

SPECIAL SESSION 4: FACILITATING TRADE IN THE DIGITAL ERA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASING CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE

<p align="center"><i>Brief Note</i></p>	<p>In recent years, electronic commerce (e-commerce) has become one of the hot topics of the global economic agenda with the significant developments in the information and communications technology (ICT) as well as the considerable increase in the utilization of the technology in trade transactions. In addition to its benefits about improving the export competitiveness of the private sector and increasing their access to the global markets, cross-border e-commerce removes trade barriers of the countries through reducing the trade procedures and paper work.</p> <p>However, digitalization of trade also brings about some challenges to the customs authorities and other trade-related institutions. Continuously increasing volumes of low value shipments and increasing number of individual traders may make the accurate and fast customs controls and risk management harder. This trend may also have some negative implications on local traders especially the distributors with exclusive trading rights.</p> <p>Therefore, for reaping the maximum benefit from the e-commerce and overcoming its challenges, the countries, while developing a sound environment that will both satisfy the needs of the individual consumers and traders, also need to enhance their capacity in e-commerce-related sectors (ICT, payment, delivery etc.) as well as border management. The development of e-commerce requires a solid legal and regulatory framework, sufficient ICT infrastructure and services, development of ICT skills and the availability of payment and delivery solutions. Moreover, the countries should also adapt their relevant authorities (such as customs) and procedures to the changing environment in the digital era.</p>
<p align="center"><i>Objective of the Panel</i></p>	<p>The main objective of this panel is to discuss the impact of digitalization of trade to the global economic environment and the benefits and drawbacks of e-commerce to the trade facilitation efforts of the countries as well as private sector.</p>
<p align="center"><i>Issues and Topics</i></p>	<p>Possible points of discussion include but not limited to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the major benefits of cross-border e-commerce for facilitating trade and simplifying the trade procedures? • How can the developing and least-developed countries reap the maximum benefits from e-commerce for facilitating their trade? • What are the main challenges faced by the countries in adapting to the changing trade environment? • How can the national border management be adapted to the developments of technology and cross-border e-commerce? • How can the issue of cross-border e-commerce be addressed in the international trade regulations and what have been done so far?
<p align="center"><i>Participation</i></p>	<p>All delegations of the OIC Member States, the representatives of the OIC Institutions and various International Organizations attending the 34th COMCEC Ministerial Session are invited to participate in the special session. Representatives of civil society, businessmen, academicians and other relevant stakeholders will also be invited to attend this Session.</p>
<p align="center"><i>Venue & Date</i></p>	<p>Istanbul Congress Center, İstanbul / Turkey, November 29th, 2018 For more information, please contact: Mustafa Adil SAYAR, Expert, COMCEC Coordination Office, Necatibey cd. No:110 CANKAYA- ANKARA Ph: +90 312 294 57 20 E-mail: msayar@comcec.org</p>



SPECIAL SESSION

“Facilitating Trade in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities for Increasing Cross-border E-commerce”

NOVEMBER 29th, 2018, ISTANBUL

Istanbul Congress Center

10:45-11:45

Moderator

Mr. Bilal Khan PASHA
Consul General of Pakistan in İstanbul

Speakers

- **Mr. Ibrahima Nour Eddine DIAGNE**
Former Chairman
African Alliance for E- Commerce (AAEC)
Senegal
- **Ms. Ana HINOJOSA**
Director
World Customs Organization
Belgium
- **Mr. Hakan ÇEVİKOĞLU**
CEO
ePttAVM
Turkey

11:45-12:00

Questions and Answers