Republic of The Gambia, State of Kuwait, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Kingdom of Morocco, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Sultanate Oman, State of Palestine, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State of Qatar, Republic of Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Turkey.

The PRETAS became effective on 5 February 2010.

32 countries have signed the Rules of Origin of the TPS/OIC, namely Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, United Arab Emirates, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. In addition, **18 countries have ratified**: Bahrain, Bangladesh, UAE, Gambia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria and Turkey. **The Rules of Origin came into force on 9th August 2011.**

To date, the following **14** OIC Member States: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Turkey, Malaysia, Syria, Bangladesh, **Iran**, Pakistan and Jordan

have sent to the TNC Secretariat the List of Products for tariff concessions under the TPS/OIC.

Besides, during the seminar on the rules of origin of the TPS/OIC Agreement organized by the COMCEC Office and Turkey's TOBB in January 2015 in Ankara, it was recommended to the participating countries to update their products' list of concession into an Harmonized System with 8 digits, 2015 Version in order to facilitate the launching of a new round of trade negotiations among the OIC Member Countries.

During the 32nd Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC held in Ankara on 17-18 May 2016, the Committee invited the GCC Secretariat, on behalf of its six Member States and Morocco to convey their updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat with the view to early realization of market access opportunities to brought by the TPS/OIC.

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Morocco and Turkey notified to the TNC Secretariat their internal measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the TPS/OIC Rules of Origin. The Committee welcomed the submission of updated concession lists to the TNC Secretariat by Turkey, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, and Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Committee requested the Member States concerned to notify the TNC Secretariat of their relevant internal measures to be undertaken for implementation of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience.

The Committee requested the ICDT, COMCEC Coordination Office, and other relevant OIC Institutions to continue organizing awareness raising and capacity building activities with regard to TPS-OIC.

In order to achieve developmental objectives, balance trade and enhance the welfare of Islamic countries, the framework agreement has laid down a number of basic principles, which should guide negotiations;

- Reciprocity of advantages and non-discrimination;
- Discrepancies between the developmental levels of Member States should be taken into consideration;
- Reduction of tariff, para-tariff and tariff obstacles;
- TPS/OIC must be revised and appraised periodically in order to broaden its scope of implementation and improve its functioning;
- Conformity with the present and future commitments of Member States at international, inter-regional and regional levels.

TPS/OIC and the Least Developed Countries:

The OIC Member States are much diversified at the level of their production and export structures as well as at the level of their economic development degree. In order to ensure a fair distribution of trade liberalisation process between the OIC countries that will be boosted by the TPS/OIC, it is essential to take into account the existence among the OIC member States of 20 LDCs whose production structure is weak and their base of production is very narrow. On these grounds, the declaration of intent relating to the establishment of TPS/OIC adopted by the COMCEC in September 1988 and the framework agreement explicitly champion the principle of granting a special and differential treatment to these countries.

- The provisions of TPS/OIC relating to this issue:
Several passages of this agreement stipulate clearly:

- The necessity of ensuring a balanced distribution and the mutuality of advantages to all participants; (article 2 paragraph 2);
- Discrepancies in economic development level between contracting States should be taken into consideration;
- The special needs of the Least Developed Member Countries should be taken into consideration by granting special concessions in the course of negotiations (Article 11).

The annex III on the rules of origin contains a concrete measure, which takes into account the industrialisation level of the Least developed Countries under the form of a margin of 10 percentage points, in the field of the rules of Origin in comparison with the standards provided for by the other Contracting States; which means that products in the Least Developed Countries can contain 70% of inputs in non-Islamic countries.

The framework agreement stipulates that the LDCs are the OIC Member States listed as such by the UN, unless otherwise decided by the COMCEC.

The general principles and objectives inherent to the Least Developed countries contained in the framework agreement may be concretised during the bilateral and multilateral negotiations by resorting to a variety of concrete measures in the light of the experiences of integration groupings, both at the level of the GATT and the GSTP.

- **Seminar on TPS/OIC and its protocols for the benefit of the private and public sector of Suriname and Guyana**, Paramaribo, Suriname, 1st June 2015:

Within the framework of the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the OIC General Secretariat and boosting cooperation Among the OIC Member States and the ICDT, the Centre in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and the Industry of the Republic of Suriname, organized an awareness-raising seminar on the TPS/OIC and Its protocols for the benefit of the public and private sector of the Republic of Suriname and the Republic of Guyana and Paramaribo on 1st June 2015. The Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Suriname attended the opening session of the Seminar. The objective of this seminar was to raise the awareness of the staff of the public and private Sectors of the importance of the Agreement on the development of intra-OIC trade of their countries. Over 50 participants attended the seminar. The ICDT's experts presented the Agreement and Its Protocols, the results of the rounds of negotiations, dealt with its compatibility with WTO rules and its impact on intra-OIC trade of both countries.

- **Training Seminar on The "Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member States (TPS OIC) and its Protocols" for the benefit of the African Countries**, Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco, 28-30 March 2016:

Within the framework of the implementation of relevant Resolutions of the Ministers of Foreign Trade of the OIC Countries, particularly those relating to the raising awareness of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States (TPS/OIC) and its protocols, for the benefit of Regional Economic Groupings, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Department of Cooperation and Integration of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) organized in collaboration with the Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco a Training Seminar on " TPS/OIC Agreement and its protocols for the benefit of African Countries" from 28th to 30th March 2016 in Casablanca, Morocco.

The objective of this seminar is to raise awareness among the Member States of the Regional Economic Groupings (REG) such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), on the TPS/OIC Agreement and its protocols in order to accelerate its signature and ratification by these groupings to strengthen the development of intra-OIC trade.

The following countries attended this seminar: **Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Chad, Togo and Tunisia.**

The following international organizations also participated: the ICDT, the IDB (Department of Cooperation and Integration and the Regional Office of Rabat) and the WAEMU.

The experts presented the following topics:

- New Ten Year Program of Action (2016-2025) of the OIC and ICDT on enhancing intra-OIC Trade ;
- Program of Trade Regional Cooperation of the WAEMU;
- Presentation of the Framework Agreement of the TPS/OIC;
- Provisions of the TPS/OIC;
- Structures and the Negotiations Methods;
- Conformity of the TPS/OIC and WTO provisions;
- Presentation on the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme For TPS-OIC (PRETAS);
- Presentation on the Protocol of the Rules of Origin of the TPS/OIC
- Impact of the TPS/OIC and its protocols on the Economies of the WAEMU Member States ;
- Accession procedures to the TPS/OIC and practical implementation modalities.

During the sessions, participants were asked questions relating to the TPS/OIC agreement, the tariff dismantling mechanism, dispute settlement, the process of ratification of the Agreement and its Protocols by the REG, such as WAEMU and review of some parts of the Agreement and the base year of the tariff dismantling.

After a fruitful discussion, the participants proposed the following recommendations:

- The need to organize a meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee in 2016 to review the protocol PRETAS notably the base year (2003) of tariff dismantling in order to improve the implementation of the TPS-OIC Agreement and other related issues;
- The preparation of explanatory notes on the rules of origin in English and French for the Participating States in trade negotiations among the OIC countries;
- The transmission of the results of the study on the impact on trade of (TPS/OIC) in WAEMU countries to the OIC General Secretariat, IDB and the WAEMU Commission;
- The ability to embed accompanying measures in the implementation of the Agreement;
- The establishment of databases on non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to trade in the ICDT-NTBs observatory in collaboration with the REG and private sector;
- The invitation of the focal points in the REG (ECOWAS, WAEMU, CEMAC, COMESA, AMU, League of Arab States) as observers in the OIC Trade Negotiations

Committee;

- The organization of regional awareness-raising seminars for Member States notably for LDCs;
- The organization of training workshops on the rules of origin and the NTBs for the benefit of Member States;
- Technical Assistance to the contracting Member States within the framework of the implementation of the PRETAS and the Protocol of the Rules of Origin, especially for establishing the lists of concessions;
- Conducting impact studies of the TPS / OIC on the other OIC regions

Organizers distributed to all participants Certificates and CD's containing the presentations of the experts.

- **Training Seminar on "TPS/OIC Agreement and its protocols for the benefit of executives of the state of Palestine and Jordan"**, Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 4-5 April 2016.

As part of the implementation of cooperation among OIC Member States and the CIDC, and further to the request of the Ministry of National Economy of the State of Palestine, ICDT and the aforementioned Palestinian Ministry organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Supply of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan a training seminar on "TPS/OIC and its protocols for the benefit of executives of the state of Palestine and Jordan" in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from 4 to 5 April 2016.

The objective of this seminar is to raise awareness among Palestinian and Jordanian executives of the public and private sector on the importance of the TPS/OIC Agreement and its Protocols in order to contribute to the development of trade between these countries and the other OIC Member States.

On this occasion, the ICDT's experts presented the following themes:

- ❖ Presentation of the OIC and the ICDT;
- ❖ Overview of the main provisions of the TPS/OIC Agreement and its protocols;
- ❖ Structure and methodology of the negotiations;
- ❖ The TPS/OIC Agreement and the WTO Agreements;
- ❖ Negotiations results;
- ❖ The impact of the Agreement on intra-OIC trade of Palestine and Jordan;
- ❖ Economic integration and Legal impact of the TPS/OIC;
- ❖ The membership procedures to TPS/OIC and technical instruments.
- ❖ The OIC vision on the outcomes of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference concluded in Nairobi;
- ❖ The Jordanian experience with the World Trade Organization;
- ❖ Technical assistance provided by the IDB and the ICDT.

More than 40 public and private sector executives of both countries took part in the seminar.

Recommendations:

After a fruitful debate, the participants proposed the following recommendations:

1. The importance of implementing the TPS-OIC to enable the Palestinian economy to benefit from it, and to increase synergy as well as economic and trade integration between Palestine and the other OIC Member States

2. Provide technical support to the Palestinian institutions from the public and private sectors in order to benefit from the COMCEC and the IDB Group projects.
 3. The importance of holding the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee of the OIC Member States in order to expand the TPS/OIC to trade in services, dismantling of the mechanism of Non-Tariff Barriers, and specific and effective rules for dispute settlement;
 4. To ensure that the State of Palestine submit its list of concessions in order to allow the Palestinian economy to benefit from the Trade Negotiations of the participating Countries, and to provide it with technical assistance for establishing the positive lists of products for the implementation of this Framework Agreement.
- **Training Workshop on "Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS/ OIC) "**, Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, 13-14 September 2017.

Within the framework of the implementation of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC resolution relating to TPS-OIC and other relevant Resolutions of the Ministers of Foreign Trade of the OIC Countries, particularly those relating to the raising awareness of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States (TPS/OIC) and its protocols, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, a training Workshop on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS-OIC) in Jakarta on 13 – 14 September 2017.

The workshop aimed at raising the awareness of Indonesia's, Brunei and Malaysia officials and business stakeholders of the TPS-OIC implementation and its benefits. It also provided an interactive discussion that helps participants to address some of the issues and challenges faced by the Indonesian government in completing the ratification process of the TPS-OIC.

More than 80 Participants from Indonesia (Public and Private Sector), Malaysia, Pakistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Kuwait, Bangladesh, Qatar, Iran and also COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT attend this workshop.

After the statements of the representatives of the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia, the President's Special Envoy to The Middle East and to The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation/ OIC, COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT, the workshop was briefly presented to participants.

ICDT's, COMCEC's and Ministry of Trade of Indonesia made presentations on the following topics:

- ✓ Presentation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action (2016-2025) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and ICDT for enhancing intra-OIC trade;
- ✓ Presentation on the Trade Cooperation and TPS-OIC in the COMCEC Strategy;
- ✓ Presentation on the Current Status of the TPS-OIC: Basic Features of the System and the Way Forward;
- ✓ Presentation of the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS/OIC);
- ✓ Provisions of the TPS/OIC;
- ✓ Structures and the negotiations methods;
- ✓ TPS/OIC and the WTO provisions and RTAs;
- ✓ Presentation of the outcomes of the First Round of Trade Negotiations;

- ✓ Presentation on the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme For TPS-OIC (PRETAS);
- ✓ General Discussion on speeding up the signature and ratification of the TPS/OIC and its protocols by Indonesia.

Certificates of participation were distributed to all participants.

All participants mentioned the importance of the workshop which allow them to understand TPS/OIC and its protocols and its role to enhancing intra-OIC Trade with Indonesia and its private sector.

The Indonesian Government ensured that it will follow this issue and finalize the ratification of the Rules of Origin after having internal discussion on some issues such as:

- The Application of MFN Principle to non-WTO members that participate in the OIC Preferential Tariff Scheme ;
- The provisions of article 5 and 6 of the Protocol of the Rules of Origin concerning the aggregate content originating in least developed Participating State that is not less than 30% of its ex-works price. Indonesia has particular concern as it grants regional value content of not less than 40% for LDCs in ASEAN, as opposed to giving 30% LVC commitment to OIC LDCs ;
- The Provisions of Article 22 of the Protocol of the Rules of Origin concerning Importation by Instalment, as the customs procedure in Indonesia does not recognize such rule. Moreover, it would be difficult for Indonesia, as archipelagic state to control Importation by Instalment in all ports which spread across the archipelago.

ICDT sent an official letter after the workshop to explain all these issues.

