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1. INTRODUCTION

Fairs, exhibitions, and other actions in support of the private sector of the OIC countries constitute an essential tool for the promotion of trade and investments in the OIC space.

Recognizing the importance of this promotional tool, to which the OIC Member States refer in several official documents, notably, the General Agreement on Economic Cooperation, Technical and Commercial stipulates in Article 10 that:

"Member States will endeavor to organize fairs and exhibitions with the aim to exhibit and market their products and services on the markets of other states. Similarly, they will endeavor to participate in international fairs and exhibitions organized in the Member States to help make their products and increase the chances of development of trade between them".

In addition to General Trade Fairs, ICDT organizes specialized fairs on other sectors with high potential for trade between OIC countries (Health, agribusiness industry, furniture and decoration, tourism, construction and real estate, Halal products, cotton, and textiles, etc.).

ICDT has also initiated activities to facilitate contact between Businessmen seeking Business opportunities by organizing Forums and Businessmen missions (Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Cote d'Ivoire, ...).

ICDT carries out trade promotion actions in coordination with other OIC institutions, within the framework of the Trade and Investment Sub-Committee (TISC), within the framework of an integrated logic of synergy and complementarity. The main projects are:

- The Trade Fair of Islamic Countries
- Specialized fairs and buyers/sellers' workshops on products with high potential for trade
- Business forums and missions
- Trade information
- Capacity building and support for TPOs

The implementation of trade and investment promotion projects carried out by ICDT is in line with the objectives of the OIC Ten-Year Action Plan 2016-2025, set by the 13th OIC Summit held in Istanbul in April 2016 with the aim of increasing intra-OIC trade in the overall trade of OIC member countries to 25% by 2025.

2. ORGANIZED FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Within the framework of its annual activities and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC Member States (COMCEC), the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) in collaboration with its partners, organized the following Fairs and Exhibitions:

a. 5th OIC Health Expo, 15-19 April 2025, Dakar, Republic of Senegal

The ICDT, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Social Action of the Republic of Senegal, organized the 5th edition of the Health Expo of the OIC Member States from April 15 to 19, 2025, at the CICES Exhibition Center in Dakar. The event was held in collaboration with the International Foreign Trade Center of Senegal (CICES) and in parallel with the 10th edition of the Dakar International Health and Medical Equipment Fair (SISDAK).

This edition honored the Kingdom of Morocco as Guest of Honor and welcomed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a Special Guest. The Expo brought together participants from 40 OIC Member States, including both exhibitors and visitors. It was officially inaugurated by Dr. Ibrahima Sy, Minister of Health and Social Action, in the presence of the representative of His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC, the Director General of the ICDT, Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of Morocco and Saudi Arabia, as well as members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Dakar.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, ICDT organized several key activities, including:

- A high-level forum on investment in the health sector was held in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the National Agency for the Promotion of Investment and Major Projects (APIX-S.A.) of Senegal, and the Ministry of Health and Social Action of Senegal (MSAS);
- A panel on market access for pharmaceutical products was organized in partnership with the International Trade Centre (ITC - Geneva);
- A panel on the certification of pharmaceutical and cosmetic products was conducted in collaboration with the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), the Senegalese Standards Association (ASN), and Halal-Senegal.

The exhibition covered a net area of 4,600 square meters and welcomed around 150 companies and 12,000 healthcare professionals and visitors from OIC Member States, all seeking business opportunities and strategic partnerships. Participants expressed strong appreciation for the high-level forum on investment in the healthcare sector.

Over the course of five dynamic days, Dakar became a center of scientific excellence, healthcare innovation, and international exchange. Held under the theme "*Health, a vector of economic development in OIC countries*", this edition brought together experts from diverse backgrounds to exchange insights and experiences, underscoring a shared commitment to advancing public health.

The event featured eight scientific panels, over one hundred oral presentations, and 125 exhibitions showcasing cutting-edge technologies, innovative digital solutions, high-performance medical devices, and the expertise of OIC countries.

On the social side, hundreds of sessions were held in the community village, covering ten medical specialties and offering health awareness and screening activities. The community village also emphasized the essential role played by frontline healthcare workers in strengthening health systems.

b. Egyptian International Dates Forum and Exhibition, September 20-21, 2024, Cairo - Arab Republic of Egypt.

