Role of Customs in FTAs in ESA

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• To demonstrate the difficulties encountered by Customs Administrations in ESA.

• The involvement of Customs in trade negotiations

• Illustrate the importance of Customs in the execution of these trade policy decisions.
• Regional Blocs in ESA:
  • SADC
  • COMESA
  • SACU
  • EAC
  • IOC

• Proliferation of FTAs - Customs role becoming more challenging
Overlapping Membership

- Objective of RI is to raise living standard of people thru’ market access

- Economic interest of Member States

- Conflicting obligations with overlapping membership
Spaghetti Bowl Effect
EPAs

• Economic Partnership Agreement in Africa:
  • SADC
  • ESA
  • CEMAC
  • ECOWAS

• EAC – EU
• SA
• Egypt
Case Study

• Case study of Mauritius:
  • Multiple Membership
  • Formation of Tripartite FTA
  • Govt Policy towards Duty Free Island

• Option – trade under FTAs or be part of a CU
Involvement of Customs

- Customs plays key role in supporting Regional Economic Integration
- Participation in Trade Negotiations:
  - common tariffs
  - rules of origin
  - harmonised procedures and legislations
  - development of Trade Agreements
  - Implementation of international best practices
  - Executions of foreign trade policies.
Challenges

• Difficulties incurred in implementing Policy Decisions

• Common Tariff Nomenclature

• The complexities of Tariff Structure

• Capacity Building
Challenges

• Customs Cooperation

• Rules of Origin / Certificate of Origin

• Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitations

• Automation
Thank You for your attention