

## **INTF 2026: " Trade and Investment for Iraq's Economic Transformation "** *Powering a Green and Digital Future*

### **Draft Agenda v3**

*The 2026 INTF edition highlights Iraq's journey toward economic diversification, sustainable growth, and deeper integration into global trade and investment networks. It underscores the importance of leveraging trade and investment to create jobs, modernize key sectors like agri-food, digital and net-zero economy while strengthening partnerships with key international actors, notably the European Union and development finance institutions, in support of Iraq's long-term economic transformation.*

*INTF 2026 follows a clear progression: from high-level political vision and reform commitments in the morning, to practical discussions on financing, de-risking and value chains in the afternoon, and to partnerships and implementation in Day 2.*

#### **(Day 1): INTF High-level Opening and Strategic Insights**

08:00 to 08:30: Registration of participants and VIP visit of the INTF SME Exhibition Space

08:30 – 10:00: Official Opening Ceremony (Main Gilgamesh Hall) – Plenary 1

- National Anthem
- Welcome Address:
  - H.E. Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq
  - H. E. Minister of Trade, Republic of Iraq
  - Ms. Dubravka Šuica, Commissioner DG MENA (tbc)
  - H.E. Klemens Semtner, European Union Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq
  - Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre
  - Mr. Mr. Abdul Razzaq Al-Zuhairi, President of The Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce FICC
  - Ghulam Mohammad Isaczai, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, UN Assistance Mission for Iraq
- Keynote Speech: *"Unleashing Iraq's Full Economic Potential: The Case for an Ambitious National Trade and Investment Strategy"* – Speaker TBC
- Cultural Presentation: Celebrating Iraq's trade heritage. Official opening of INTF (cutting the ribbon) and pictures.

10:30 – 12:00: Positioning Iraq in Global Trade and Investment Networks (Main Gilgamesh Hall) – Plenary 2

- Panel Discussion: *"How WTO accession momentum and ongoing reforms can enhance partnerships, boost competitiveness and attract investment?"*
  - H.E. Ali Mohsen Al-Alaq, Governor of the Central Bank of Iraq

- Dr. Haider Muhammad Makiya, Chairman of the Iraq National Investment Commission
- Mr. Tharwat Akram Salman, Director WTO Department, Ministry of Trade
- Ms. Catarina Bjorlin Hansen, Head, The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Iraq
- ECO MENA
- EU Chamber of Commerce

12:30 – 13:00: Launch of JOBS project – Board room

<b>Time</b>	<b>Track 1: Trade Dialogue Room</b>	<b>Track 2: SME Exhibition Space and Podium</b>	<b>Track 3: B2B speed-networking</b>
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Mobilising Finance for Iraq's Green and Digital Transition: From De-Risking to Bankable Value Chain Investments (EUD, Proparco, IMF, Vitas, Kapita) – Trade Dialogue 3</i>	Youth and Women-led SMEs from every single Iraqi governorate, European and other international companies, Business eco-system support organizations. “By Iraqi Hands” ephemeral supermarket stocked with Iraqi products made in Iraq.	Business to Business matchmaking through one-on-one 30 minutes sessions booked in advance using a digital platform
14:30 – 15:30	<i>“Modernizing Iraq's Agri-food Value Chain for Competitiveness from Farm to Fork” (MoA, ITC, NRC, Carrefour, PepsiCo/GICO) – Trade Dialogue 4</i>	Business corner talks: * Digital tools in Agri-food sector: MoA incubator and Tadreeb Entrepreneurship training platform demonstration – Business Corner 6 * FICC Arbitration for businesses – Business Corner 7 * Access to finance for Iraqi SMEs: practical solutions– Business Corner 8 * Net-Zero economy - KESK – Successful social enterprise model in green energy – Business Corner 9 * Trade and Quality – Iraqi Quality Champions – Business Corner 10	(English-Arabic and Arabic-English interpretation provided)
16:00 – 17:00	<i>“Charting Iraq's Path to WTO Membership: A Collective Roadmap for Success” (MoT, WTO accession committee) – Trade Dialogue 5</i>		
17:30 – 19:00	Evening reception (on invitation only) Live cooking show, music concert, art exhibition for Ambassadors, Business leaders, Investors, INTF speakers, Heads of international development partners (donors and UN agencies)		

**Day 2: INTF Deep Dive on Partnerships and Private Sector Development**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Track 1: Trade Dialogue Room</b>	<b>Track 2: SME Exhibition Space and Podium (new room?)</b>	<b>Track 3: B2B speed-networking</b>
08:30 – 09:30	" <i>Green Jobs for Iraqis: Scaling Successful Models for Replication in Agri-Food, Digital Transformation, and the Net-Zero Economy</i> " – Trade Dialogue 11	Youth and Women-led SMEs from every single Iraqi governorate, European and other international companies, Business eco-system support organizations. "By Iraqi Hands" ephemeral supermarket stocked with Iraqi products made in Iraq.	Business to Business matchmaking through one-on-one 30 minutes sessions booked in advance using a digital platform (English-Arabic and Arabic-English interpretation provided)
10:00 – 11:00	<i>High-level Panel Discussion: "From Partnerships to Projects: How Regional and Global Cooperation Can Accelerate Iraq's Economic Transformation"</i> – Trade Dialogue 12	Business corner talks: * Net-Zero Economy: Financial incentives for solar panel and green retrofits- Business Corner 14 * Innovation in packaging and marketing - Business Corner 15 * Agri-food: Mercy Corps and AFD – PERMA project and successes – Business Corner 16	
11:30 – 12:30	" <i>Boosting Iraqi SMEs: the Most Direct Way to Shared Prosperity? How international and Iraqi companies can co-invest in key sectors</i> " – Trade Dialogue 13	* Digital transformation in trade: the example of the quality management platform in the dates sector – Business Corner 17 * Dates – Business Corner 18	

**13:30 – 15:00: Official Closing Ceremony (Main Gilgamesh Hall) – Plenary 18**

- H.E. Mr. Abbas Jabr Al-Maliki, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Iraq.
- H. E. Mr. Atheer Daoud Salman, Minister of Trade, Republic of Iraq
- H.E. Mr. Najjar, Investment Advisor to the Prime Minister
- Representative of the European Union to the Republic of Iraq
- Representative of the International Trade Centre
- Summary of key outcome from INTF 2026 / Awards for outstanding contribution: "By Iraqi Hands – Best Iraqi Product of the Year", "Iraqi Trade Champion, Innovator of the Year, "Green Growth Pioneer Award", "Investor Impact 2026 Award", "Partnership Excellence Award", "SME of the Year"
- Closing address: "*Creating Shared Prosperity for all Iraqis through Trade and Investment*" (Minister, On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Iraq)