The ICDT, in partnership with the International Society of Exhibitions and Conferences, organized the Egyptian International Date Forum and Exhibition on 20–21 November 2024 in Cairo, under the auspices of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt. As part of the event, ICDT also led a panel discussion on “Marketing Challenges and Logistics Related to the Date Industry”. The exhibition attracted participation from 15 countries and welcomed over 15,000 visitors.

The Exhibition also facilitated the signing of several major commercial agreements between date producers, both factories and farms, from producing countries and key food importers and exporters.

c. World Halal Summit, November 27-30, 2024, Istanbul - Republic of Türkiye

The ICDT participated in the World Halal Summit, from November 27 to 30, 2024, in Istanbul - Republic of Türkiye, organized by the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye. On the sidelines of this Exhibition, the ICDT representative held coordination meetings with the IsDB Center of Excellence - Malaysia, the Senegalese Export Promotion Agency (ASEPEX - Senegal), and the Agency for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (ADPME - Senegal). 45 countries and 20,000 visitors participated in this Summit.

3. FORUMS

In order to increase the number of opportunities for economic operators from OIC countries to meet and boost intra-OIC partnership trade, investment forums, business missions and BtoB meetings were organized in 2024. These included the following:

a. Mission of Nigerian Businessmen to the Kingdom of Morocco, 7 February 2024

An informative day for a delegation of representatives of ministerial departments and private operators from the Federal Republic of Nigeria, took place on Wednesday February 7, 2024, at the Centre's headquarters.

This meeting, which was part of a prospecting visit by the delegation to the Kingdom of Morocco, provided an opportunity to present ICDDT's actions in favor of the development of trade and investment between the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The participants also reviewed the possibilities of strengthening tripartite cooperation between Morocco, Nigeria and ICDDT, in areas of common interest.

a. ICDDT Invest Days Banjul, May 2-3, 2024, Republic of The Gambia

Within the framework of trade and investment promotion in OIC countries, ICDDT and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) are organizing, in collaboration with the Gambian Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), the "ICDDT Invest Days Banjul" Forum, under the theme: "Investing in the New Gambia, Land of Opportunities", on May 2-3, 2024 in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia, on the sidelines of the 15th Islamic Summit.

The aim of the forum is to position The Gambia as an attractive investment destination. It is designed to present to investors from OIC member countries the main investment opportunities available, the incentives and facilities granted to investors between OIC countries, and to foster regional integration. In addition, this Forum will facilitate the exchange of national and regional experiences, contribute to the financing of projects by regional financial institutions, and encourage the realization of investment intentions for structuring projects, in order to stimulate investments in intra-OIC value chains.

The Forum was attended by approximately 100 investors from OIC countries and hosted the following deal-rooms: Livestock & Agriculture; Fisheries; Infrastructure & construction; Mining; Energy and oil; Tourism and transport; Information and communication technologies.

b. Visit of a delegation of Pakistani businessmen to the headquarters of ICDT on May 27, 2024

During the meeting, the two sides discussed strategies to promote trade and investment between Pakistan and other OIC member countries, with a particular focus on Morocco and African nations. The delegation expressed interest in organizing a Sports Industry Exhibition and Forum within OIC countries.

c. 6th edition of the Halal Morocco forum (FOHAM), June 27, 2024

ICDT participated in the 6th edition of the Halal Morocco Forum, organized in partnership with the Moroccan Institute of Standardization (IMANOR) and the Institute of Standardization and Metrology of Islamic Countries (INMPI). The event took place on June 27 in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco. During the forum, ICDT delivered a presentation on the trends of the Halal market, in collaboration with Dinar Standard.

d. 4th edition of "ICDT Invest Days", in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon

After Dakar, Nouakchott, and Banjul, the ICDT organized the 4th edition of "ICDT Invest Days" in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon, on September 24 and 25, 2024, under the High Patronage of His Excellency Mr. Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon.

The forum attracted over 500 participants from around 15 countries and various international institutions. The sectors represented included Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Infrastructure and Construction, Mining, Solar Energy, Hydroelectricity, Oil, Gas, Tourism, Crafts, Transport, and Health. During the event, simultaneous thematic sessions were held in the form of six "Deal Rooms," each dedicated to fostering partnerships in the aforementioned sectors.

e. Moroccan Gambian Round Table on Investment in Health Infrastructure in The Gambia - November 7, 2024, Casablanca

As part of ICDT's contribution to the World Health Organization's "Invest Impact of Health Security" initiative in Africa, ICDT organized a round table on November 7, 2024, in Casablanca, focused on promoting investments in health infrastructure in The Gambia.

