



**MESSAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY  
MR. HISSEIN BRAHIM TAHA  
SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE  
ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)  
AT THE**

**TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM (TPS) - OIC  
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE (TNC) MEETING**

**ANKARA, REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**

**9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2025**

**Message of  
His Excellency Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary General of the OIC, to the Trade  
Preferential System (TPS) OIC - Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) Meeting**

**Your Excellency Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye,**

**Your Excellences Ministers,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Assalamu Aleykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatihu**

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address this Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC) Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) Meeting, holding in this historical city of Ankara, Republic of Türkiye.

On the outset, I sincerely thank the Government and People of the Republic of Türkiye for the excellent organization of this meeting and for their generous hospitality.

You are well aware that access to global markets is vital for achieving inclusive and sustainable development. In today's interconnected world, cross-border flows of trade, services and people are powerful drivers of shared prosperity. It is in this context that the TPS-OIC is a system designed to foster trade among OIC Member States by providing preferential treatment in trade.

In recent years, there has been a modest progress in terms of increasing intra-OIC trade. According to available data, intra-OIC net trade volume reached US\$ 1,004 billion in 2024 compared to US\$883 billion in 2023. In percentage terms, this amounted to 20.36% of the total trade of OIC Member States. This means we are still far behind our target of achieving 25% intra-OIC trade by 2025. Accordingly, there is an urgent need for OIC Member States to expedite the implementation of the various trade and investment related initiatives of OIC, including TPS-OIC.

In this context, you would recall that the TPS-OIC became operational as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Yet, only a few participating member states are fully implementing the system. Therefore, I wish to urge other participating states, which have not done so yet, to expedite the completion of necessary procedures to implement the system, which will unlock new economic cooperation opportunities, foster sustainable development and contribute to the OIC's goal of achieving a 25% in intra-OIC trade. The effectiveness of this system depends not only on its formal adoption but also on our commitment to its practical implementation.

According to the ICDT estimates, the effective implementation of TPS-OIC by the participating states will increase their exports by a value ranging between US\$30 million and US\$3 billion per year, while their imports could increase by a value of up to US\$500 million. It is estimated that the implementation of the system will lead to an increase in intra-OIC trade

by approximately US\$ 1.8 billion per year. This figure could significantly increase with more products and countries participating in this system.

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

The Third Ministerial Meeting of the TPS-OIC Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC), which was held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June 2024, focused on the operationalization and progress of the system. The Meeting also discussed the potential expansion of scope of TPS-OIC, and to this end, tasked TNC to continue work on this matter.

It is necessary to emphasize that TNC has been instrumental in facilitating discussions and decisions related to the TPS-OIC. Accordingly, today's meeting is an excellent opportunity to review the progress of the system's implementation and discuss practical steps for its effective operationalization. The meeting will also enable us to focus on updating concession lists and addressing challenges related to the system's functioning. Additionally, the meeting will address the findings of a study, conducted by the TNC Secretariat, assessing the potential impact of the TPS-OIC on participating countries.

As we look ahead, we face both opportunities and challenges. Today's meeting is an opportunity to align our vision, strategize our next steps, and ensure that we are all moving in the same direction. Together, we can overcome any obstacles and achieve our goals.

Before I conclude my remarks, let me remind ourselves that the Ummah is going through extremely challenging times. From the despicable genocide taking place in Palestine on a daily basis, to wars and conflicts that have ravaged many of our countries, resulting in huge numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons. Further, we are faced with natural disasters, climate change effects, global economic recessions, pandemics and many perennial diseases made worse by dysfunctional health systems in many of our countries, rising unemployment of youths who make up more than 70% of the population in some of our Member States, crippling debt burden that is more than 100% of GDP in some of our countries, plus many other challenges and a cocktail of all of them put together. If there has ever been a time in the history of our organization when we needed to have focused unity and cooperation, this is the time. Together, we can build not only strong trading links, but also lay a solid foundation for the survival and development of a thriving Muslim Ummah that is able to fend for itself and guarantee an enjoyable future for its children. I leave it to you to ponder about this reminder.

Finally, I commend our senior officials and institutions for their well-considered recommendations to advance the timely implementation of the TPS-OIC. I trust these proposals will benefit from your thoughtful review, enhancement and endorsement.

I wish this meeting successful outcomes.

**Assalamu Aleykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatihu**