27 November 2025

TRADE POLICY REVIEW OF TUNISIA

25 AND 27 NOVEMBER 2025

Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson,
Ambassador H.E. Mr Kairat Torebayev
(Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan)

1 Transparency, accountability and open dialogue are at the heart of the Trade Policy Review mechanism. Tunisia's TPR has reflected these principles and has given us a clearer understanding of how its trade policies have evolved since the last review in 2016.

2 At the outset, I would like to thank **H.E. Mr Samir ABID (Minister, Ministère du Commerce et du Développement des Exportations)** and the entire delegation of Tunisia for their active engagement throughout this review. I also wish to thank our discussant, **H.E. Ambassador Manuel A.J. TEEHANKEE**, whose remarks supported and enriched our discussions during this Trade Policy Review.

3 For this Review, 23 delegations took the floor, and 15 submitted 180 written questions. I thank these delegations for their contributions, which demonstrate the strong interest in Tunisia's trade and investment policies.

4 Members' statements during the Review pointed to three main observations.

5 **First**, Members noted the resilience of Tunisia's economy in recent years. International trade plays a central role in this performance, with a trade-to-GDP ratio above 100%. Tunisia's diversified industrial base and its growing role in global value chains have contributed to this resilience. Several Members also highlighted the scope for deeper diversification of products and markets, both within Africa, in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and beyond.

6 **Second**, Members recognized Tunisia's broader reform efforts, including steps to improve the business climate, advance digitalisation and support a more modern economic framework. Many Members also welcomed the expansion of renewable-energy projects, seeing them as important for competitiveness and sustainable growth. Several Members noted Tunisia's initiatives linked to inclusive development, including social and regional programmes. Members further acknowledged the reforms introduced to ease certain trade-related procedures and attract foreign investment, including efforts to modernise customs procedures, such as the authorized economic operator programme, and initiatives to support a more predictable environment for traders and investors.

7 At the same time, many delegations noted concerns about the sharp increase in applied MFN tariffs and the number of tariff lines where applied rates remain above bound levels. They encouraged Tunisia to address these gaps and simplify its tariff structure, as part of its broader reform agenda. Some Members also underlined the need for lighter, more transparent and more predictable administrative procedures to support investment and competitiveness, including full use of the single window and greater reliance on risk-based controls.

8 **Third**, while Members highlighted the importance of their bilateral cooperation with Tunisia, they also expressed appreciation for Tunisia's engagement in the WTO, including improved notifications, ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and its first participation in a dispute settlement proceeding.

9 Many delegations called for Tunisia to complete its outstanding notifications. They also encouraged Tunisia to ratify the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and deepen its WTO engagement by joining relevant plurilateral initiatives, including on e-commerce, investment facilitation, services domestic regulation and the multi-party interim appeal arbitration arrangement, noting that such participation would match Tunisia's own policy priorities and support its further integration into the global economy.

10 I trust that the Tunisian delegation will take note of the constructive comments offered throughout this Review. We look forward to receiving the remaining written replies within the next month, after which this Trade Policy Review will be formally concluded.