

Policy Recommendations adopted by 30th Session of the COMCEC

- **Increasing the member state capacity for successful implementation of the PTAs**

Rationale: PTAs have the potential to be an engine for growth that could lift millions of people out of poverty by generating many new trade and economic opportunities. However, in order to take advantage of such opportunities, member countries need to ensure that the agreements are fully implemented and administered in an effective and timely fashion. That constitutes a significant challenge as many member countries lack the institutional capacity to do so and need to introduce adequate infrastructure involving several public and private agencies. Hence, in order to address the challenges associated to the implementation of the preferential trade agreements and to be able to take advantage of the economic and commercial opportunities that are resulting from the trade liberalization process, it is necessary for the OIC countries to (i) have an accurate understanding of the magnitude and scope of such challenges; and (ii) develop strategies/policies aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the institutions that are in charge of the regulation and administration of those agreements.

- **Preparing the ground for the implementation of TPS-OIC**

Rationale: Participating states of the TPS-OIC are encouraged to organize events with a view to ensuring that practical preparations for the implementation of the System, such as designating the competent body which will print the TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin and its printing are made in timely and effective manner. Furthermore, organizing training seminars for the local customs administrations and other relevant actors, and publishing the required internal regulations for the smooth implementation of the Agreement are needed. Once the necessary conditions for the implementation of the system are met, relevant member states may also consider to utilize the Trade Negotiating Committee for reviewing these preparations.

- **Raising awareness on TPS-OIC**

Rationale: The success of the TPS-OIC System will be enhanced with the involvement of member states which are not yet party to the System. Thus, relevant public institutions, private sector companies, and other economic operators of these countries need to have a full understanding of the benefits of the TPS-OIC System. In this regard, responsibility rests with both relevant OIC Institutions and the member states. ICDT and CCO are the co-secretariats of the Trade Negotiating Committee of the COMCEC and they have been undertaking various efforts to raise awareness on the TPS-OIC. For the member states which are yet to complete the signing and ratification of the TPS-OIC Agreements, and/or fulfill all the requirements of the System, further awareness-raising events may also be organized to ensure that their constituencies are fully aware of the System.