Cooperation within the framework of Sustainable Tourism:

Meetings of the Committee on the regional project of "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa" between 2015 and 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE:

The Steering Committee of the Project:

- ❖ Very concerned about the impacts of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, appeals to all the countries of the sub region and the international community for active solidarity with the peoples and governments of these countries;
- ❖ Recommends to hold in Conakry before the end of the first half of 2015 a meeting of ministers in charge of tourism in the countries concerned expanded to national focal points of the project, the implementation of the Project and on common actions to be undertaken in order the preparation of the 2nd. conference of donors;
- ❖ Welcomes the offer of ICDT to organize in 2015 a Training of sustainable tourism managers in Parks and Protected Areas and project development Training in collaboration with UNWTO and the COMCEC;
- ❖ Approves the priorities set up in 2015 in accordance with the attached work program;
- ❖ Recommends that all beneficiary countries of the Project to achieve the Regional Coordination and ICDT national projects segments according to the types of projects in Annex sheets and before 31 January 2015;
- ❖ Thanks the Republic of Guinea for the efforts made in the Project implementation and welcomes the steps taken, the search for financing of the Project and the Regional

Coordination Unit;

- ❖ Recommends a joint mission with the OIC Secretary General and the President of the IDB Group, the Director General of ICDT and the President of the Steering Committee for the research funding of projects relating to national segments and Unity regional Coordination in the second half of 2015;
- ❖ Decides the reappointment of the Republic of Guinea for the presidency of the steering committee for the period 2015-2016;
- ❖ Urges the President of the steering committee to conduct a fact-finding mission and outreach in member countries of the project by March 31, 2015;
- ❖ Commends member countries (Benin, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) for the presentation of their national segments of projects and recommends harmonization in accordance with the type of project sheets provided in the Annex;
- ❖ Recommends to Burkina Faso, Gambia and Sierra Leone communicate their national projects segments before the end of January 2015 regional coordination and ICDT in accordance with the type of project sheets annexed;
- ❖ Recommends the holding of a meeting of the steering committee, on the sidelines of the General Assembly of WTO, scheduled for Colombia in 2015 and the 9th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers to assess the progress of the project and the preparations for the second conference of donors;
- ❖ Takes note of the terms of reference relating to the Regional Project Coordination Unit and the estimated budget and recommends its bid for funding to the IDB;
- ❖ Recommends the selection of projects for submission to donors in accordance with the following criteria:
 - Registration of projects as a priority in national plans and programs;
 - Focus on strategic areas, particularly those relating to the fight against poverty and the preservation of biodiversity;
 - Promotion of public-private partnership;
 - Project Registration involving more than one country;
 - Respect for project submission forms for better harmonization.
- ❖ Thanks the Secretaries-General of the UNWTO and the OIC for their efforts within the framework of the completion of the feasibility study, the organization of the First Donors Conference of in Dakar in May 2011 and the urges them to continue their support to the effective implementation of the project.
- **Report of the Meeting Steering Committee on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa", Casablanca, 15th – 17th February 2016:**

The Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa" was held on the 17th February 2016 at the headquarters of the ICDT in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, to examine the issues on the attached agenda.

This meeting which was chaired by His Excellency Thierno Ousmane Diallo, Minister of State for Hospitality, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Republic of Guinea, Chairman of the Steering Committee brought together the Representatives of the following Countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Also took part in the meeting the Representatives of the Ministry of Tourism of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), The Statistical, Economic and Social Research

and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Regional Office of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Rabat as well as Mr. Ousmane Ndiaye, Mr. Rémy POLIWA, Mr. Mohamed H'Midouche and ICDT Experts.

It is worth noting that this meeting was preceded by a Training Workshop on the Setting up of Tourism Projects, organized for the benefit of the focal points of the beneficiary Countries in order to familiarize them with the methodologies and procedures of the Arab, African and international Financial Institutions.

Recommendations of the Steering Committee:

The Steering Committee during its meeting dated 17th February 2016, held at the headquarters of the ICDT in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco recommends the acceleration of the implementation of the Regional Project on Cross-Border Protected Areas in West Africa and the strengthening of operational capacities of the Regional Coordination Unit;

Having been informed of the communication on the presentation of projects forms by the Representatives of the beneficiary Countries during the Training Workshop on the Setting up of Tourism Projects organized on the 15th and 16th February 2016 at the ICDT headquarters;

Noting that the majority of the projects have a national focus and that the cross-border approach is not enough underscored;

Recognizing that the projects forms can serve as a working basis for the elaboration of bankable cross-border projects;

The Steering Committee:

- Recommends the elaboration of terms of references, preferably before 31st March 2016, for the formulation of bankable projects on the protected areas of (a) Niokolo- Badiar (b) Djoudj-Diawling (c) Park W (d) Bafing- Falémé (e) River Basins, in accordance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2015 -2030);
- Welcomes with satisfaction the proposal of the ICDT and the SESRIC to prepare a publication containing the national and cross-border bankable projects related to the concerned Parks and Protected Areas;
- Recommends the holding in Conakry in Republic of Guinea in October 2016 of a meeting of Ministers of Tourism of the beneficiary Countries in order to examine for approval the bankable projects of above mentioned Parks and Protected Areas;
- Recommends the submission of a funding request to the IDB Group and UNDP to strengthen the operational capacities of the Regional Coordination Unit and Focal Points;
- Welcomes with satisfaction the joint initiative of the ICDT and the SESRIC to propose to the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to meet in Madrid the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization together with the President of the Steering Committee ;
- Welcomes with satisfaction the proposal of the participants to organize in May or June 2016 a visit of the President of the Steering Committee and the concerned Tourism Ministers of beneficiary Countries, together with the Directors General of the ICDT and the SESRIC, to the President of the Islamic Development Bank Group in Jeddah to raise awareness on mobilizing his institution to finance this Project.
- Urges the beneficiary Countries of the Project which have not yet done so, to join the International Organization STEP and attend the signing ceremony of the constitutive act of the organization, to be held in Seoul the 28th March 2016;
- Urges the beneficiary Countries of the Project to take part in the 58th meeting of the CAF

to be held in Abidjan from 19th to 21st April 2016;

- Takes into consideration with satisfaction and commends the readiness the Moroccan Ministry of Tourism for its willingness to make available to the Project an exhibition area on the occasion of the COP 22 scheduled to be held in Marrakech from 7th to 18th November 2016;
- Welcomes the candidacy of the Islamic Republic of Gambia, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Guinea to host the next Donors Conference in 2017 and encourages other Countries to propose their candidacy.

4. Islamic Trade fairs and Supply/Demand Workshops on Specific Products:

ICDT has always obtained from the countries which host the Islamic Trade Fair, an exhibition space free of charge of 9 square meters equipped for the benefit of the Least Developed Countries. Likewise, it has also requested IDB to bear the Transport and Board and lodging expenses of the LDCs' representatives in the Islamic Trade Fairs. Such facilities shall be codified in the internal regulations of the fair that will be submitted for adoption to the Ministers of the OIC Member States in charge of Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States (COMCEC) in October 2001.

As concerns the specialised fairs and the supply/demand workshops, ICDT bear the participation expenses of the LDCs according to financial means granted to it by donor organisations.

Fairs and Exhibitions organised between 2015 and 2017:

- **1st Organic and Local Products Exhibition of the OIC Member States**, Kram Exhibition Centre, Tunis, 28th October to 1st November 2015.

In compliance with the resolutions adopted by the 42nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Countries, held in Kuwait from 26th to 27th May 2015, and the 30th Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), held from 25th to 28th November 2014 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, the Islamic Centre Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries (UTAP) organize under the high patronage of H.E Beji Caid Essebsi, President of the Republic of Tunisia, the **1st Organic and Local Products Exhibition of the OIC Member States** from 28th October to 1st November 2015 at the Kram Exhibition Centre in Tunis, concomitantly with the 12th International Exhibition of Agriculture, Agricultural Machinery and Fisheries (SIAMAP 2015).

This exhibition was attended by the stakeholders in the organic and local products sector (fruits and vegetables, drinks, sausages, meat and fish, dairy products, natural products without industrial or chemical additives, organic cosmetics, care and personal hygiene, fertilizers and natural fertilizers,) in the OIC countries. This event was an opportunity for the companies and players in the Bio industry and the small farmers to promote their products and services.

This event lasted five days and was open to both the general public and professionals. It was held over an area of 18,000 square meters and recorded the participation of 405 companies representing the following Member States: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Morocco, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Lebanon, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, State of Palestine, United Arab Emirates, Republic of Senegal, Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, Republic of Sudan and Libya.

The Russian Federation also participated in this fair as an observer country. This

exhibition was also attended by the representatives of the following non OIC Member States: India, Spain, China, Italy, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Austria, Germany, and France.

Moreover, within the framework of the ICDT's actions to facilitate the OIC Member States participation in trade fairs, The Centre has covered the participation fees of the Republic of Senegal and the Kingdom of Morocco for this event.

Activities on the sidelines of the exhibition:

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) held on 30th October 2015, in collaboration with UTAP and in conjunction with this exhibition, a seminar on "Organic Agriculture: current situation and prospects".

- **2nd OIC Tourism and Travel Fair: Promoting family tourism",** Sharjah Expo Centre - UAE, 8th - 10th December 2015.

In compliance with the resolution adopted by the 8th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held from 4th to 6th December 2013 in Banjul - Republic of The Gambia, the United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah), the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and Sharjah Exhibition Centre (Sharjah Expo Centre) organized under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed AL QASSIMI, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah, the "2nd OIC Tourism and Travel Fair: Promoting family tourism", from 8th to 10th December 2015 in the Sharjah Expo Centre - UAE, concomitantly with the 4th Halal Food Exhibition of the OIC Member States.

The Exhibition was attended by approximately 125 Companies representing the following Member States: **United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah), Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Arab Republic of Egypt, Malaysia, State of Palestine, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Senegal.**

Other non-OIC Member Countries (Austria, Germany, South Korea, France, Japan, Great Britain and Russia) also took part in this Fair.

It is worth mentioning that in the context of facilitating the participation of the OIC Member States and Institutions in the Fairs organized by the ICDT, the Centre has sponsored the participation of Mozambique, Palestine, Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Egypt and the Islamic Research Centre for History, Culture and Art (IRCICA) in this 2nd Tourism Fair of the OIC Countries.

The area surface of the exhibition was 2000 square meters and the Fair recorded the participation of 1000 businessmen from the OIC Member States.

- **4th edition of Halal Products Fair of the OIC Member States,** Sharjah Expo Centre - State of the United Arab Emirates, 8th - 10th December 2015.

This exhibition gathered actors of Halal industry in the OIC countries to promote their products and services and increase investments in this sector notably food, cosmetics, clothing and fashion as well as services related to Halal certification.

The area surface of the exhibition was 2000 square meters and the Fair recorded the participation of 1000 businessmen 125 Companies from the OIC Member States.

The Exhibition was attended by the following Member States: United Arab Emirates (Emirate of Sharjah), Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Arab Republic of Egypt, Malaysia, State of Palestine, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Senegal.

Other non-OIC Member Countries (Austria, Germany, South Korea, France, Japan, Great Britain and Russia) also took part in this Fair.

- **1st African Halal Business Forum, under the theme "towards revitalization of trade with the Gulf countries and Asia",** Dakar - Republic of Senegal, 3rd - 5th March 2016.

In accordance with Resolution N° 36 adopted at the 30th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC held from 24th to 28th November 2014 in Istanbul – Republic of Turkey, the ICDT, the International Centre of the Muslim Business (SIBM) and the OIC International Business Centre of Malaysia, organized under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, and in collaboration with the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the 1st African Halal Business Forum, under the theme "towards revitalization of trade with the Gulf countries and Asia" from 3rd to 5th March 2016, in Dakar - Republic of Senegal.

This first edition of the Forum was attended by the following OIC Member States: **Republic of Benin, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Arab Republic of Egypt, Malaysia, Kingdom of Morocco (guest of honor country), Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Republic of Niger, State of Qatar, Republic of Sudan, Republic of Chad, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Senegal.**

Also took part in this Forum, the Republic of Ghana, as well as companies representing Muslim minorities, in the following non-Member States: France and Belgium.

The Forum also registered the participation of the following OIC Institutions and Regional organizations: **SMIIC, ITFC, Regional Office of the IDB in Dakar, WAEMU, FGCCC, OIC International Business Centre, African Institute of Islamic Finance (AIIF), ITC (International Trade Centre / Geneva).**

Activities on the sidelines of the Exhibition:

During the Forum, several panels were organized in 7 sessions:

- ✓ WORK SESSION I: The Importance of Halal Business: What challenges for Africa. The ICDT presented on this occasion a paper on The importance of the halal industry for the OIC African countries.
- ✓ WORKING SESSION II: Business and Investment Opportunities in Halal Business for the African economies.
- ✓ WORKING SESSION III: Challenge of the integrity of the Halal value chain: what places for standardization, certification and labelling,
- ✓ WORK SESSION IV: potential of the halal business in the services (tourism, cultural services, etc.)
- ✓ WORKING SESSION V: determinants of the emergence of a halal business in SMEs / SMIs: Constraints and facilities in funding.
- ✓ WORK SESSION VI: Halal, a new instrument for economic cooperation, strategic reorientation of bilateralism and for rescue of the global economy.
- ✓ WORK SESSION VII: Development of the halal business trades in Africa: academic knowledge, technical and financial.

Throughout these various panels, participants highlighted the problems facing the sector, including the lack of investment and training for the benefit of the sector operators. They urged for the increase of the organization of Fairs and dedicated Exhibitions as well as certification training seminars around the Halal which may allow a better appropriation of the Halal concept.

They expressed the wish for the establishment of a strategy and an action plan for the development of Halal industry at the OIC level and the strengthening of collaboration in training on the Halal industry and exchange of experience among the Member States (reverse linkage).

The closing session was held on Saturday, 5 March 2016, during which was read out the Dakar Declaration, which was endorsed by all participants.

▪ **3rd Health Expo of the OIC Member States**", OFEC, Casablanca, 24th - 27th March 2016. Within the framework of the implementation of the pertinent resolutions of the 31st Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) held from 23rd to 26th November 2015 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, the Islamic Centre for Development Trade (ICDT) and the Office of Fairs and Exhibitions of Casablanca (OFEC) organized under the aegis of the Ministry in charge of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Morocco, "the 3rd Health Expo of the OIC Member States" from 24th to 27th March 2016 in the Exhibition grounds of the Office of Fairs and Exhibitions of Casablanca (OFEC) concurrently with the 17th edition of the International Exhibition Health "Medical Expo 2016". It should be noted that Member States of the Agadir Agreement were the guests of honor for this edition.

This 3rd OIC Health Expo was attended by the following OIC Member States: **Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Mali, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Lebanon, Arab Republic of Egypt, Kingdom of Morocco, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Gabon, State of Palestine, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of the United Arab Emirates, Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Republic of Niger, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey.**

The Exhibition also saw the participation of the following non OIC Member States: Germany, China, Belgium, France, Spain, United States, Italy and Congo. It is worth mentioning that ICDT has sponsored the participation of Senegal, Tunisia and Burkina Faso in this event.

The Exhibition also registered the participation of the following OIC Institutions and Regional organizations: **The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), The Agadir Technical Unit (ATU).**

Activities on the sidelines of the Exhibition:

The ICDT organized on the sidelines of the exhibition, on the 25th March 2016, a seminar on the healthcare sector: "lever of economic integration between the OIC Member States."

At this seminar, the ICDT made a presentation on "Trade of pharmaceutical products and medical equipment in the OIC Member States"

The seminar was structured around the following axes:

- ✓ Importance of the health sector in the OIC Member States;
- ✓ The institutional framework of Cooperation and the health sector indicators in the OIC Member States;

- ✓ Roundtable on Regional Cooperation for development of the pharmaceutical industry.

It was followed by presentations of the pharmaceutical industry and medical services in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan in terms of national experiences. Other thematic conferences were also held on the sidelines of the event, namely:

- ✓ Pharmacovigilance;
- ✓ Drugs and generic medicines;
- ✓ Health journeys to Morocco: present and future;
- ✓ Current situation of biomedical engineering in Morocco;
- ✓ University Hospital Centers (CHU's) of Morocco and development of south-south partnerships;
- ✓ Hospital maintenance;
- ✓ Simulation and control of medical equipment;
- ✓ Medicines and foods;
- ✓ Biotechnology and Medicine;
- ✓ Quality insurance in medical biology;
- ✓ Health innovation.

B2B meetings were also held between the various stakeholders in the sector.

On the sidelines of this exhibition, was also held the National Health Week, which was initiated by a group of professional and humanitarian associations and organizations acting in the healthcare sector, with the objectives of raising-awareness among the population on the different health problems and ways of prevention.

Evaluation of the Exhibition:

The net area of the exhibition space was 5425 square meters. The Exhibition was attended by approximately 183 companies and 12,000 visitors including 7400 professionals from the health sector in the OIC Member States, looking for business opportunities and partnership.

An opinion survey among participants has identified a general feeling of satisfaction regarding the organization of the Exhibition and the provision of the necessary facilities provided by the organizers. The participants highly appreciated the held of thematic seminars during this exhibition related to the health sector as well as B2B meetings between businessmen to conclude business relationships, and to strengthen cooperation and partnerships between OIC Members States.

Exhibitors expressed their wish to benefit from the Centre's services especially regarding the promotion of their products and services through the ICDT Virtual Fair.

- **3rd Forum and specialized Fair on "Higher Education Services in the OIC Member States"**, Dakar, Senegal, 9-12 May 2016.

In compliance with Resolution N° 38 adopted by the 30th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) held from 25 to 28 November 2014 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Senegal and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized the 3rd Forum and specialized Fair on "Higher Education Services in the OIC Member States" from 9 to 12 May 2016 at the International Centre for Foreign Trade of Senegal (CICES) in Dakar - Republic of Senegal.

This edition organized under the theme "Higher Education: Towards better quality and employability", aimed to promote higher education services and to develop partnerships among the OIC Member States in general and the Republic of Senegal in particular, to establish direct contacts between the various stakeholders in the field of training and Higher Education, in order to promote investment in this sector and to develop partnerships between Senegalese universities and those of OIC Member States; particularly through the exchange of students and trainers.

The Fair lasted for 4 days, over a gross area of 3000 m², among which 1,200 m² net was opened to the general public and professionals in the higher education services. 85 exhibitors from 12 countries have participated. The Fair also recorded the participation of 53 foreign institutions among them 38 Moroccan. There were 24 Senegalese private institutions and 8 public institutions.

This 3rd edition of the Forum on Higher Education Services witnessed the participation of H.E. Mary Teuw NIANE, Minister of Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Senegal in the presence of HE Prof. Lahcen Daoudi, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Training of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E the Malaysian Minister of Higher Education and the following OIC Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Iran, Malaysia, Morocco (guest of honor), Nigeria, Uganda, Pakistan, Tunisia, Senegal. Rwanda and the Japan also took part to this Exhibition.

Activities on the sidelines : On the sidelines of the Forum, several panels were organized in multiple sessions.

- **9th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries in the OIC Member States**, Jeddah Centre for Forums and Events, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 9th - 12th May 2016.

Within the framework of the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement signed in 2008 between the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Saudi Al Harity Company for Exhibitions Limited (ACE), both parties organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia **the 9th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries in the OIC Member States** concomitantly with **the 21th Exhibition of Food/ Hotel/PROPAC Arabia** from 9th to 12th May 2016 at Jeddah Centre for Forums and Events, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

ICDT was represented in this exhibition by Mr. Abdelaziz Alami, Head of Marketing Department;

The Exhibition was open during four days from 17.00 h to 22.00 h to the general public and professionals. The net exhibition space was spread over approximately 4000 square meters and recorded the participation of 350 companies representing the following Member States: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of Lebanon, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, Kingdom of Bahrain, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Republic of Senegal, State of Kuwait.

The following Non OIC Member States, enjoying the status of observers attended this event, namely: Turkish Cypriot State and Thailand.

Representatives of the Muslim Minorities in non OIC Member States also participated in this exhibition, namely: India, Spain, China, USA, Great Britain, Switzerland, South Africa and Australia.

Activities on the sidelines of the Exhibition:

On the sidelines of the fair, the Top Chef Contest and the Art Table Competitions were organised by the Saudi Arabian Chefs Association in which the best chefs displayed their culinary skills and best table display from famous hotels and restaurants under the supervision of a jury composed of international experts.

