



WCO WORKING GROUP ON
THE WTO TRADE
FACILITATION AGREEMENT

-
12th Meeting
-

PT0097Ec

28 February 2020

**DRAFT AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE 12TH MEETING OF
THE WCO WORKING GROUP ON THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION
AGREEMENT (TFAWG) INCLUDING THE JOINT SESSION WITH THE 11th
SESSION OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING COMMITTEE (CBC)**

(The Joint Session of the TFAWG and the CBC will be held on Wednesday 4 March 2020, from 9.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. The TFAWG proper will be held on Thursday 5 March 2019 from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

	Day 1	
	Joint Session with CBC on Capacity Building Matters	
I.	Opening and adoption of the Agenda (For guidance and decision) a. Opening of the Joint Session by Dr. Kunio MIKURIYA, WCO Secretary General, and the Directors for Compliance and Facilitation Mr. Pranab Kumar DAS and Capacity Building Mr. Taeil KANG b. Remarks by the Chairpersons of the CBC and TFAWG c. Adoption of the Draft Agendas of the CBC and TFAWG and the Summary Document of the TFAWG	PT0097E PT0098Ea

	<p>The Secretary General will offer the opening address to the Joint Session of the TFAWG and CBC and introduce the new Directors for Compliance and Facilitation and for Capacity Building. In addition, the Chairpersons of the CBC and TFAWG will provide their opening remarks, which will be followed by the adoption of the Draft Agendas and the Summary Document, giving delegates the opportunity to suggest changes or additional topics for discussion.</p>	
<p>II.</p>	<p>Keynote Addresses (For taking note and discussion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote address by Mr. Philiso Phodiso VALASHIA, WCO Council Vice-Chair for the ESA Region, Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS), on Customs at the forefront of designing solutions for a sustainable future <p>Commissioner Valashia will address the various challenges organizations like Customs face nowadays as they are increasingly engaged in multiple simultaneous changes and have a key role in government strategies and policies to foster sustainability for prosperity and contribute to national and global development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote speech by H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Qurban HAQJO, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the WTO and Chairperson of the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee (TFC) <p>H.E. Ambassador HAQJO will address developments taking place in the WTO TFC and how this relates to the WCO.</p>	
<p>III.</p>	<p>WTO TFA Developments (To take note and exchange views)</p> <p>a. WTO Secretariat – state of play regarding the TFA</p>	

	<p>b. Members – opportunity to share national experiences regarding implementation of National Committees on Trade Facilitation (NCTFs) and related activities</p> <p>This item will inform the Joint Session of all relevant developments regarding the TFA from WTO and WCO perspectives. It will also provide an opportunity for Members to inform the Joint Session about national developments related to the TFA acceptance and implementation.</p>	
<p>IV.</p>	<p>The Mercator Programme: Taking stock of progress and lessons learnt (For discussion and guidance)</p> <p>a. Progress and the future of Mercator</p> <p>b. Members, donors and development partners perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bahamas <p>c. The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and related cooperation/support under the Mercator framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Union Commission (AUC) <p>The WCO Mercator Programme, launched in July 2014, aims at assisting governments worldwide to implement trade facilitation measures under the WTO TFA expeditiously and in a uniform manner using WCO instruments and tools and applying the WCO strategic approach to sustainable capacity building. The Joint Session will be informed about progress in the overall and the tailor-made tracks of the Mercator Programme.</p>	<p>HC0132Ea</p>

	<p>This agenda item will also give opportunities for Members, donors and development partners involved with the WCO under this Programme to share experiences and challenges including views on the Mercator programme Operating Model that was adopted at the last Joint Session held in March 2017. This will be an opportunity for a joint member/donor presentation on the experience of implementation of Mercator Programme.</p> <p>The Meeting will also be informed about the entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and discuss potential capacity building support under the framework of the Mercator Programme.</p>	
	<p>Lunch Break</p>	
<p>V.</p>	<p>Turning guidelines into practice: Results-based support for Specific TFA technical measures (For discussion and guidance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Time Release Study (TRS) b. Post Clearance Audit (PCA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zambia c. Transit <p>The Joint Session will have the opportunity to learn how the interaction between Members and WCO in specific TFA-related areas is taking place in practice and how the lessons learned shape the Secretariat's ongoing and future work on improving/amending the WCO tools and guidance in different areas.</p>	<p>PT0099Ea</p>

	<p>Specifically, the meeting will be informed about the latest initiatives in the area of the TRS, PCA and Transit. Members that have so far benefited from these initiatives will share their experiences and impact of related support. Delegates will be invited to comment on the initiatives and, as appropriate, provide any recommendations for further enhancement of the tools and related capacity building initiatives.</p>	
<p>VI.</p>	<p>Single Window and Trade Facilitation: Report on research findings and related innovations</p> <p>(For discussion and guidance)</p> <p>a. Study Report on Single Window : Current state of play</p> <p>The Secretariat will present the latest findings on Single Window environment collected through a WCO survey. A refined Maturity Model may be envisaged to enable Members to clearly identify and assess a maturation of a Single Window environment. The document will also discuss the potential impact of new technologies on commonly accepted concepts and co-orchestrated and concurrent business processes in Single Window systems. The Joint Session will be invited to take note of the findings from the Study Report and provide any potential guidance.</p> <p>b. RAMMAP-SWIM</p> <p>The Secretariat will report on progress on the development of the “Reform and Modernization – Monitoring Activities and Projects” (RAM-MAP) and “Single Window Interactive Map” (SWIM), both Web-based platforms designed to allow the user to access news articles and information on WCO Technical Assistance and Capacity building activities including information related to the Members’ automated systems such as Single Window systems. There will be a live demonstration of the platform. The Joint Session will be invited to take note and provide suggestions for improvement and promotion of the platform.</p>	<p>PT0100Eb PT0100EAE1a PT0100EAE2a</p>

VII.	<p>Wrap up of Day 1 (To take note)</p> <p>This will offer a short summary and takeaways of the Joint Session.</p>	
	<p>Day 2</p>	
	<p>Policy and Technical Matters</p>	
VIII.	<p>TFA Article 12: Customs Cooperation (To take note and exchange views)</p> <p>a. Measures Promoting Compliance and Cooperation (Article 12.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCO Voluntary Compliance Framework <p>b. Exchange of Information (Article 12.2 - 12.12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCO Model Bilateral Agreement • Globally Networked Customs • Customs Enforcement Network Applications (CEN, nCEN, CENcomm) <p>c. Presentation(s) of national experience(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan • Brazil <p>d. Discussion in break-out groups</p>	<p>PT0101Ea</p>

	<p>Article 12 of the WTO TFA, concerning Customs Cooperation, deals with compliance and the exchange of information in order to ensure effective Customs control. In fact, the exchange of information goes far beyond the limited purpose of verification of suspect declarations, as stipulated in the Article 12. It is equally important for implementing several measures related to trade facilitation in the WTO TFA. The exchange of information can contribute to improvements in a wide range of Customs operations.</p> <p>This agenda item will discuss the different aspects of Article 12, including provisions on voluntary compliance, exchange of information and bilateral and regional agreements. Members will present their experiences on implementation of Customs cooperation, after which the TFAWG will discuss the topic in a break-out session.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch Break</p> <p>e. Plenary session (report from the break-out groups) - TFA Article 12: Customs Cooperation</p> <p>The three break-out groups will report on their findings to the plenary session and the Meeting will take note of the findings.</p>	
IX.	<p>Account-based management: a paradigm for enhanced facilitation (For discussion and guidance)</p>	PT0102Ea

	<p>The concept of account-based management is an entity- and system-based Customs and border processing for traders, instead of the traditional transaction-based processing. This could offer Customs an opportunity to enhance its risk management and provide traders a range of simplifications and authorizations. Based on the preliminary work done by the WCO SAFE Working Group, the TFAWG will discuss the concept of account-based management and its applicability to Customs and border clearance processes for enhanced facilitation and effective holistic risk, as well as associated requirements and critical success factors.</p>	
X.	<p>Separation of release from final determination of Customs duties, taxes, fees and charges (Art 7.3) (To take note and for discussion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation(s) of national experience(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ New Zealand ◦ Zambia <p>According to Article 7.3 of the WTO TFA, each Member shall adopt or maintain procedures allowing the release of goods prior to the final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees, and charges, if such a determination is not done prior to, or upon arrival, or as rapidly as possible after arrival and provided that all other regulatory requirements have been met.</p> <p>The TFAWG will have an opportunity to hear about Member(s)'s experience on the implementation of Article 7.3.</p>	PT0103Ea
XI.	<p>TFAWG Work Programme and Annual Work Plan (For discussion and guidance)</p> <p>The TFAWG Work Programme and Annual Work Plan are the instruments to drive the work of the TFAWG and determine its agenda.</p>	PT0104Ea

	<p>The TFAWG will have the opportunity to discuss the progress in the past financial year and set new goals for the new financial year.</p> <p>This item will offer the TFAWG the opportunity to review and endorse the TFAWG Work Programme and Annual Work Plan for the coming Financial Year 2020/2021.</p>	
XII.	<p>Elections (For decision)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the TFAWG <p>The TFAWG elects a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson for a two year term. The outgoing Customs Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be eligible for re-election, though rotation of the chairpersonship is desirable.</p> <p>The TFAWG will be invited to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson amongst its Customs members for a two year term.</p>	
XIII.	<p>Any Other Business (For discussion and guidance)</p> <p>This item gives an opportunity to discuss topics in addition to the ones listed in the agenda.</p>	
XIV.	<p>Closing</p>	