The ratio of tobacco net imports to production is derived by dividing total net import to total gross production value (current US$) of tobacco. The total net tobacco import equals to total imports minus total exports in current US$ of tobacco products including unmanufactured and tobacco products not elsewhere specified (smoking, chewing, snuff tobacco, homogenized or compressed tobacco, manufactured tobacco substitutes, tobacco extracts and essences).

The higher this ratio, the higher a country depends on imported tobacco products. While positive values show net tobacco importer countries, negative values show net tobacco exporter countries.

The ratio of tobacco net imports to production in the OIC countries group is estimated as 1.5 in 2016, a 0.8-point increase compared to that in 2000.

Even though Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Turkey were net exporters in 2000, they became net importers in 2016.

Jordan, Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Burkina Faso, Tajikistan, Mali, and Azerbaijan increased their ratios more than 10 points during the 2000-2016 period.

The ratio in Indonesia, having highest prevalence rate of smoking across OIC countries, also increased from 0.5 in 2000 to 1.2 in 2016.

The upward trend in the ratio of tobacco net imports to production for 19 OIC countries out of 27 with available data could be an important sign how multinational tobacco industry targets low and middle-income countries to make up for losses in the number of smokers (and revenue) in high income countries.

It could also explain why some OIC countries are lagging behind the achievement of the global target of 30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use in persons aged 15 and over agreed under the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013-2020.

Note: The graphs are produced for countries which have a gross production value of unmanufactured tobacco.

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 22/03/2019 from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAOSTAT Database. Please visit OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database (http://bit.ly/2F7W8cv) for other indicators under the Tobacco Control category.