The event brought together Moroccan private sector stakeholders and a Gambian health sector delegation to explore investment opportunities in the field. Additionally, participants visited healthcare facilities in Casablanca to gain insights into Morocco's experience and best practices in health infrastructure development.

f. Seafood 4 Africa 2024", December 4-6, 2024, Dakhla – Kingdom of Morocco.

ICDT participated in the African Forum for the Fishing and Aquaculture Industry, "Seafood 4 Africa 2024," held from December 4 to 6, 2024, in Dakhla, Kingdom of Morocco. The event was organized by the Moroccan Federation of Industries for the Processing and Valorization of Fishery Products (FENIP), in partnership with the Ministry of Maritime Fisheries and the Ministry of Trade of Morocco. During the forum, ICDT presented its activities and services, engaging with participants from both private and public sectors across African countries. The exhibition attracted 25 countries and 10,000 visitors.

g. 23rd Meeting of Economic Advisors of the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco, January 23, 2025, Rabat

As part of its regular contacts with the Embassies of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco, the ICDT organized the 23rd Meeting of Economic Advisors of the Embassies of the Member States of the OIC accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco, on January 23, 2025, in Rabat.

This meeting, organized annually by the Center, aims to exchange with the Economic Advisors of the Embassies of the OIC Countries in Rabat, on the activities and projects of the Center relating to the current year, relating to trade facilitation, promotion of trade and investments, strengthening institutional capacities and commercial intelligence.

h. High-Level Roundtable on Trade and Health Security in Africa: A Strategic Dialogue – January 30, 2025, Rabat

As part of efforts to promote investment in the health sector, ICDT, in partnership with the Rabat School of Economic and Commercial Sciences (ESSEC Business School), organized a high-level roundtable on trade and health security in Africa. The event brought together leading experts, representatives of international institutions, and key economic players.

Discussions emphasized the vital role of trade, investment, technology, and regional cooperation in ensuring sustainable and inclusive health security across the continent.

On this occasion, ICDT and ESSEC Rabat signed a partnership agreement to strengthen the capacities of African executives in trade and investment-related fields. This collaboration marks a significant step in our shared commitment to fostering economic growth and sustainable development in Africa.

i. 2nd Policy Dialogue Forum of Investment Promotion Agencies of OIC Member States, 20-21 February 2025, Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco.

The ICDT and the Cooperation and Capacity Development Department (CCD) of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in collaboration with the Ministry of Investment of Morocco organized the 2nd Policy Dialogue Forum of Investment Promotion Agencies of OIC Member States on 20-21 February 2025 in Casablanca. This event was dedicated to facilitating policy dialogue between the IPAs of African and Asian OIC Member States.

The objective of this policy dialogue forum was to share experiences in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and incentive measures implemented by OIC member countries.

4. UPCOMING FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

In accordance with the relevant resolutions of the three previous Ministerial Sessions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and its partners The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and its partners will continue their trade and investment promotion activities through the rescheduling of events that could not take place in 2024 and which were postponed to 2025 at the request of the host countries, as well as through the organization of new events, namely:

A. Fairs and Exhibitions:

a. UATE Tourism Uganda, 19-21 June 2025, Kampala - Republic of Uganda

As part of its ongoing efforts to boost tourism flows and promote trade and investment in the tourism sector, the Centre is organizing the "Utalii Africa Tourism Expo 2025 (UATE 2025)" in partnership with Utalii Events Co Africa Ltd. The event is being held under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage of the Republic of Uganda (MTWH), and in collaboration with the Uganda Tourism Board, the African Tourism Board (ATB), and the Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU). UATE 2025 will take place from 19 to 21 June 2025 at the Speke Resort & Convention Centre Munyonyo in Kampala, Republic of Uganda.

