WEBINAR ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION OF INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT

23rd July 2020
10.00-11.30 GMT

To join this webinar, please click on the following link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PtcS4smLRMSBxU6Hthw-Ew
CONTEXT:
The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted all global value chains, contributing to the depletion of state budget plans, and the diminution of the organization of bilateral, regional and multilateral meetings relating to intergovernmental and private trade and investment negotiations.

States have been led to rethink their system of administration of cooperation agreements, national production, export and attraction strategies of foreign investors. Consequently, several countries have chosen to regulate their national and regional production and consumption value chains, to cope with the current pandemic and to develop their resilience to better face possible crises in the future.

Thus, the General Secretariats of the Regional Economic Groupings (REGs) of the OIC countries in collaboration with their Governments, Institutions and Partners must initiate economic recovery strategies in order to invest in regional production plans to meet local demands depending on the resources of each State.

Under the Auspices of the General Secretariat for Economic Affairs of the OIC, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) in collaboration with the Country-Strategy and Cooperation Department of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) are organizing a Webinar on the Impact of COVID-19 on Regional Integration of Intra-OIC Trade and Investment on 23rd July 2020 via zoom platform. The webinar will be in English, Arabic and French.

The objective of this webinar is to discuss the experiences of Regional Economic Groupings (REGs) on regional integration and the strategies developed to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national economies, particularly regional value chains in collaboration with local and regional development partners.

The webinar will highlight the barriers to the development of regional trade and investment flows and of proposing concrete activities emanating from these institutions in collaboration with the private sector of the OIC Member States.

PANELISTS:

This Webinar will be hosted by:

- Mrs. Latifa Elbouabdellaoui, Director General of ICDT who will briefly present during her welcoming address the role of REGs in the regional integration of value chains;

- Amb. Mr. Ahmed Ssenyomo, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), will highlight the OIC guidelines for regional integration in the area of Trade and Investment through the agreements initiated by the OIC General Secretariat and the role played by the latter to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on OIC countries;
Mrs. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will focus on ECA’s experience in African economic integration and the strategies developed by this Institution to help containing the effects of COVID-19 on intra-African trade and investment and the activities planned post-COVID.

Mr. Mansur Muhtar, Vice-President, Country Programs of the Islamic Development Bank Group, will emphasize the IsDB’s experience on regional integration and within its Department in particular and prospects for the development of regional value chains;

Amb. Dr. Kamal Hassan Ali, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs of League of Arab States (LAS), will give an overview on the impact of COVID-19 on the prospects for the integration of intra-Arab trade and investments and the strategies developed at national and regional level to cope during and after the pandemic COVID-19;

Dr. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of UNESCWA will expand on the experience of the UNESCWA on the regional integration of trade and investments of their members and the impact of COVID-19 on national economies as well as the strategies programmed to fight the pandemic and post-COVID.

Mr. Tei Konzi, Commissioner in charge of Trade, free movement and customs (ECOWAS), who will present the experience of his Institution and the effects of the COVID pandemic on its trade integration process;

**MODERATOR:**
This webinar will be moderated by Mr. Khaireddine Ramoul, Senior Officer at UNCTAD.

**MAIN AREAS OF DISCUSSION**

- State of regional integration in the Regional Economic Groupings of the OIC area (obstacles, challenges and prospects);
- Impact of COVID-19 on the activities of REGs;
- Strategies developed by REGs during the pandemic and the post-COVID programmed activities;
- Promotion of national and regional production;
- Self-sufficiency and regional sovereignty for COVID-19 products and identification of regional value chains;
- Partnership between REGs in the field of industrial co-production of regional value chains of products and services with high potential of trade and investment;
- Digitization of REGs services.