



## **NOTE ON**

# **THE TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM AMONG THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

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## **THE TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM AMONG THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

### **I- HISTORY:**

The idea of establishing a Trade Preferential System specific to O.I.C Member States is based on the recommendations of the General Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the OIC Member States and more precisely of the MECCA Declaration and the Plan of Action to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States set up by the 3<sup>rd</sup> OIC Summit Conference in 1981.

In fact, paragraph II item 7 of the Plan of Action recommended:

"To make an inventory of the existing preferential schemes applied by groups of Member States with a view to strengthening and linking them in order to establish a system of trade preferences through a step by step approach by all interested Member States.

It should be based on the principles of mutuality of advantages yielding benefits to all participants and taking into account the respective levels of economic and industrial development, trade regimes and international obligations of individual Member States with the ultimate aim of establishing a free trade area...".

In implementation of these relevant resolutions of the third and the fourth summit of the OIC, which included trade among the priority sectors, the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) and ICDT have strived jointly since 1984 for the working out of a draft Framework Agreement on TPS/OIC.

In fact, since the holding of its first session in 1984 in Istanbul, the COMCEC recommended the setting of a working group to define the principles and rules that are to rule negotiations; this group held its first session in Izmir (Turkey) and was followed by the presentation by ICDT of the first version of TPS/OIC.

In order to solemnly corroborate the necessity of setting up a trade preferential system specific to the OIC Member States, the COMCEC adopted at its fourth session held in Istanbul in September 1988, a declaration of intent on the establishment of Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States specifying the basic principles and the orientations to be followed for the setting up of such a system.

During this period of time, ICDT finalised the draft agreement, in consultation with the GATT and the UNCTAD and submitted it to experts for appreciation, who met twice, in December 1989 in (Turkey) and in 1990 in (Casablanca) to put the finishing touches to the draft agreement.

Six years after its inclusion in the agenda items of the COMCEC's meetings, the Framework Agreement on TPS/OIC was endorsed by the sixth session of the COMCEC, which submitted it to the OIC General Secretariat for signature and ratification.

**Legally, TPS/OIC came into force in October 2003.**

## **II- ENFORCEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT:**

The TPS/OIC agreement was deposited in 1990 in the OIC General Secretariat for signature and ratification, in compliance with article 18; it will enter into force three months after ten Member States have deposited their instruments of ratification.

**In November 2017, forty Two Member States** have signed the framework Agreement TPS/OIC: Kingdom of Bahrain, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Benin, Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, 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 Two** Member States have ratified it: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, 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.

**19 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, Republic of Cameroon, 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 February 5<sup>th</sup> 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 August 9<sup>th</sup> 2011.**

To date, the following **14** OIC Member States: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, 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.

In order to make the TPS-OIC system operational, 10 Member States have to fulfill two conditions at the same time, namely the ratification of the three TPS-OIC Agreements and the submission of the list of concessions to the TNC Secretariat. The list showing signing/ratifying TPS-OIC Member Countries can be found in Annex. However, for the System to enter into force, there are a few practical steps that should be taken by the participating member states. The most important step in this context is the updating of the concession lists in annex.

As of September 2019, Turkey, Malaysia, Pakistan, Jordan, Bangladesh, Iran, Morocco and Gulf Cooperation Council on behalf of its 6 Member States have submitted their updated concession lists. The 34th Session of the COMCEC held on November 26-29th, 2018 in İstanbul, has requested the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Secretariat to communicate with the concerned participating Member States to ensure the submission of the concession lists in the same format and circulate them among the concerned Member States accordingly. On the other hand, for successful implementation of the System, the Member Countries are required to undertake some internal measures, such as: printing the TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin documents, conveying specimen impressions of stamps to the Trade Negotiating Committee Secretariat and completing the necessary internal legislative and administrative measures. After the completion of these measures, the System would become fully operational.

**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.**

### **III. ICDT'S ROLE AS MEMBER OF THE TNC SECRETARIAT:**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation has entrusted to ICDT and the COMCEC coordination Office the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating committee.

Within this framework, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade provides to Member States technical assistance under the form of training sessions intended for the executive staff operating in the field of foreign trade or by submitting explanatory notes on the framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States and on the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS/OIC (PRETAS) and the protocol on the Rules of Origin.

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade provides comprehensive explanatory notes related to issues debated within the framework of negotiations on the Trade Preferential System (TPS/OIC), the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS and the

Protocol on the Rules of Origin.

In this regard, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade has recently prepared explanatory notes on “the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States, the PRETAS Protocol, intended for the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Indonesia.

Upon the successful conclusion of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Rounds, the Trade Negotiating Committee will carry on its work that will focus on two main actions: on the one hand, the implementation of the PRETAS, notably by applying the fast track and the consideration of issue relating to the removal of para- and non-tariff measures on the other.

Within the framework of the operationalization of the TPS/OIC Agreement and its protocols, ICDT sent circular letters to participating Member States in March, April and May 2015 relating to checklist of the implementation process of the Rules Origin, the conversion of tariff lines from 2003 to 2015 version of applied tariffs with a view to facilitating trade negotiations between these countries. The deadline for the submission of this information was 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 as recommended by the Resolution 29 of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Session of the COMCEC held in November 2015 in Istanbul.

Since 2012, the following awareness-raising seminars were organized:

- **Training and Awareness-raising Seminar on the TPS/OIC and its Protocols:** Tripoli-Libya, March 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> 2012.
- **Training and Awareness-raising Seminar on the TPS/OIC and its Protocols for the benefit of the Countries of the Arab League:** Kuwait, May 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> 2012.
- **Seminar on “The proliferation of Bilateral and Regional Trade Agreements and their impact on the regional integration process in Arab Countries”:** Casablanca – Kingdom of Morocco, June 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> 2012.
- **National Seminar for the popularization of ICDT’s and IDB’s Group Services:** Casablanca – Kingdom of Morocco, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012.
- **Training Seminar in the field of International and Islamic Trade intended to the Officials of the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Iraq:** Casablanca – Kingdom of Morocco, June 26<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> 2012.
- **Training Seminar on TPS / OIC and issues related to the WTO,** Baghdad - Republic of Iraq, March 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> 2013.
- **Seminar on the Trade Preferential System of OIC Member Countries for the benefit of the private sector:** Sharjah, State of the United Arab Emirates, 20 March 2014.
- **National Training Seminar on the “Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States” and the International Trade Issues for the Benefit of the Private Enterprises and Public Administrations of Sultanate of Oman”:** Muscat, 15-16 September 2014.
- **National Training Seminar on the “Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States and the Provisions of the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS) and the Rules of Origin” for the benefit of the executive staff of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:** Riyadh, September 22<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2014.

In 2016, additional seminars were organized by the ICDT as follows:

- **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, March 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> 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 March 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 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, April 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> 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, ICDDT 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 April 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 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 ICDDT's experts presented the following themes:

- ❖ Presentation of the OIC and the ICDDT;
- ❖ 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 Organization (TPS/ OIC) "**, Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, September 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Within the framework of the implementation of the 32<sup>nd</sup> 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) organized 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 September 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Organization 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.

- **Training Workshop on "Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization (TPS/ OIC) and Multilateral Trading System "**, Khartoum, Republic of Sudan, December 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Within the framework of the implementation of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on November 23<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> 2017 resolution relating to TPS-OIC and other relevant Resolutions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, 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 (ICDT), the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Sudan, a training Workshop on the **"Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS - OIC) and Multilateral Trading System"**, in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan on December 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> 2018.

The workshop aimed at raising the awareness of Sudan 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 Sudanese government in completing the ratification process of the TPS-OIC and its protocols (PRETAS and Rules of Origin (ROO)).

More than 60 Participants from Sudan Public and Private Sector, senior officials from several ministries attended this event, such as Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Animal Resources, Ministry of Minerals, Ministry of Justice, Sudanese Standards Organization, Customs Authority, Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Sea Port Corporation, Federation of Chambers of Industry, National Secretariat WTO in Sudan, National Agency for Export Insurance and Finance, Marine Ports Authority, Customs Clearance Agents Association and also COMCEC Coordination Office, ICCIA and ICDT attended this workshop.

After the opening ceremony, ICDT, COMCEC, ICCIA and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Sudan made presentations on the following topics:

- Presentation of the Ten-Year Program of Action (2016-2025) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation 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;
- Presentation of the outcomes of the First Round of Trade Negotiations;
- 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;
- Economic integration, Legal impact of the TPS the WTO provisions and RTAs /OIC;

- Impact of the TPS/OIC on Sudan Foreign Trade;
- Presentation of the procedures of the accession of Sudan to the TPS/OIC Agreement and WTO;
- Membership procedures to TPS/OIC and technical instruments;
- Technical assistance of ICDT and IDB in the operationalization of the TPS/OIC Agreement and WTO Issues.

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 of Sudan.

After fruitful interactive debate, participants agreed on the following:

- To expedite the ratification formalities of TPS/OIC and call upon the concerned authority in the Ministry of Industry and Trade to urgently undertake the necessary steps to complete the needful for obtaining the consent of the Cabinet and the approval of the Parliament as soon as possible;
- To provide Sudan stakeholders technical assistance on TPS/OIC in finalizing the ratification of the Agreement and its protocols and the technical methods to select the list of Concessions of Sudan;
- To call upon the Republic of Sudan to continue to benefit from the instruments of the COMCEC Strategy, the COMCEC Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding;
- To encourage the Ministry of Trade and Industry to participate in the activities organized by COMCEC, ICDT, ICCIA and IDB Group in the field of trade facilitations activities;
- To organize other workshops and events in the trade facilitation and trade promotion in Sudan;
- To hold workshops on Sudan Accession to WTO and TPS/OIC;
- To involve private sector in the process of the preparation of concession positive list to be submitted to TNC;
- To request Sudanese Customs Authority to convey to COMCEC and ICDT, relevant documents including latest statistics and figures on Sudan Tariff lines less than 10% in order to facilitate the selection of updated concession list to be submitted to TNC.

At the end of the Workshop, certificates of participation were distributed to all participants.

**LIST OF THE MEMBERS STATES WHICH HAVE SIGNED AND RATIFIED THE  
AGREEMENTS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ICDT AND COMCEC  
(As of November 2019)**

AGREEMENTS COUNTRIES	TPS/OIC		PRETAS		RULES OF ORIGIN		Documents submitted of list
	Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified	Signed	Ratified	
<b>Bahrain</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Bangladesh</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Benin	*		*		*		
Brunei	*	*					
Burkina Faso	*		*		*		
Cameroon	*	*	*	*	*		
Chad	*						
Comoros	*		*		*		
Côte d'Ivoire	*		*		*		
Djibouti	*	*	*		*		
Egypt	*	*	*				
Gabon	*	*					
The Gambia	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Guinea	*	*	*		*		
Guinea Bissau	*		*		*		
Indonesia	*	*	*		*		
<b>Iran</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Iraq	*	*					
<b>Jordan</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Kuwait</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lebanon	*	*					
Libya	*	*					
<b>Malaysia</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Maldives	*	*					
Mauritania	*	*	*	*	*	*	
<b>Morocco</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Niger	*		*		*		
Nigeria	*		*		*		
<b>Oman</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Pakistan</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Palestine	*	*	*	*	*	*	
<b>Qatar</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Senegal	*	*					
Sierra Leone	*		*		*		
Somalia	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Sudan	*		*		*		
<b>Syria</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tunisia	*	*	*		*		
<b>Turkey</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>U.A.E</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Uganda	*	*					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>

Source: COMCEC, OIC GS, ICDT.