



WEBINAR ON THE IMPACT OF DIGITIZATION OF TRADE PROCEDURES IN FACILITATING INTRA-OIC TRADE AND MITIGATING POST COVID-19 EFFECTS

Summary note

Context

The advent of COVID-19 has contributed to the expansion of electronic commerce, electronic data interchange and teleworking services. It was followed by a digitizing of several customs services, government services, banking, insurance and other international commercial transactions to avoid the spread of the virus and to comply with social distancing measures. Accordingly, most national and regional Single Windows have improved their online services to cope with the drop or even the net halt in the services of national economic operators and international partners.

In the framework of the implementation of the recommendations of the OIC General Secretariat relating to the OIC Single Window Initiative and the support of OIC Institutions and Member States to limit the negative effects of COVID-19, the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT) in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO), PortNet Morocco, Gainde2000 Senegal, the Mozambique Trade Net and the Oman Customs, organized a webinar on the repercussions of the digitization of trade procedures in the facilitation of Intra-OIC trade with a view to mitigating the post COVID-19 effects, on 6th July 2020 via Zoom platform.

Objective

The objective of this webinar is to highlight the importance of the digitization of foreign trade services in the development of intra-OIC trade, its contribution during the pandemic and the prospects for the development of digitization in the OIC Member Countries, as well as examining ways and means to improve the services of Commercial Single Windows. This event was an opportunity for the ICDT to activate the OIC Single Window Initiative which will be an interoperability platform of National Single Windows (NSW) in order to facilitate the exchange of digital data of foreign trade stakeholders from Member States in collaboration with partners such as the WCO and the NSWs.

Participants

More than 90 participants took part in this webinar from the Ministries of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Custom Administrations, National Single Windows, as well as representatives of Embassies, Trade and Investment Promotion Organs, academics

and consultants, in addition to the OIC Institutions and regional and international organizations and the private sector.

Webinar proceedings

After the welcoming remarks by Mrs. Latifa Elbouabdellaoui, Director General of the ICDT, the panelists, namely: Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the WCO, Mr. Jalal Benhayoun, General Manager of PortNet Morocco, Mr. Ibrahima Nour Eddine Diagne, Managing Director of Gaïnde 2000 Senegal, Mr. Guilherme Mambo, General Manager of Mozambique Trade Net and Lieutenant Colonel Mansour Nasser Alrahbi, Manager of Bayan System of Oman Customs, explained the importance of the digitalization of foreign trade services and procedures and its role in the facilitation of trade and the accompaniment of economic operators in the processing of their domestic and international commercial operations.

In this regard, the various speakers highlighted their respective experiences in terms of digitization of the services offered at the port, airport, road, customs transit levels through the deployment of commercial single windows.

The panelists also stressed the importance of standardization and certification of the procedures for single windows at the national, regional and OIC Member States levels. They also highlighted their respective efforts during the pandemic in terms of accelerating the digitalization of their services, as well as other initiatives such as the establishment of data exchange platforms and the development of a practical guide for the deployment of single windows.

Finally, the participants were delighted with the organization and smooth running of this webinar and congratulated the ICDT and its panelist partners.

In addition, this webinar was moderated by Mr. Mounir Ferram, Executive Director of the Moroccan Association of Exporters (ASMEX).