

THE TPS-OIC TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE MEETING

(1 July 2026, Virtual Meeting)

Inauguration Speech

Distinguished Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this Meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee of the TPS-OIC. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all delegations for their participation and continued commitment to advancing economic cooperation among OIC Member States.

At the outset, allow me to reiterate Türkiye's firm belief that peace, dialogue and cooperation remain the most effective means of addressing the challenges facing our region and the wider international community. At a time when our neighborhood continues to experience instability and conflict, we hope that all ongoing tensions will be resolved through diplomacy and mutual understanding.

Distinguished Delegates,

The global economy was already navigating a period characterized by heightened uncertainty, increasing geopolitical fragmentation and rising protectionist tendencies. Recent developments in our region have added further pressure on international trade, logistics networks, energy markets and supply chains.

International organizations have underlined these risks. The International Monetary Fund projects that global growth is to remain subdued at around 3.1 percent, with renewed inflationary pressures linked to higher transport, insurance and energy costs. Likewise, according to the WTO Secretariat, world merchandise trade growth in 2026 is projected at around 1.9 percent; however, prolonged disruptions and volatile energy prices could reduce this further to approximately 1.4 percent. The WTO also notes that the impact may extend beyond merchandise trade, affecting transport, logistics and services trade, while increasing pressure on food security through higher shipping, fertilizer and energy costs. In this context, strengthening regional trade cooperation, connectivity and supply-chain resilience becomes increasingly important.

These developments remind us once again that our economies are interconnected and that no country can fully shield itself from external shocks. They also demonstrate that periods of uncertainty call not for isolation, but for deeper cooperation, stronger connectivity and more effective economic partnerships.

In this regard, the TPS-OIC remains one of the most important instruments at our disposal. It represents the most concrete achievement of economic cooperation among OIC Member States and provides a valuable platform through which we can strengthen resilience, promote trade and deepen integration among our economies.

Distinguished Delegates,

As you will recall, at our previous meeting held on 3-4 February 2026, we conducted an extensive exchange of views regarding the future of the TPS-OIC. During those discussions, Member States expressed a wide range of perspectives on possible avenues for enhancing the System, while recognizing the importance of carefully examining implementation experiences and capacity considerations.

At that meeting, we agreed to structure our future work in a thematic manner focusing sequentially on three broad areas: first, challenges in the implementation of PRETAS and the current TPS-OIC framework; second, possible expansion areas and objectives; and third, legal considerations and institutional matters. We further agreed that our discussions should begin with implementation-related issues since lessons drawn from implementation would guide future discussions on expansion. We also mandated the TNC Secretariat to prepare and circulate two questionnaires with a view to collecting a broad range of views on implementation issues as well as the scope, pillars and modalities of a possible expansion of the System.

The COMCEC Follow-up Committee, at its meeting held on 12-13 May 2026, also welcomed this approach towards the possible expansion of the TPS-OIC. The Committee requested the TNC Secretariat to report the collected responses to the questionnaires to this meeting in order to facilitate and structure our future discussions.

Dear Colleagues,

Against this background, today's meeting has a focused and practical agenda.

Following the welcoming remarks and statements by delegations, we will hear a presentation by the TNC Secretariat on the results of the questionnaires. This will be followed by our substantive discussion on challenges in the implementation of PRETAS and the current TPS-OIC framework.

Our objective today is neither to renegotiate existing agreements nor to prejudge future expansion discussions. Rather, it is to identify implementation challenges,

exchange experiences, assess lessons learned and explore practical solutions that could improve the functioning of the System. By drawing on our collective experience and the lessons accumulated since the operationalization of the TPS-OIC, we can ensure that future efforts are built on a stronger and more informed foundation.