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## Executive Summary

### High-Level Regional Workshop on Promoting Trade Facilitation, Proper Revenue Collection and Integrity by Strengthening the Customs-Business Partnership

Gaborone, 23 May 2012

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Under the framework of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV), Japan Customs and the Mauritius Revenue Authority, in cooperation with the Botswana United Revenue Service, jointly organized a High-Level Workshop for the WCO East and Southern Africa (ESA) region on Promoting Trade Facilitation, Proper Revenue Collection and Integrity by Strengthening the Customs-Business Partnership, in which seventeen (17) Customs administrations of the region,<sup>1</sup> the WCO Secretary General, the Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, and the Resident Representative of JICA's Botswana Office participated on 23 May 2012 in Gaborone, Botswana.

The Workshop aims at strengthening cooperation between Customs administrations in the ESA region and Japan in the area of trade facilitation, including One Stop Border Post (OSBP) and revenue collection, by sharing good practices.

The following outcomes of the Workshop are underlined:

Regarding trade facilitation, delegates acknowledged the progress of several OSBP projects in the ESA region. They reaffirmed that the OSBP is an initiative that ensures achievement of both trade facilitation and border control. Delegates from the ESA region expressed their appreciation to the Japanese Government for its ongoing support, including JICA OSBP projects. They also welcomed the WCO's efforts to develop the Economic Competitiveness Package that includes key trade facilitation measures, such as the Time Release Study. Delegates recognized that in order to put the OSBP concept into practice, it is extremely important to enhance cooperation and partnerships with other governmental agencies as well as business, harmonize Customs procedures, promote information sharing by using connectivity supported by ICT, introduce legislation designed to implement OSBP, and enhance Customs capacity in fundamental areas, such as HS classification, Customs valuation, and risk management, based on WCO tools.

Delegates discussed how to ensure revenue collection with an emphasis on the importance of Customs-Business partnerships. It is recognized that capacity of Customs brokers and clearing agents should be built up under legitimate frameworks, bearing in mind that accredited and qualified brokers and agents contribute significantly to facilitating legitimate trade of goods at borders while ensuring revenue collection. Furthermore, delegates also welcomed the development of the WCO Revenue Package.

It is also recognized that much attention should be given to the fight against corruption and enhancement of integrity, which are expected to promote trade facilitation and proper revenue collection, by using WCO tools such as the Revised Arusha Declaration on Integrity.

Delegates noted that the follow-up actions, including the development of OSBPs, set at TICAD IV have been taken, and that further cooperation between Customs administrations of the ESA region and Japan Customs is fostered toward TICAD V scheduled to take place in June 2013 in Yokohama.

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<sup>1</sup> Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe