



**SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION
AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

**СЕКРЕТАРИАТ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ
И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

№ EC/TI/583

*Enclosure:
as stated,
on 6 p.*

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the CICA Member States and has the honour to share an updated concept paper and programme of the seminar on “National Trade Facilitation Committees Meeting Among CICA Countries: Challenges and Best Practices” to be organized virtually by the Republic of Türkiye on 6 June 2023.

The CICA Member States are further requested to kindly fill in the attached registration form and send it to the Secretariat by 1 June 2023.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the CICA Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

Astana, 17 May 2023



**MEMBER STATES
OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION
AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN
ASIA**



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**СЕКРЕТАРИАТ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ
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№ ЕС/ТИ/583

*Приложение:
упомянутое,
на 6 л.*

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь препроводить обновленную концепцию и программу семинара на тему «Заседание национальных комитетов по упрощению процедур торговли стран СВМДА: вызовы и передовая практика», который будет организован Турецкой Республикой 6 июня 2023 года в онлайн-формате.

Государствам-членам СВМДА выражается любезная просьба заполнить прилагаемую регистрационную форму и направить ее в Секретариат до 1 июня 2023 года.

Секретариат пользуется случаем, чтобы возобновить государствам-членам СВМДА уверения в своем весьма высоком уважении.

город Астана, 17 мая 2023 г.



**ГОСУДАРСТВА-ЧЛЕНЫ
СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ И
МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

Қосымша:
аталған, 6 п.

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (Азия Кеңесінің) Хатшылығы Азия Кеңесінің мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіреді және Түркия Республикасы 2023 жылғы 6 маусымда онлайн-форматта «Азия Кеңесінің елдері арасындағы сауда рәсімдерін оңайлату жөніндегі ұлттық комитеттердің отырысы: сын-тегеуріндер мен үздік тәжірибелер» тақырыбында ұйымдастыратын семинардың жаңартылған тұжырымдамасы мен бағдарламасын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды.

Хатшылық мүше мемлекеттерден қоса беріліп отырған тіркеу нысанын толтырып 2023 жылғы 1 маусымға дейін Хатшылыққа жіберуді сұрайды.

Хатшылық осы мүмкіндікті пайдалана отырып, Азия Кеңесінің мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын тағы да растайды.

Астана қаласы, 2023 жылғы 17 мамыр

**АЗИЯДАҒЫ ӨЗАРА ІС-ҚИМЫЛ ЖӘНЕ
СЕНІМ ШАРАЛАРЫ КЕҢЕСІНІҢ МҮШЕ
МЕМЛЕКЕТТЕРІ**



Z-2023/49425594/36047521 - MOST URGENT

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and with reference to the Embassy's Note Verbale No. 35244939, dated 24 November 2022, has the honor to convey herewith the concept paper for the online seminar on trade facilitation prepared by The Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye.

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the CICA the assurances of its highest consideration.

Astana, 6 May 2023

Encl: As Stated.



**The Secretariat of the Conference on
Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia
ASTANA**

CONCEPT PAPER BY TÜRKİYE ON THE PROPOSED ON-LINE MEETING
UNDER
ECONOMIC DIMENSION – TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Trade facilitation can basically be defined as the simplification and harmonization of international trade procedures which include practices and formalities involved in collecting, presenting, communicating and processing data required for the movement of goods in international trade. Trade facilitation can also cover the improvement of transport infrastructure, removal of government corruption, reduction of customs tariffs, resolution of non-tariff trade barriers, export marketing and export promotion. In brief, the main objective of trade facilitation is to improve the overall trade environment and reduce trade costs.

Therefore, trade facilitation is important in relation to cost and time-effectiveness connected to international trade. It also allows increase in trade and supports economic growth. In addition, it will strengthen compliance with trade regulations and minimize risks of errors and delays to supply chains.

Thanks to technological advances, information and goods have the potential to flow more easily than ever from one country to another. Trade facilitation measures help realize this potential by speeding up the movement of goods and the flow of trade information across the borders and throughout the whole supply chain.

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement which entered into force on 22 February 2017, is a landmark achievement in setting the ground for a number of effective measures to reduce red tape and trade costs in trade and customs procedures.

One of the key issues for WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, both during and after the negotiations of agreement, was the establishment of a body for coordinating implementation of measures contained in the Section I of the Agreement.

