Enhancing Customs Cross-border Cooperation

EGM on improving transit cooperation and trade facilitation for LLDCs
Geneva, 18 October 2019
Introduction to the WCO

➢ Independent intergovernmental organization exclusively focused on Customs matters
➢ Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council
➢ 183 Members (incl. all 32 LLDCs)

➢ Mission - The WCO develops international standards, fosters cooperation and builds capacity to facilitate legitimate trade, to secure a fair revenue collection and to protect society, providing leadership, guidance and support to Customs administrations
WCO Mercator Programme to support TF

Tailor-made track
- Needs assessment
- TRS
- Various diagnostic reports
- Self-Assessment
- Annual Survey
- Strategic planning
- CB/TA delivery
- TRS
- Performance indicators
- Approaching donors
- Accreditation of experts
- Regional WS with other government agencies
- National WS with other government agencies
- Survey on National Committees on TF
- NCTF Guidelines
- Promotion of CBM Compendium
- Promotion of Customs-Business Partnership Guide
- Conference on regional integration
- Promotion of WCO standards for regional integration
- Promotion of Transit Handbook, development of Transit Guidelines
- Promotion/regular update of TFA Implementation Guidance
- Ensuring integrity

Overall track
- Harmonized Implementation
- Economic Competitiveness Package
- Funding
- Experts
- Regional WS with other government agencies
- ROCB/RTC
- National WS with other government agencies
- Coordination with other international organizations

Showcase success stories
- Customs-business Partnership
- Regional integration
- CBM
- Other areas

Upgrade of WCO’s tools and best practices

Donor Funding/Resource Mobilization
- Approaching donors
- Coordination with other international organizations
- ROCB

Ensuring integrity

Donor Funding/Resource Mobilization
- Approaching donors
- Coordination with other international organizations
- ROCB
WCO Instruments and Tools

Revised Kyoto Convention

Transit Handbook

Transit Guidelines

SAFE Framework of Standards

Single Window Guidelines

Data Model

CBM Compendium

In development – Compendium of best practices in the area of transit
– Single Window Study Report
TFA Implementation Guidance

The TFA (Trade Facilitation Agreement) requests all national border authorities/agencies to cooperate with each other and coordinate border control and procedures to facilitate trade. Such cooperation and coordination may include alignment of working days and hours, alignment of procedures and formalities, development and sharing of common facilities, joint controls and establishment of one-stop border post control.

Standard 3.35 of the Revised Kyoto Convention lays down the principle that the Customs inspection of goods should take place in coordination with other competent authorities. The SAFE Framework of Standards takes the same approach as the TFA text.
The WCO Transit Guidelines

1. Legal framework
2. ICT and efficient information management
3. Guarantee system
4. Fees and charges
5. Simplification of formalities
6. Risk management
7. Authorized Economic Operators
8. Customs seals and other security measures
9. Coordinated Border Management
10. Hard infrastructure and equipment
11. Transparency and anti-corruption
12. Partnership with Business
13. Performance measurement
14. An anticipated arrival record should be shared with the office of destination and other relevant Customs offices immediately after the office of departure accepts the transit declaration.

16. When a Customs office inspects transit goods, the results of the inspection and any other useful information should be shared immediately with all other relevant Customs offices of transit.

21. If irregularities are detected at an office en route, the information should be shared with all relevant Customs offices involved in the transit operation.

24. All relevant Customs offices, starting with the office of departure, and then offices en route and at the final destination, should be informed about all details of the transit operation.
59. Governments are encouraged to take the necessary steps to develop or accede to regional or international guarantee systems, which are more efficient than a chain of national guarantee systems.

61. Governments are encouraged to establish conditions for mutual recognition of guarantees.
Coordinated border management

121. Governments should cooperate with neighbouring governments to coordinate procedures at border crossings and facilitate transit operations.

122. Governments should coordinate transit operation activities between different border control agencies, in particular through the national committee on trade facilitation.

130. Governments should cooperate with the governments of neighbouring countries to conduct joint controls on transit goods. Governments are encouraged to recognize the results of controls and risk management activities carried out by other governments in order to avoid unnecessary multiple inspections on the transit goods.

131. Governments should seek to establish a one stop border post (OSBP) for effective transit operations, using existing references such as the One Stop Border Post Sourcebook.
Members’ practices

- IT Interconnectivity in WCA region (ALISA, PACIR, SIGMAT projects)
- The Single Customs Territory (SCT) of the East African Community
- The Regional Customs Transit Guarantee in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- The Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) implemented by Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda (+DRC)
- South Africa – Eswatini Pilot Project on exchange of information
Thank you for your kind attention!

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