

Regional Workshop on the State of Play of The World Trade Organization (WTO) Negotiations for the Benefit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Countries

June 21st- 23rd, 2021

Programme

Monday June 21 st , 2021 (UTC+1)	
10.00- 10.15	<p>Opening Ceremony:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Latifa El Bouabdellaoui, Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT). • Mr. Victor Luiz Do Prado, Director of the Council Division and Trade Negotiations Committee of the WTO Secretariat. • Mr. Riad RAGUEB Director in charge of the Regional Cooperation & Integration Department of the Islamic Development Bank.
10.15- 11.30	<p>Session 1: Investment Facilitation for Development</p> <p>Mrs. Claudia LOCATELLI, Counselor, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context and objectives of the negotiations, • Participants, main issues discussed, • Implementation and Special and Differential Treatment, • Latest progress of negotiations and road to the 12th Ministerial Conference. <p>- Contribution of OIC Member Countries in Joint Initiatives:</p> <p>Morocco: Investment facilitation for development</p>
11.30 - 11.45	<p>Questions & Answers</p>
11.45 - 12.30	<p>Session 2: Small Businesses / MSMEs</p> <p>Mrs. Kathryn LUNDQUIST, Economist, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why MSMEs at the WTO? • Explanation of the package of recommendations and declarations of the MSME group for 2020 • Preparation of the 12th Ministerial Conference <p>- Contribution of OIC Member Countries in Joint Initiatives</p> <p>Senegal: Small businesses / MSME</p>

12.30- 12.45	Questions & Answers
Tuesday June 22nd, 2021 (UTC+1)	
09.30 - 10.45	<p>Session 3: E- Commerce</p> <p>Mrs. Stéfania GALLO, Trade Policy Analyst-Advisor, Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division, WTO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work program on electronic commerce, • Moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions, • Joint initiatives on electronic commerce. <p>- Contribution of OIC Member Countries in Joint Initiatives: Malaysia: Electronic commerce</p>
10.45- 11.00	Questions & Answers
11.00- 11.30	<p>Session 4: Internal Regulation in the field of Services</p> <p>Mr. Markus JELITTO, Counselor, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context and objectives of negotiations • Substantial content of the negotiations • Disciplines and transparency • Disciplines on legal certainty and predictability • Disciplines on quality and regulatory facilitation • Status quo, outstanding issues, and legal form <p>- Contribution of OIC Member Countries in Joint Initiatives Qatar: Internal regulations in the field of services</p>
11.30 - 11.45	Questions & Answers
11.45 - 12.15	<p>Session 5: Trade and Environment</p> <p>Mr. Mateo FERRERO, Counselor, Trade and Environment Division, WTO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the relationship between trade, WTO, and environment? • Relevant WTO work and rules, • Recent developments at the WTO and the road to MC12. <p>- Contribution of OIC Member Countries in Joint Initiatives: UAE: Trade and environment</p>
12.15 - 12.30	Questions & Answers

Wednesday June 23rd, 2021 (UTC+1)

10.00 - 11.15	Session 6: WTO Negotiations
11.15 - 12.00	<p>Mr. Yanis BOURGEOIS, Economist, Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division, WTO.</p> <p>- Negotiations currently underway at the WTO including preparations for the ministerial conference (MC12).</p> <p>The countries will share their experiences regarding their visions and concerns on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morocco: Fisheries subsidies• Burkina Faso: Agriculture• Egypt: Services• Cameroon: Special and differential treatment
12.00 - 12.15	Questions & Answers
12.15 - 13.00	Closing / Round table <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading of recommendations by ICDT representative.• ICDT Representative.• WTO Representative.

Concept Note

Regional Workshop on the State of Play of The WTO Negotiations for the Benefit of OIC Countries



Context:

Given the impasse in the Doha Round, some WTO members have launched initiatives since the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11), held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 2017, with a view to make progress in discussions on vital areas of great importance for development.

Among the new topics under negotiation, we have the following: E-commerce; investment facilitation for development; Micros, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME); Internal Regulation in the field of Services; and Trade and Environment.

In the same vein, discussions are currently underway in the WTO regarding:

- Fisheries subsidies;
- Agriculture;
- Services;
- Special and differential treatment;

The above-mentioned topics will be on the agenda of the 12th Ministerial Conference (CM12), scheduled from 30th November to 3rd December 2021 in Geneva.

In preparation of this important meeting, OIC countries will be called upon to prepare positions involving all stakeholders at the national level in order to better contribute to the discussions of these issues and take better advantage of the opportunities offered through the WTO negotiations.

In addition, these topics are also of great importance for the development of trade, investment, and regional integration within OIC space, to gain competitive advantage in global value chains. This requires a good understanding of the opportunities and the challenges that arise from them, based on the experiences of the OIC countries.

In this regard, ICDT, IsDB and WTO are organizing a regional workshop on the state of play of the WTO negotiations for the benefit of OIC Countries.

Objectives:

The main objective of this workshop is to support the OIC countries in the ongoing discussions at the WTO, in preparation of the 12th Ministerial Conference (CM12). The specific objectives are:

- Information updating;
- Exchange of experiences and expertise;
- Facilitate the contribution of OIC countries to ongoing discussions.

Expected results:

- Sensitizing OIC countries to WTO issues,
- Better understanding of the opportunities and challenges of ongoing discussions on the above-mentioned topics,
- Recommendations / proposals for better coordination between OIC countries within WTO.

Methodology:

The workshop will take place virtually over 3 days. 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.

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,
- Private sector organizations.

Language:

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

Date and venue of the workshop:

The workshop will be held virtually from June 21st to 23rd June 2021, from 10am to 1pm, Greenwich +1 (GMT + 1), on a videoconferencing platform.