Article 23.2 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, which mandates the establishment and/or the maintenance of National Trade Facilitation Committees or designates an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of this Agreement, In this regard, due consideration ought to be given to international trade environment, border procedures and government structure in general in forming National Trade Facilitation Bodies. This situation makes it one of the both simpler and harder provision of TFA. Indeed, after five years of implementation, it is accepted that National Trade Facilitation Committees are organized differently in terms of their structure, members and mandate. Between these bodies, one of the criterion for success is broad and inclusive participation of the relevant in enhancing the work of these Committees.

It is in view of the foregoing that Türkiye proposes an on-line meeting among CICA Countries to better understand how individual National Trade Facilitation Committees function in CICA Countries, what the challenges are and which additional benefits can be drawn from individual country experiences.

Expected Title: National Trade Facilitation Committees Meeting Among CICA Countries: Challenges and Best Practices

Purpose: WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement represents a milestone in creating binding and legal multilateral framework for wide-range of customs and trade procedures that are implemented to facilitate movement of goods across borders.

Article 23 under "Institutional Arrangements" of the Agreement foresees establishment and/or maintenance of a national committee on trade facilitation or designation of an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the Agreement.

National Trade Facilitation Committees lie at the heart of the trade facilitation program of many countries, including many of CICA countries. Bringing together all stakeholders, both from government and private sector, National TF Committees allow comprehensive and effective implementation of the Agreement. In a way, it represents a nation-wide ownership of the whole TF Reform Process and Agenda in the countries involved.

Against this background, the purpose of the proposed on –line activity is to setting a platform for CICA Countries with National Trade Facilitation Committees -as well as those in the establishment of their National Trade Facilitation Committees-for an experience sharing as to the overall effectiveness and /or functioning of those bodies and identify, best practices in that regard.

Proposed on line meeting will also provide CICA Countries with an opportunity to share challenges faced, if any, in the overall functioning of their National Trade Facilitation Committees.

The event will spark new ideas by bringing together relevant participants from all CICA countries for ability to see what works well and what does not in these bodies. Also, it will present a forum for finding success points which is common in all well-functioning National Trade Facilitation Committees.

Lastly, event will present an environment for members of such Committees, customs and other regulatory agencies' officials, logistics professional to come together for exchange of ideas.

Organizer: Ministry of Trade of Türkiye

Date: June 6th, 2023

Participants: Trade experts, customs officials, NGO's, Private Sector Representatives, Secretariats of National Trade Facilitation Committees

REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF TRADE



**National Trade Facilitation Committees Meeting Among
CICA Countries: Challenges and Best Practices**

6 June, 2023

Date:	6 June 2023, Time: 13:00 (GMT +3)
Venue:	Online (via Zoom)

Programme	
13:00pm -13:20 pm	<p><i>Opening Remarks (10 Minutes each)</i></p> <p><i>Türkiye----to be determined</i></p> <p><i>CICA Secretariat ----to be determined</i></p>
13:20pm -14:40pm	<p><i>Empowering NTFC's as Coordinators of Trade Facilitation Reforms</i></p> <p><i>Speakers: (20 Minutes each)</i></p> <p><i>UNCTAD---to be determined</i></p> <p><i>Türkiye----to be determined</i></p> <p><i>CICA Country ----to be determined</i></p> <p><i>Q&A (20 Minutes)</i></p>
14:40pm-15:50pm	<p><i>Experiences and Challenges in Implementing Trade Facilitation Reforms: Private Sector Perspective</i></p> <p><i>Speakers (20 minutes each)</i></p> <p><i>UTIKAD, Türkiye</i></p> <p><i>TOBB, Türkiye</i></p> <p><i>CICA Country, to be determined</i></p> <p><i>Q&A(20 Minutes)</i></p>
15:50pm-16: 00pm	<i>Closing</i>



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**National Trade Facilitation Committees Meeting Among CICA Countries:
Challenges and Best Practices (Online)**

by

Ministry of Trade, Republic of Türkiye

(6 June 2023)

REGISTRATION FORM

CICA Member State	
Title & First Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.)	
Family Name	
Designation	
Organization	
Email (mandatory) <i>The link to join the seminar will be sent to this Email</i>	
Phone/Mobile No.	
Comments, if any	

Please fill in and email a copy of this registration form to s-cica@s-cica.org and lakshmi.kant@s-cica.org no later than 1 June 2023.