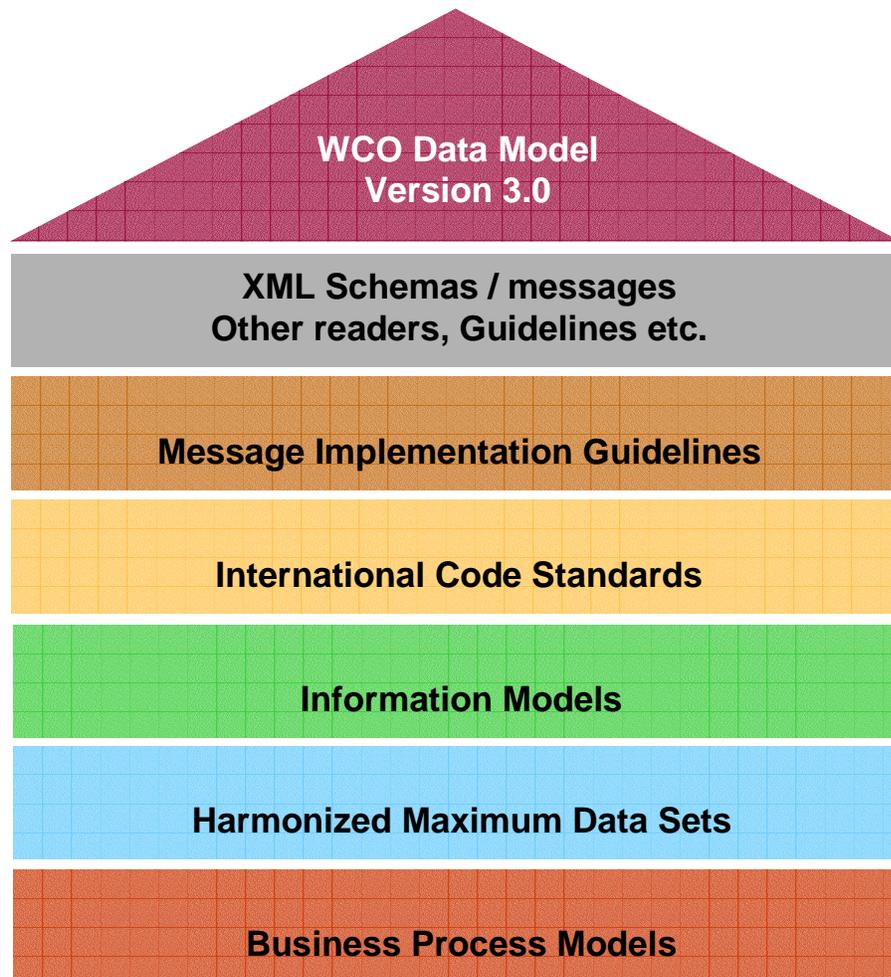## 2. The building blocks of the WCO Data Model

The term 'WCO Data Model' is a promotional name given to the overall product, which consists of 6 building blocks. Each of these building blocks will be in separate sections of this eHandbook as explained below:

**WCO Data Model
Version 3.0**

**XML Schemas / messages
Other readers, Guidelines etc.**

Message Implementation Guidelines

International Code Standards

Information Models

Harmonized Maximum Data Sets

Business Process Models

Put simply, the WCO DM consists of a series of harmonized data sets which identify business requirements for each of its various procedures. For each required data element, the data sets provide a detailed set of information (metadata). The data sets have been aligned with the 2005 edition of the United Nations Trade Data Elements Directory (UN/TDED) to the greatest extent possible. Information about these Harmonized Data sets is available in Chapter 7 of this eHandbook and the data sets can be downloaded and viewed on the "**Data Sets**" section.

The Business Process Models have been established to analyze and optimize business processes. The various models and their functionality are explained in Chapter 8 of this eHandbook and can be explored in the **"Business Process Models"** section.

The Information Models organize the pieces of information and their inter-relationships. These inter-relationships get expressed in the electronic messages that flow between the Cross-Border Regulatory Agencies and Trade. These models are explained in Chapter 9 of this eHandbook and can be explored in the **"Information Models"** section.

The WCO Data Model provides Message Implementation Guidelines (MIGs) and sample messages for both XML and UN/EDIFACT to assist Customs Administrations in implementing the WCO DM at a national level. Information regarding these guidelines can be found in Chapter 10 of this eHandbook and in the "**Electronic Messages"** section.

Finally, International Codes are vital for common exchange of messages. Chapter 11 an introduction to the codes and the section on **"Code Lists"** provides links and information on common code standards, which are necessary to the electronic transmission of data.