

Original: English

## **ANKARA MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

As Ministers and Heads of Delegation of OIC member states attending the Second Session of the Ministers of Commerce for the Trade Preferential System of OIC (TPS-OIC) held on the occasion of the signing ceremony of the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin and the closing of the second round of trade negotiations in Ankara, on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007, we adopted the following Ministerial Declaration:

### **TPS-OIC as *the* OIC Project for Trade Liberalization**

The OIC community is on the edge of realizing the decade-long vision it has aspired to. The Trade Preferential System, which is the key project for trade liberalization among our brotherly countries, will be operational by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Trade is the key economic activity for economic growth, prosperity, employment and poverty alleviation. Historically speaking, covering a wide span of geographic area and bringing together very diverse economic entities, the Islamic world has been favorably vivid in terms of international trade. It promises even more opportunities, given the intensified global dynamics conducive to commercial cooperation. In order to utilize these global dynamics, we need to remove barriers to the movement of goods among our brotherly countries. In real terms, the prospective Trade Preferential System we are aiming to operationalize by the beginning of 2009, will reduce tariff rates in trade among our members and pave the way for further liberalization in the near future.

We recall the resolutions of the COMCEC that recommend the establishment of a trade system among its members, including the Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of A Trade Preferential System adopted at the Fourth Session of the COMCEC. We welcome and appreciate COMCEC-led efforts towards the establishment of the Trade Preferential System and the organization of the first (Antalya) and second rounds (Ankara) of trade negotiations in particular.

We also recall the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, which appeals for an expansion of the intra-OIC trade to the level of 20 percent by 2015.

We confirm the resolutions of the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM), held in 2006 (Baku) and in 2007 (Islamabad) consecutively that emphasize the TPS-OIC as the basis for substantiating the 20 percent intra-OIC trade target set by the Ten-Year Programme of Action.

We welcome the resolution of the 34<sup>th</sup> ICFM endorsing the target date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, for establishing the TPS-OIC.

We affirm and follow up the recommendations made by the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> ICFM that respective Ministers of Commerce of the Trade Negotiating Committee member states hold meetings in order to demonstrate their political will to make the TPS-OIC a reality, to evaluate the progress towards a fully operational TPS-OIC, and to sign the outcome of the second round.

### **Work Programme prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

We strongly re-affirm our commitment to establish and make operational the TPS-OIC by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. We shall mobilize our resources in order to make this objective a reality.

We welcome the successful conclusion of the second round of trade negotiations for establishing the TPS-OIC, and its outcome, the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin. We call upon all the member states to sign and ratify it at their earliest convenience.

We express our commitment to finalize the ratification procedures of the PRETAS and the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin before the end of March 2008. As respective Ministers of the TNC member countries, we strongly re-affirm the prime importance of these two agreements for the realization of the objective of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

We agree on the necessity of holding at least one meeting as the Ministers of Commerce of the TNC member countries and at least one meeting of the TNC during

2008. These meetings will help us review final preparations for the target date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

We ask the OIC Secretary General to actively proceed with the completion of the ratification procedures by the member states, before the end of March 2008, of the PRETAS and the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin, with a view to allowing sufficient time for final preparations before the target date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

We agree on the necessity of urgent and effective communication and cooperation among the customs administrations of the TNC member countries with a view to undertaking technical preparations for the movement of goods with a TPS-OIC Rules of Origin certificate by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. We request the TNC to design its work programme accordingly.

We agree to submit our lists of concessions under the PRETAS to the TNC Secretariat before the end of April, 2008 for circulation among the member countries.

### **Promoting the TPS-OIC**

We thank the Government of Turkey for hosting the Second Round of Trade Negotiations, as well as for its commitment to economic and commercial cooperation within the OIC community. We also thank the IDB for financially contributing to the organization of the second round.

We ask the member states as well as relevant OIC institutions to promote the target date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, for the establishment of the TPS-OIC, as a significantly historic step towards commercial and economic cooperation.

We call upon all the OIC member states to join the TPS-OIC by acceding to the three agreements, Framework Agreement, the PRETAS and the TPS-OIC Rules of Origin constituting its legal framework.