

REGIONAL PREPARATORY WORKSHOP FOR THE 12th MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (MC12) OF  
THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION  
(OIC)

Tuesday November 9 and  
Wednesday 10 November 2021

**Programme**

**Link :** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_KTAFNDXpRRub\\_g2aZXld1A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KTAFNDXpRRub_g2aZXld1A)

**Interpretation :** English/French/Arabic.

Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November, 2021 (GMT)	
10.00– 10.15	<p><b>Opening Ceremony:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Latifa El Bouabdellaoui, Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT).</li> <li>• Mr. Aime Murigande, Head of the Francophone Africa office, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, WTO.</li> <li>• Mr. Riad RAGUEB Director in charge of the Regional Cooperation &amp; Integration Department of the Islamic Development Bank.</li> </ul>
10.15 - 12.00	<p><b>Session 1: State of play of current negotiations on the following subjects:</b></p> <p>Mr. Said EL HACHIMI, Adviser, Information and External Relations Division, WTO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade and health (30 mins)/ Questions &amp; Answers</li> <li>• Fisheries subsidies; (30 mins)/ Questions &amp; Answers</li> <li>• Agriculture; (30 mins)/ Questions &amp; Answers</li> </ul>
12.00 – 13.00	<p><b>Session 2: State of play of new initiatives negotiations</b></p> <p>Ms. Zainab MCHUMO, Counselor, Trade Negotiations Council and Committee Division, WTO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic commerce / Questions &amp; Answers</li> </ul>

Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 (GMT)	
10.00 – 10.30	<p><b>Session 3: Preparations for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12)</b></p> <p>Mr. Danio Campanelli, Legal Affairs Officer, Trade Negotiations Council and Committee Division, WTO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logistical aspects relating to participation in MC12;</li> <li>• Agenda of the conference ;</li> <li>• Events on the sidelines of MC12;</li> <li>• Questions &amp; Answers.</li> </ul>
10.30 – 11.30	<p><b>Continuation of session 2: State of play of new initiatives negotiations</b></p> <p>Mr. Said EL HACHIMI, Adviser, Information and External Relations Division, WTO.</p> <p>10.30 - 11.00 : Facilitation of Investments for Development Questions / Answers.</p> <p>11.00 - 11.30: Internal regulations in the field of services questions / answers.</p>
11.30 – 12.00	<p><b>Session 4: Exchange of views on issues under negotiation at the WTO</b></p> <p>The representatives of the following OIC member countries will present their views at the national level on the issues under negotiation of the WTO as well as the trends of the discussions at the level of the 3 groups (African, Arab, and Asian).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Senegal (10 mins) (not yet confirmed)</li> <li>- Saudi Arabia (10 mins) (not yet confirmed)</li> <li>- Kazakhstan (10 mins) (not yet confirmed)</li> </ul>
12.00 – 12.15	<b>Questions &amp; Answers</b>
12.15 – 12.30	<p><b>Closing Session:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing remarks by the DGA of ICDD. (5 mins)</li> <li>• Closing remarks by WTO Representative. (5 mins)</li> </ul>

## Concept Note

### Regional Preparatory Workshop for the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of The WTO for the Benefit of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)



#### Context:

The 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC12) will be organized from November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, in Geneva (Switzerland). It will be chaired by HE Mr. Bakhyt Sultanov, the Minister of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan, as agreed by WTO Members in December 2019.

MC12 Trade Ministers will get to achieve progress in discussions on a number of vital areas of great importance for development through the adoption of legal texts, joint declarations and other consent documents.

The questions that will be discussed relate to the following:

- Legal provisions for a future agreement on electronic commerce;
- The draft Multilateral Agreement on the Facilitation of Investments for Development;
- The Draft Ministerial Declaration on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME);
- The Draft Agreement on Domestic Regulation in Services;
- the joint declaration on trade and environmental sustainability;
- The draft outcome document on the role of trade in the economic empowerment of women.

Also, Trade Ministers will discuss the possibilities of reaching compromise on:

- An Agreement aimed at reducing harmful subsidies to fishing;
- A commitment to reduce agricultural policies distorting trade;
- A framework for expanding global trade in vaccines and therapeutic products.
- Special and differential treatment adapted to the economic and social situation of LDCs and developing countries.

To prepare for the discussions on these different topics, the OIC countries will need to be better informed on the progress made since June 2021, the date of the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> virtual workshop on the ongoing negotiations at the WTO.

The update of information as well as the exchange of experience between experts is necessary to facilitate the positioning of the OIC countries in the discussions that will arise during MC12. It is also necessary to better understand the challenges of commitments on these topics to effectively contribute to the success of the proceedings of this conference.

It should be noted that the OIC Trade Ministers will hold a consultative meeting on the eve of MC12. The objective is to seek ways and means to take better advantage of the opportunities offered by the WTO negotiations.

In this regard and in accordance with the recommendations of the workshop organized virtually in June 2021 on the issues being negotiated at the WTO, ICDT, IDB and WTO Secretariat are organizing a preparatory workshop for MC12 for the benefit of OIC Member States as part of their technical assistance program on WTO issues.

### **Objectives:**

The main objective of this workshop is to provide an opportunity for OIC member countries to exchange views on the issues of the agenda of MC12. The specific objectives are:

- To inquire about the latest information on the state of play of discussions on the above-mentioned topics;
- The exchange of experiences and expertise to consult and foster closer ties of the positions of the OIC countries;
- The preparation of the consultative meeting of the OIC Ministers in charge of trade in preparation for MC12, on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### **Methodology:**

- The sessions will revolve around the aforementioned specific topics under discussion at the WTO, in the form of presentations which will be delivered by experts from the WTO and followed by question-and-answer sessions. It is also planned an experience exchange session, moderated by experts from some Member States who will share their experiences on these topics.
- This workshop will result in recommendations that will be presented in future consultation meetings of the OIC countries and those of the relevant economic bodies of the OIC, including in particular the meeting of Trade Ministers of the OIC countries, to be held in Geneva on the eve of MC12.

### **Expected results:**

- Sensitizing OIC countries to WTO issues,
- Better understanding of the opportunities and challenges of ongoing discussions on the above-mentioned topics,
- Recommendations to be submitted to the OIC Trade Ministers who will meet on the sidelines of MC12,
- Recommendations to be submitted to the OIC Trade Ministers, especially with proposals for better coordination between OIC countries within WTO.

### **Participants:**

This workshop will target participants from OIC countries:

- Ministries in charge of trade,
- Members of national committees of trade negotiations,
- Permanent missions of OIC countries accredited to the WTO,
- Sub-regional organizations of the OIC zone,
- Representatives of the WTO, UNCTAD and ITC,
- Private sector organizations.

**Language:**

The workshop will be held in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

**Date and terms:**

The workshop will be held virtually from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021, from 10am to 1pm (GMT) via Zoom platform. ***Participants are kindly requested to confirm their participation no later than 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021.***

**Organizers:**

- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade contact: Mr. Ismail TAQUI ([i.taqui@icdt-oic.org](mailto:i.taqui@icdt-oic.org)),
- IDB Regional Cooperation and Integration Department contact: Mr. Nazar Diab ([ndiab@isdb.org](mailto:ndiab@isdb.org)).