

SPECIAL SESSION 1: HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF TRADE FACILITATION FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION

<p align="center"><i>Brief Note</i></p>	<p>Trade facilitation has been at the forefront of the global trade policy agenda in recent years as enhanced trade facilitation could spur trade and growth. Thus many countries worldwide aim at reducing trade costs through implementing behind the border and at the border trade facilitation measures. Trade facilitation reforms are also considered as a key to increased regional trade and economic integration since the burdensome custom procedures constitute a major hurdle to intra-regional trade. There is a growing number of regional and sub regional initiatives where high priority is given to trade facilitation in the regional trade and economic integration programs.</p> <p>This panel will try to discuss the role of trade facilitation in regional trade and economic integration. The panel will also analyze trade facilitation measures/innovations in the regional context and discuss the ways and means of achieving regional integration objective through, among others, trade facilitation. In doing so, the panel will also discuss challenges confronted by the member countries of regional organizations and gains from collective actions to raise capacity in trade facilitation.</p>
<p align="center"><i>Objective of the Panel</i></p>	<p>The main objective of this session is to provide a platform that articulates on the link between regional integration and trade facilitation, focusing on the challenges and practical solutions. The panel aims at providing insight into how representatives from international/regional organizations evaluate the ongoing initiatives, existing constraints, and possible solutions in this regard.</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 role can trade facilitation play in regional integration? • What are the benefits of regional trade facilitation reforms? • In what areas collective efforts to raise capacity in trade facilitation could better serve the regional integration objective? • In what ways can policies introduce innovations so that the trade facilitation can better advance the regional integration objectives? • Which mechanisms can promote better coordination at regional level for effective implementation of trade facilitation initiatives? • What are challenges/successes and lessons learned from the various regional trade facilitation initiatives?
<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: Fatih ARSLAN, Expert, COMCEC Coordination Office, Necatibey cd. No:110 CANKAYA- ANKARA Ph: +90 312 294 57 28 E-mail: farslan@comcec.org</p>



SPECIAL SESSION

“Harnessing the Potential of Trade Facilitation for Regional Integration”

NOVEMBER 29th, 2018, ISTANBUL

Istanbul Congress Center

09:15-10:15	<p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Mohammad SAEED Senior Advisor International Trade Center Switzerland <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salifou TIEMTORE Director ECOWAS Nigeria• Patricia SOURDIN Professor University of Adelaide Australia• Mr. Oussama Abdel Rahman KAISSI CEO Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) Saudi Arabia
10:15-12:30	Questions and Answers