



Concept Note

Webinar on the role of the OIC Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC) in Strengthening Economic Integration for the Benefit of the Member States of the African Group of the OIC

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Context:

The Trade Preferential System of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS-OIC) serves as a strategic tool to foster trade development among member states. Its objective is to facilitate and enhance intra-OIC trade.

Launched in 1981 and coming into effect in 2003, the agreement was later complemented by an additional protocol to the PRETAS regime, designed to align its provisions with current economic realities. This protocol entered into force in February 2010. Additionally, the Rules of Origin, which determine the origin of products eligible for preferential tariff reductions under the TPS-OIC, were implemented in August 2011.

As of now, 13 OIC Member States have signed and ratified the legal instruments of the TPS-OIC.

The practical steps for the implementation of the OIC Preferential System can be summarized as follows:

- 1. Ratification of Legal Texts:** The Framework Agreement, the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff System of the TPS-OIC, and the Protocol on Rules of Origin.
- 2. Preparation of Goods Lists:** Identify the goods eligible for customs preferences (based on the latest version of the 8-digit HS) and submit these lists to the TPS Secretariat (COMCEC¹ Office and ICDT²).
- 3. Transmission of Official Signatures:** Provide the TPS Secretariat with samples of signatures from the competent authorities on certificates of origin, for distribution to other beneficiary countries.
- 4. Official Announcement of the Launch of the TPS-OIC:** the competent national authorities must officially notify the launch of the system to the countries concerned and/or publish this information on electronic platforms (based on the latest version of the 8-digit HS).

¹ **COMCEC:** Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

² **ICDT:** Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, subsidiary Organ of the OIC

5. Clarification of National Procedures: Provide detailed information on the procedures for the entry of goods benefiting from preferences, particularly the required documents (certificate of origin, health and safety certificate, etc.).

It should be noted that the 17 member states of the African group of the OIC, belonging to CEMAC³, ECOWAS⁴, COMESA⁵ and SADC⁶ groupings, have not yet implemented the TPS-OIC system. The status of the signature and ratification of this system by these countries is as follows:

COUNTRIES SIGNING AND RATIFYING PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS (TPS-OIC)									
No.	Member Countries	Group	Framework Agreement		Protocol on the Preferential Tariff System of the TPS-OIC		Protocol on Rules of Origin		Submission of lists of products subject to preferences
			Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	
1	Cameroon	CEMAC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	---	
2	Gabon		✓	✓	---	---	-	---	
3	Chad		✓	---	---	---	-	---	
4	Benin	ECOWAS	✓	---	✓	---	✓	---	
5	Burkina Faso		✓	---	✓	---	✓	---	
6	Côte d'Ivoire		✓	---	✓	---	✓	---	
7	Guinea-Bissau		✓	---	✓	---	✓	---	
8	Niger		✓	---	✓	---	✓	---	
9	Nigeria		✓	---	✓	---	✓	---	
10	Senegal		✓	✓	---	---	-	---	
11	Sierra Leone		✓	---	✓	---	✓	---	
12	The Gambia		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
13	Guinea		✓	✓	✓	---	✓	---	
14	Togo		---	---	---	---	---	---	
15	Mali	---	---	---	---	---	---		
16	Uganda	COMESA	✓	✓	---	---	-	---	
17	Mozambique	SADC	---	---	---	---	---	---	
			14	6	10	2	10	1	

³**CEMAC:** Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa.

⁴**ECOWAS:** Economic Community of West African States

⁵**COMESA:** Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

⁶**SADC:** Southern African Development Community

During the 3rd meeting of the Negotiating Committee, held at the ministerial level on June 10-11, 2024, in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, the potential for expanding the number of countries applying the TPS-OIC was discussed. The discussions also focused on a draft “Negotiation Strategy and Work Plan for the Potential Expansion of the TPS-OIC” submitted by the Republic of Türkiye.

Webinar Objectives

The objectives of this webinar are:

- The presentation of the legal provisions of this system and the practical modalities of its implementation.
- Raising awareness among the member countries of the OIC African Group of the importance of joining the TPS-OIC system.
- Discussing the issues involved in applying this system for these countries, in the light of their commitments at the level of the Regional Communities.

Impact and expected results:

- To develop a comprehensive understanding of the conditions required for the establishment of the trade preferential system within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
- To identify the strategic importance of implementing the system in achieving the OIC's objectives of promoting intra-OIC trade and strengthening economic partnerships among member countries.
- To propose recommendations and strategies for enhancing the evolution, the success of the system and the compatibility of its objectives with the Agreements of CEMAC, ECOWAS, COMESA and SADEC.

Participants:

- Representatives of the Ministries in charge of Trade and Investments of the African Group countries of the OIC;
- Customs Authorities of the African Group countries of the OIC;
- Representatives of the Economic Communities in the African region of the OIC (CEMAC, ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC).

Organizers:

The ICDT and the COMCEC Coordination Office.

Languages

English and French

Responsible:

- Mrs. Soumya ELHASSANI : s.elhassani@icdt-oic.org
- Mrs. Tilbe GOCUKLU : tgocuklu@comcec.org

Format:

Virtual format, featuring PowerPoint presentations, followed by discussions and recommendations.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84196332168?pwd=kY1AEoCoUbyEmF6vd1gz6sDH3bCJMt.1>

Date and Time:

- Wednesday February 19, 2025
- Duration: 2 hours and 30 minutes (10:00 AM - 12:30 PM) (GMT+1), as per the attached program.