Gelen Evrak Tarih Sayı: 11.08.2025 - 36644

Concept Note

Webinar on Trade Facilitation and Global Supply Chains: Objectives and Implications on International Trade

September 25, 2025

Background and rationale:

Trade facilitation encompasses all measures aimed at streamlining and simplifying the technical, administrative, and legal procedures that govern international trade operations. Today, it stands as a central concern for governments and economic stakeholders alike, particularly in relation to global supply chains operating within an increasingly complex international environment marked by persistent geopolitical tensions.

The vulnerability of global supply chains was starkly revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic, which triggered massive delays, critical shortages (notably of semiconductors, medicines, and food products), and skyrocketing logistics costs. Since then, this structural fragility has been further exacerbated by a series of crises, including the war in Ukraine, conflicts affecting key global transport and logistics routes, escalating trade tensions, rising tariffs, and the growing environmental pressures on major transport infrastructures. These challenges have severely disrupted trade flows, undermining the smooth functioning of international logistics corridors and jeopardizing both global trade and the stability of domestic markets.

In this volatile landscape, trade facilitation and the reinforcement of supply chains have emerged as strategic priorities for ensuring resilience, competitiveness, and economic stability—particularly for the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Ratifying the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and other regional frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) represents an essential milestone for OIC member countries, aligning them with global trade norms. However, ratification alone is not sufficient. It is increasingly critical for these countries to adopt innovative strategies that enhance their integration into global supply chains. In an era marked by instability in international distribution networks, anticipating and mitigating risks associated with global disruptions—while boosting national economic resilience—is paramount.

To this end, more ambitious efforts are needed. Harnessing technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, and electronic single windows can significantly enhance the efficiency of customs processes and cross-border trade while improving traceability. Additionally, reducing reliance on traditional suppliers through diversification strategies like nearshoring and friendshoring is crucial. Promoting greener logistics solutions—such as low-carbon practices and multimodal transport—can also contribute to more sustainable and robust supply chains.

In this context, and as part of its trade facilitation initiative among OIC member states, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), in collaboration with UNCTAD, will host a webinar that aims to equip public and private stakeholders from member countries with a deeper understanding of the legal and economic dimensions of successfully positioning themselves within global supply chains. It will also serve as a platform to exchange best practices and explore policy

strategies designed to build resilient national frameworks capable of mitigating the impacts of global geopolitical and economic uncertainties on domestic market stability.

Specific objectives:

This webinar will cover the following key points:

- Legal aspects related to trade facilitation and global supply chains, with special emphasis on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Focus will be given to the progress made by the 57 OIC member states in implementing the TFA.
- The potential effects of the current international economic landscape on global supply chains, highlighting the unique challenges faced by markets within OIC member countries.
- The impact of logistical disruptions—such as those affecting ports, corridors, and transit routes—on international trade, especially concerning trade fluidity and supply security.
- Exploration of national-level solutions aimed at enhancing the resilience of Member States' economies, including identification of policies and mechanisms that can help mitigate the effects of global market instabilities on domestic market stability.

Target audience:

- Ministries and institutions responsible for trade, transport, logistics and customs of the OIC member states.
- Chambers of Commerce, Private Sector Associations, and Federations operating in the fields of transport, logistics and import-export of the OIC Member States.

Organizers:

- The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (invitations and coordination with member countries);
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (presentation of technical aspects related to the webinar theme).

Languages:

- English, French and Arabic (with simultaneous translation)

Format:

- Virtual via the registration link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ksC2_mvLSmaZ_loKTrDdNw

Date and Time:

- Thursday, September 25, 2025
- Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes (10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) (GMT), according to the attached program.

Focal points:

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Program

Webinar on Trade Facilitation and Global Supply Chains: Objectives and Implications on International Trade

September 25, 2025

(GMT+1)

Moderator: ICDT Representative

11:00 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.	Welcome remarks by UNCTAD and ICDT
11:05 – 11:20	Status of the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and its impact on effective positioning within global supply chains.
11:20 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	The effects of logistical disruptions on international trade, with a focus on trade fluidity and the security of supply chains.
11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Recommended national policies and mechanisms to reduce the impact of international geopolitical and economic crises on the stability of domestic markets.
12:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Questions and answers and concluding remarks