



WEBINAR ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE STANDARDIZATION AND CERTIFICATION OF MEDICAL, PROTECTIVE AND FOOD PRODUCTS IN THE OIC MEMBER STATES

Summary Note

Context

Standardization and certification of products and services play a very important and vital role for consumers, particularly in the fields of safety, environment, industry, quality, manufacturing standards, but also in compliance with their national, regional and international marketing processes.

The advent of COVID-19 has allowed states to focus on revising and applying these standards to save human lives, particularly those relating to medical, protective and Agri-food products.

Within this framework, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and The Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in collaboration with The Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM), the National Institute of Standardization and Industrial Property (INNORPI), the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE), Dinar Standard (United Arab Emirates) and the Moroccan Institute of Standardization (IMANOR) organized a Webinar on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Standardization and Certification of Medical, Protective and Food Products in the OIC Member States on 2nd July 2020 via Zoom platform.

Objective

The objective of this webinar is to highlight the importance of standardization, certification and control of products and services in boosting trade of products which comply with all recognized standards of safety, the environment and international quality but also to share the experiences of the Standardization Institutes of the OIC Member States in the protection of populations during the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular the wearing of masks, gloves but also the use of hydroalcoholic gel.

Participants

More than 100 participants took part in this webinar from the Ministries of Commerce, Industry, Standardization and certification institutes, 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. Ihsan Ovüt, Secretary General of The Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC), Mr. Hussalmizzar Hussain, Senior Director of the Standardization Division at The Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM), Mr. Chahir Jhene, Head of Certification Services at the National Institute of Standardization and Industrial Property (INNORPI), Mr. Ilhami Akturk, Deputy Secretary General of the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) and Mr. Abderrahim Taibi, Director of the Moroccan Institute for Standardization (IMANOR) presented the role of standardization and certification of products and services and its impact in the development of intra-OIC trade in the current context of COVID-19.

In this regard, the various standardization and certification institutions who attended this webinar highlighted their respective experiences as well as the measures taken in collaboration with local authorities, in the field of protection of populations and industries and private sector support initiatives to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic. Among these measures, we can cite the adoption of new standards in the manufacturing of medical and protective products, the preparation of practical guides to support businesses in resuming their activities, and the broadcasting of media awareness campaigns.

Furthermore, the various speakers underlined the importance of regional integration of value chains and collaboration between institutions and OIC Member States in order to tackle the pandemic collectively and efficiently through the exchange of good practices and mutual recognition of standards.

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

The webinar was moderated by Mr. Rafi-Iddin Shikoh, CEO & Managing Director of Dinar Standard.