This exhibition aims to promote African tourism, encourage sustainable tourism practices, foster economic development, improve family tourism opportunities and connect the entire travel, leisure and business travel industry. Workshops, panels and B2B meetings will be organized alongside this event.

b. 19th OIC Trade Fair, Jeddah/ Riyadh 2026 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Due to the constraints related to the organization of the 18th edition of the OIC Trade Fair, which faced successive postponements in 2024, and considering the importance

of this fair as a key meeting point for economic operators from member countries, the ICDT is planning to organize this flagship OIC event in 2026 in either Jeddah or Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The event will be held under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and in collaboration with the Saudi Export Development Authority and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). Several activities will be organized alongside the fair, including:

- The TPOs Dialogue Forum;
- The IPAs Policy Dialogue Forum;
- B2B meetings;
- An awards ceremony for the best pavilions.

c. 2nd Cotton – Textiles and Clothing Exhibition of the OIC Member States, 2-4 December 2026, Bamako, Republic of Mali

To promote trade in commodities among OIC Member States, the ICDT will organize the 2nd edition of the OIC Cotton, Textile, and Clothing Exhibition from December 2 to 4, 2025, in Bamako. The event is being held in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Mali and in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat and other relevant OIC institutions, alongside the OIC Investment Forum for Africa (IFA-OIC).

On the sidelines of this edition, the ICDT will also host a buyer-seller meeting on cotton (OIC Cotton Meet), as well as thematic panels on certification and market access for textile products.

d. 18th OIC Trade Fair

Under the resolution adopted by the 39th Session of the COMCEC (December 2023 / Istanbul), ICDT is continuing its consultations with the Pakistani authorities, to set a date for the organization of the 18th OIC Trade Fair. This edition was initially scheduled for December 2024 but was postponed at the request of the Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan.

e. 10th Halal Products Exhibition of OIC Member States-Tunis, Republic of Tunisia

This Exhibition, which is organized by the ICDT and the Society of International Fairs of Tunis under the aegis of the Ministry of Trade and Export Development of the Tunisian Republic and Initially scheduled from October 8 to 12, 2024 at the Kram Exhibition Center in Tunis, has been postponed to a later date at the request of the Tunisian Ministry of Trade and Export Development.

On the sidelines of this exhibition, the Centre has planned to organize the following activities:

- Training workshop on Halal certification for the benefit of OIC Arab Member States, in collaboration with the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) and the National Institute of Standardization and Industrial Property of the Republic of Tunisia (INNORPI);
- Presentation of the Halal Economy Report for OIC Countries 2023-2024;
- B2B meetings;
- Visits to Tunisian companies.

f. World Halal Summit, November 26-29, 2025- Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye

The Centre plans to set up an OIC pavilion within the "World Halal Summit", organized from November 26 to 29, 2025 at the Istanbul Expo Center, by the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye.

This edition aims to attract procurement professionals from all over the world and to foster increased participation of companies operating in the Halal industry. Special emphasis will be placed on the dynamism of the Halal sector in Turkey, particularly in the fields of food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, textiles, tourism and finance.

B. Investment Forums, Business Meetings, and Trade Missions

To increase the opportunities for meetings of economic operators of the OIC countries to boost intra-OIC trade partnerships, the year 2025 will witness the organization of investment forums, business missions, and B2B meetings. These meetings will highlight new investment opportunities and further strengthen economic relations between member countries. A variety of economic stakeholders will participate in public and private investment stakeholders, investment promotion agencies, technical and financial partners, employer associations, chambers of commerce and industry, professional associations, financiers, and international experts. These include:

Investment Forums, Business Meetings and Trade Missions in order to increase the opportunities for economic operators from OIC countries to meet, thereby boosting intra-OIC trade and partnership, the year 2025 will see the organization of investment forums, business missions and B2B meetings. These meetings will highlight new investment opportunities and further strengthen economic relations between member countries. Various economic actors will take part: public and private investment stakeholders, investment promotion organizations, technical and financial partners, employer federations, chambers of commerce and industry, professional associations, financiers and international experts.

a. Africa-Investment Forum, December 2-4, 2025, Bamako-Republic of Mali

This Forum is being organized by the ICDT and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Mali, in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat and other OIC

institutions. It will serve as a strategic platform for African OIC Member States to showcase investment projects through their investment promotion agencies (APIs), empower their private sector to pitch business opportunities, and foster the establishment of business relationships and partnerships. Planned activities include company visits and dedicated investment platforms in Mali.

The Forum aims to channel capital into high-potential sectors across sub-Saharan Africa and will bring together international investors, leaders of financial and development institutions, business executives, and government representatives to facilitate investment deals. The event will also see the participation of African regional banks, the IsDB Group, and various international organizations.

b. Activities in Dakar – Republic of Senegal, OIC City of Tourism 2025:

In celebration of Dakar’s designation as the “OIC Tourist City 2025” – a title awarded during the 12th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) held in Khiva, Uzbekistan – the Centre is planning a series of events in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts of Senegal and APIX. These activities will include a Forum or Workshop focused on strategies for promoting tourist destinations, with a particular emphasis on investment opportunities in the tourism sector. Additionally, an Expo will be organized to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the city of Dakar.

c. Technical Assistance to African IPAs

As part of the Capacity Building Program for African Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in 2025, the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Capacity Development and Cooperation Department of the IsDB intend to implement technical assistance to APIM Mauritania and ANIE Chad for the years 2025 and 2026. The main objective is to strengthen their ability to attract investments, both foreign and domestic, by establishing a favorable business climate, but also to support them in carrying out bankable projects, updating their investment charter and sharing successful experiences with other OIC IPAs.

To achieve this, the ICDT will implement a multidimensional approach including support for the development of promotional strategies, identification of promising sectors, promotion of international partnerships and sharing of best practices.

In 2025, this assistance will focus on specific missions in two countries, namely:

- Mauritania: Session organized in Nouakchott from October 27 to 30, 2025.
- Chad: Session planned in N'Djamena from September 29 to October 3, 2025.

d. African SME Forum, October or November 2025, Dakar-Senegal

The ICDT plans to organize this Forum in collaboration with the Agency for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (ADPME – Senegal), which aims to strengthen the economic integration of African SMEs on an international scale. It will bring together delegations of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from African OIC Member countries, public and private partners and donors, all committed to African economic development and integration.

e. 23rd Meeting of Economic Advisors of the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco, January 23, 2025, Rabat

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f. 2nd Policy Dialogue Forum of Investment Promotion Agencies of OIC Member States, 20-21 February 2025, Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco.

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The objective of this policy dialogue forum was to share experiences in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and incentive measures implemented by OIC member countries.

g. ICDT Invest Days – Upcoming Editions in 2025

The "ICDT Invest Days" Forum has become a flagship event for fostering investment among OIC Member States, building on the significant success of its first four editions held in Senegal, Mauritania, The Gambia, and Cameroon. In this same spirit, the ICDT plans to organize in 2025:

➤ **"The ICDT Invest Days: Moroni," August 26-29, 2025, Moroni – Union of the Comoros**

This Forum will be organized by the ICDT in collaboration with the Comoros Ministry of Commerce and the National Agency for the Promotion of Investments of the Comoros (ANPI). The event will provide a platform for the ANPI to showcase the business climate in the Comoros, highlight the incentives available to investors, and present key business opportunities aimed at stimulating economic growth in the country.

This high-level meeting will focus on identifying new investment opportunities in the Comoros, while also strengthening its economic ties with the 56 other OIC member countries. The Forum will bring together a diverse group of economic stakeholders, including public and private investors, donors, and regional banks. Additionally, other editions of the ICDT Invest Days Forum are scheduled for 2025, including in Cotonou (Benin), Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire), and N'Djamena (Chad) in October or November.

h. OIC Meets:

the ICDT and other national and regional partners, organize a series of thematic meetings "OIC Strategic Product Meet" to promote the strategic products of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The meetings planned for this year are:

- **OIC Cotton Meet:** Cameroon, July 16-17, 2025, which will be organized in partnership with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the Ministries of SMEs and Agriculture of Cameroon, on the sidelines of the 2nd Cotton – Textiles and Clothing Fair of Member States.
- **OIC Coffee Meet:** Kampala, Uganda, 4-5 February 2026, which will be organized in partnership with the IsDB, the Ministry of Agriculture of Uganda and the Uganda Investment Promotion Agency (UIA).
- **OIC Meat Meet:** Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, October 25-26, 2025. Organized in partnership with the IDB, the Ministries of Commerce and Livestock of Mauritania and the Agency of Promotion of Investments in Mauritania (APIM).
- **OIC Spices Meet:** Chad, Ndjamen, December 16-17. Organized in partnership with the IsDB and the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Chad Trade Promotion Agency.