During this Exhibition, the Representative of ICDDT visited the various stands of the participating countries in order to promote the activities and services of the Centre. He also collected brochures and leaflets on the exhibits in order to insert them into the virtual exhibition on the ICDDT's website.

Evaluation of the Exhibition:

The net exhibition space was spread over approximately 4000 square meters; it was attended by about 3,000 businessmen from the various OIC Member States seeking business and partnerships opportunities as well as by nearly 20 thousand visitors. Participants also expressed their satisfaction at the organization and arrangements provided by the organizers in order to secure all the services in compliance with international standards of the organization of exhibitions.

Through an initial reading of the impressions of exhibitors, it was deduced that a series of business deals were made and exhibitors genuinely desire to take advantage of the services of the Centre in order to promote their products and services through its virtual exhibition and participate in exhibitions organized by it in the future.

- **15th edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 22-26 May 2016.**

The Ministry of Trade and Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDDT) organized under the High Patronage of His Majesty, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz AL SAUD, the 15th edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States, from 22 to 26 May 2016 at the Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Exhibition area of the Fair reached 11,200 Square meters, 271 enterprises exhibited their products in the Fair, which was visited by 2,200 businessmen from the different OIC Member States seeking business opportunities and partnerships.

The following countries participated in this event: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Benin, State of the United Arab Emirates, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Guinea, Malaysia, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Mali, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Tajikistan, Burkina Faso, Republic of Togo, Republic of Chad, State of Kuwait, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Uganda, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Uzbekistan, Arab Republic of Egypt, Kingdom of Bahrain, Republic of Maldives, State of Qatar, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Turkmenistan, Republic of Sudan, State of Palestine, Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Republic of Niger.

It was also noted that most of exhibited products are reflecting the real economic and industrial progress recorded by some Member States. As well as the technological and technical development level of participating countries.

Activities on the sidelines of the Fair:

On the sidelines of the fair were held the following events:

- ✓ 2nd edition of the Forum of Trade Promotion Organs (TPOs) of the OIC Member States on 23 May 2016 and the official launching of the portal of the global network of the TPOs of the OIC;
- ✓ Forum of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPA) of the OIC Member States, on 24 May 2016;
- ✓ B2B Meetings between businessmen;
- ✓ 9th Businesswomen forum of the OIC Member States organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in collaboration with the Saudi Council of Chambers;

An Award Ceremony was also held and trophies were awarded to the following countries:

- ✓ **First Prize:** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- ✓ **Second Prize:** Kingdom of Morocco,
- ✓ **Third Prize:** People's Republic of Bangladesh.

- **10th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States**, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 23-26 April 2017

Within the framework of the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement signed between the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Saudi Al Harithy Company for Exhibitions (ACE), in May 2008, the both parties will organize under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the 10th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries in the OIC Member States concomitantly with the 22nd Exhibition of Food/Hotel/PROPAC Arabia from 23rd to 26th April 2017 at Jeddah Centre for Forums and Events, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In this regard, ICDT promoted this event during the 15th Meeting of Economic Advisers to the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco, organized by the Centre on 19 January 2017 in Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco.

- **Preparations of the Exhibition of Sport Equipment and Leisure of the OIC Member States**, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, 13-15 May 2017:

In pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the 3rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers of the OIC, and the 32nd Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, held respectively in October and November 2016 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, which have welcomed the joint proposal of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Sports Federation of Islamic Solidarity (ISSF) to organize the "Exhibition of Sport Equipment and Leisure of the OIC Member States", in 2017.

The ICDT and the ISSF will organize, under the patronage of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and in collaboration with "Caspian Event Organizers LLC the "Exhibition of Sport Equipment and Leisure of the OIC Member States", from 13 to 15 May 2017 at the Exhibition Center of Baku - Republic of Azerbaijan, concomitantly with the 4th Edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games which will be held on 12-22 May 2017 in Baku.

The first coordination meeting between the ICDT and the ISSF was held on 19th October 2015 in Riyadh - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the second was held on 10th November 2016 in Baku, in the presence of representative of the Olympic Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the representative of «Iteca Caspian LLC», and was dedicated to the

organizational arrangements and the participation of Member States in this fair and to the review of the MOU's articles related to the organisation of this event.

The 3rd Coordination Meeting, held on 17 January 2017 at the ICDT headquarters in Casablanca, was mainly devoted to the modalities of promotion of the Exhibition.

The MOU's signature on the organization of the Fair was held during the 15th Meeting of the Economic Advisers to the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco, organized by ICDT on 19th January 2017 in Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco.

▪ **8th "Muslim World Biz",** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-21 September 2017:

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade participated in the 8th Muslim World Biz which was organised by the OIC International Business Centre Malaysia in collaboration with ICDT in Kuala Lumpur on 18-21 September 2017.

ICDT was represented by a team composed of Dr El Hassane HZAINÉ, Director General, Dr. Mokhtar WARIDA, Assistant Director General and Mr. Mamoudou Bocar SALL, Head of Studies and Training Department. Dr. HZAINÉ and Mr. Mohamad Taleb Bin Dr Abdullah Raja inaugurated many forums and the official launch of this 8th Edition.

More than 500 entrepreneurs, 35 countries, 1200 delegates, 200 speakers attended this largest event in the Muslim world, with more than 300 participants for each panel and around 10,000 visitors.

The following OIC Countries attended the Forums and the Expo of this event namely: Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Qatar, UAE, Yemen, Turkey, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia and Malaysia.

The following forums were also organised:

- The Muslim World Infrastructure and Investment Conference 2017;
- OIC ASIA-AFRICA Trade and Economic Forum by ICDT and International OIC Business Centre which identified trade and investment opportunities and barriers between Asian and African Countries. ICDT's delegation presented working papers on Africa-Asia Trade potential, Africa-Asia trade in services, Agribusiness and Halal in Asian and African Member States, Doing business in the OIC African Asian Member Countries and Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market ;
- World Islamic Tourism Conference and Expo ;
- The Muslim World Women's Summit 2017;
- The Round Table Talk of the Jewels of Muslim World Movers and Shakers 2017;
- The OIC Higher Education Fair 2017.

Besides, all speakers presented in depth discussions and papers focused on ways to increase intra-OIC trade and investments as well as with non- Islamic countries.

▪ **Preparations of the 3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States:** Cairo – Arab Republic of Egypt, October 2018:

In accordance with the recommendations of the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held from 21 to 23 December 2015 in Niamey - Republic of Niger, which welcomed the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the 3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States in 2017, the ICDT and the Egyptian Authority for Tourism Promotion organize in collaboration with the Egypt Expo and Convention Authority (EECA), the 3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States, in October 2018 in Cairo under

the theme "OIC-TOURISM: Message of peace between peoples".

The aim of this Fair is to strengthen cooperation among the OIC Member States within the tourism sector, to promote historic monuments and tourist sites of the Member States and to encourage investment in this sector.

And to surround this Fair with all the conditions of success, the organizers held two coordination meetings respectively in Cairo and Casablanca on the 22 December 2015 and the 27 January 2016.

These two meetings focused on the organizational arrangements, participation and the promotion of this Fair among the Member States. The 2nd coordination meeting was crowned by the signature of the MOU concerning the organization of this Fair in the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt accredited to Morocco. The 3rd Coordination Meeting, held between ICDT and EECA on 18 January 2017 at the ICDT headquarters in Casablanca, focused on the organization and distribution of tasks between the organizers for the promotion of the Fair.

On the sidelines of this fair, the following activities will be organized:

- Investment Forum for the public and private sector in the field of tourism;
 - Celebration of the city of Al-Madina Al-Munawara, as the capital of Islamic Tourism in 2017.
- **Exhibition of Green Economy of the OIC Member States, Dakar - Republic of Senegal, 26-29 October 2017:**

In pursuance of the resolutions of the 32nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), held from 21st to 24th November 2016 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, which welcomed the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the "Exhibition of Green Economy of the OIC Member States", the ICDT and the National Agency for Renewable Energies (ANER-Senegal) organized in collaboration with the Senegalese company EXCAF Communication, under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Development of Renewable Energies and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Senegal, the Exhibition of Green Economy of the OIC Member States, from 26th to 29th October 2017 at the International Centre of Foreign Trade of Senegal (CICES), concomitantly with the International Exhibition for Renewable Energies and Environment in Africa (SIERA). This edition was organized under the general theme "Towards the Green Economy: Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development"

The Exhibition welcomed the actors of the green economy in the OIC countries (Public Administrations, decision-makers and private companies in the sub-sectors of: Renewable Energies; ecological construction, optimization of the use of fossil fuels by controlling greenhouse gas emissions, water sanitation, waste management and land use planning through the preservation of ecosystems and the integrity of biodiversity, and biological agriculture). This event also served as a platform for companies and stakeholders to promote their products and services and to establish business and business partnerships among economic operators in the green economy sectors in the OIC Member States.

This Exhibition lasted for 4 days, and the net exhibition space was spread over approximately 1200 square meters (3000 sqm/bare space) and was opened to the general public and professionals from 9 am to 6 pm. The 1st edition of the OIC Exhibition of Green

Economy recorded the participation of the following OIC Member States:

- Republic of Benin
- Republic of Cameroon
- Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
- United Arab Emirates
- Kingdom of Morocco (guest of honor)
- Republic of Mali
- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- Republic of Senegal

The exhibition also witnessed the participation of France, Canada, Italy Germany and Cap Vert.

The regional organizers as: African Development Bank, ECOWAS, UEMOA and UNCTAD.

Activities on the sidelines:

B2B Meetings and a scientific seminar have been organised for the benefit of the renewable energies and green economy field professionals.

On the sidelines of the Forum, four sessions were organized in 9 panels:

WORKING SESSION I: Energy policies and sustainable energies

Panel 1: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Economic Growth

Panel 2: The issue of the stability of networks integrating renewable energy production plants.

WORKING SESSION II: Renewable energies and productive uses.

Panel 3: Substitution of Diesel Pumping by Renewable Energy Pumping Systems to Boost the Agricultural Sector

Panel 4: Development of green cities: status of public lighting by solar power

WORKING SESSION III: Energy Storage / Waste Management.

Panel 5: Storage of renewable energies and competitiveness of the sector

Panel 6: Treatment, recycling and recovery of waste

WORKING SESSION IV: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Panel 7: Management and Sustainable Management of Forests

Panel 8: Preservation of biodiversity (marine protected areas, natural reserves);

Panel 9: Environmental Management in Mining Projects for Sustainable Development

Through these different panels, participants highlighted the problems facing the sector, including the lack of investment and training for operators in the sector.

- **5th Exhibition of Halal Products of the OIC Member States, Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, 23-25 November 2017:**

In pursuance of the resolutions of the 32nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), held from 21st to 24th November 2016 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, and following the success of previous editions held in Sharjah - State of the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC), organized in collaboration with «Discover Events», the 5th Exhibition of the Halal Products of the OIC Member States, from 23 to 25 November 2017, at the «Istanbul Lutfi Kirdar International Congress and

Convention Centre» - Republic of Turkey.

This Exhibition, which aims to welcome the players of the Halal industry in quest of business and partnership opportunities in the OIC Member States, represents an opportunity for companies and actors in the Halal industry to promote their products and services and increase investment in this sector.

This Exhibition witnessed the participation of experts, entrepreneurs and public and private institutions, which will deal with topics related to the Halal industry.

The Exhibitions lasted for 3 days and was opened to the public and professionals and recorded the participation of 12 OIC Member States as well as other non-OIC Member Countries (Austria, Ghana, USA, Australia, Italy, Japan, Germany,) over an area of 2000sqm. Institutions operating in the field of Halal product standards also took part in this Exhibition.

SMIIC and Discover Events organized on the sidelines of this Fair, several thematic conferences, in particular on the health benefits of the HALAL Butchery and the various certification and accreditation systems with a view to accelerating the mutual recognition of Halal certificates between the OIC Member States.

ICDT took the opportunity to promote the Center's services to exhibitors from participating Member States and promoted the following Fairs and Exhibitions:

- The Special Edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States, 6 - 10 February 2018, Kuwait City - State of Kuwait;
- 11th edition of the Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States, 20-23 March 2018, Jeddah - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It should be noted that the 6th OIC Halal expo will take place in Istanbul on 29 November-2 December 2018.

- **Preparations of the Exceptional Edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States, Kuwait City, State of Kuwait, 6-10 February 2018:**

In pursuance of resolutions adopted by the 32nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC Member States (COMCEC), held from 21 to 24 November 2016 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, which welcomed the offer of the State of Kuwait to host an exceptional edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States; the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the State of Kuwait will organize an exceptional edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in collaboration with "Kuwait International Fair Company" from 6 to 10 February 2018 at the "International Fairs Ground of Kuwait City", concomitantly with the "International Kuwait Trading Fair".

The MOU on the organization of this Fair was signed during the 1st Coordination Meeting held on 22 and 23 November 2016 in Istanbul on the side-lines of the 32nd Ministerial Session of the COMCEC and the 2nd Coordination Meeting between ICDT and KIF, was held on 18 January 2017 at the ICDT headquarters in Casablanca and was dedicated to the organizational arrangements and the development of the promotion plan of the Fair among the OIC Member States.

- **Preparations of the 1st OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo, Dakar, Republic of Senegal, May 2018:**

Within the framework of the strengthening of cooperation between the Islamic Centre for

Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Republic of Senegal, the ICDT and the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of the Republic of Senegal organize under the patronage of HE Mr. Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal, the "1st OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo" on May 2018 at "Abdou Diouf International Conference Centre (CICAD)", in Dakar, Republic of Senegal.

In this vein, the organizers held four coordination meetings dedicated to the organization and participation of Member States in this Fair and to the examination of the various articles of the MOU relating to the organization of this Fair.

ICDT promoted this event during the "Halieutis Show", held from 15th to 19th February 2017 in Agadir - Kingdom of Morocco, which was dedicated to different trades of marine fisheries, aquaculture and seafood industries.

5. Technical assistance extended by ICDT in the field of studies, trade information and the establishment of Trade Promotion Organisations:

The Centre identifies Member States' needs along with the different possibilities of offering services in the field of trade promotion. Such action enables it to identify itself the actions that can be undertaken according to its means and integrate them in its work programme and to assess the actions that can be carried out by the other institutions of Member States.

Generally speaking, the expressed needs are related to information supply, trade related studies and documents, the Organisation of training seminars in the field of international trade and to the technical support for the launching or development of Trade Promotion Centres.

With regard to information, studies and training which fall within the framework, of the normal activities of the centre, such services are extended free of charges and in some cases are supported by external financing resources.

As concerns the projects linked to the creation or development of Trade Promotion Centres for which some Member States need technical assistance, the Centre may identify the required skills and supervise studies along with the implementation of such projects in case the required financing is obtained. In this respect, ICDT has participated within a delegation of IDB, in a mission in Guinea. The aim of this mission was to study upon a request made by the Guinea government to make a feasibility study on the creation of a documentation and trade information centre (A report on the feasibility and appraisal of the project was submitted to IDB at the end of this mission).

✓ ICDT's Technical assistance in the field of Trade Information:

ICDT initiated in collaboration with IDB a technical assistance programme for the benefit of the LDCs for the setting up of national trade information networks, the pilot experience started with the Republic of Guinea in 2002.

The Government of The Republic of Guinea has contacted ICDT with a view to proposing Experts for the implementation of this project. ICDT presented an offer for this purpose, in October 2001, which was accepted for the achievement of phase 3 and 4 of the Documentation Centre Information project coming under the competence of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the SMEs and the Republic of Guinea. The UNCTAD will achieve the phases 1 and 2 of this project.

For this purpose ICDT sent an expert in the new information technology and

documentation to start the implementation of the tasks assigned to ICDT for the setting up of a trade documentation and information Centre in this country.

A first mission was carried out from 19th to 30th April 2004. Its main aims were the identification, collection and processing for the dissemination of information on products, potential international markets with a view to making them available to economic operators of Guinea through adequate means. Besides, this mission also dealt with the architecture of trade databases and the remote interrogation procedures, notably the access to these databases through INTERNET.

This first mission has allowed the identification of needs in hardware and software of the Future CEDIC.

A second mission was carried out from 7 December 2005 to 6 January 2006. It concerned the network wiring and the electric installation of the DNCC, the conception and design of a web site and an interactive CD-ROM for the DNCC and sophos Pure Message/ Pure Message Anti-Spam antivirus solution. All the invoices had to be submitted to financial partner, which is IDB, in order to obtain its agreement and allow the selected companies to start effectively their work.

Pending the achievement of the cabling, the sever HP ML PROLIANT G2 was installed with a view to its subsequent use once the cabling is completed.

Within this framework, ICDT has received a request for technical assistance made by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Cameroon with a view to setting up a Trade Information Network within the Ministry of Commerce, from the Republic of Senegal via the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Dakar (CCIAD), the Republic of Benin from the Beninese Trade Promotion Agency (ABePEC). These requests are currently being examined by ICDT in close collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank. The ICDT's expert has carried out an exploring mission in Dakar in June and September 2010 and in Cotonou in February 2011.

ICDT is provided with a Roster's of Experts in international trade, nationals of Member States. The Centre updates this roster on a regular basis and resorts to it for the working out of studies and projects pertaining to its field of activities.

It is obvious that these actions can only be complementary to those carried out by IDB in the field of intra-OIC trade financing.

6. Technical assistance of ICDT in the field of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN):

For more than a decade ICDT has initiated a technical assistance to the LDCs in the field of MTN, such assistance concerns:

1. Training seminars for the benefit of Member States' s executives, notes and studies on MTNs;
2. Technical assistance on request, to assist the OIC LDCs in their ongoing accession process to the WTO.
3. Assistance on request in the preparation of negotiations.

II/ TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE OIC: FUTURE PROSPECTS.

In spite of being an essential element, technical assistance is provided neither with a defined structure within the OIC nor with a specific financing. Its framework should be organised and defined with a view to making of it a development instrument of intra-OIC

trade.

IDB and ICCI³ are undertaking technical assistance programmes for the benefit of the LDCs in particular. Such a programme deserves to be carried out and strengthened within the framework of an integrated programme, which defines the fields of assistance and needed expertise. At this level, it should be underlined that a resolution of the OIC 27th CFM held in Kuala Lumpur in June 2000 called for the setting up of a working group to study the needs of the Small and Medium Enterprises in the Least Developed Countries.

REQUESTS the OIC Secretary General to set up a Task Force comprising representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, IDB, ICDT, ICCI and some national Chambers selected by the OIC Member States. The Task Force shall be assigned three specific tasks:

- (i) To draw up appropriate Programmes that can be launched during the year 2001 as the Year of Promotion and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises;
- (ii) To prepare a Report highlighting the strategy for activation, encouragement and development of SMEs with special reference to the needs of Least-Developed, Island States and Land-locked Countries;
- (iii) To report the progress of work of the Task Force to the 24th session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs.

Programme of technical expertise exchange:

Several OIC Countries and more particularly the Least Developed Countries are not provided with adequate training and expertise in some essential fields such as labour planning and human resources development. The OIC community may meet a part of the needs in technical expertise and more particularly, those of the Least Developed Countries in several fields.

Whatever the nature of the chosen modality may be, the financing problem as it is often the case may hamper any effort in this field. Yet, in some cases particularly as concerns the exchange of experts, the latter's salaries may be paid wholly by those countries wishing to offer their services, whilst travelling and accommodation expenses may be financed jointly by the OIC institutions. Yet, it is not often easy to obtain resources. It would be therefore timely to consider the establishment of a permanent financing modality.

In order to solve such a problem in an efficient and lasting manner, the creation of a training and technical cooperation fund should be considered. Once the decision of establishing a fund is made, it would not be difficult to seek from the OIC countries, specialised OIC institutions as well from international and regional organisations, voluntary contributions. Such a fund may be deposited with the Islamic Development Bank and generate an annual income of about 8%.

³ For more details, refer to the activity reports of the two organisations as well as to their web sites :
BIDisb.org.icci.org.pk