SUMMARY DOCUMENT

(Item I. (c) on the Agenda)

Introduction

1. This Summary Document (SD) provides an overview of the subjects to be discussed and the actions expected from 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 objective of the SD is to provide more guidance to the TFAWG and CBC delegates on topics of focus and where input from Members is required.

2. Based on the draft agenda, items and sub-items have been broken down into three different categories (A, B and C) as noted below.

   A. Report Back on Work in Progress;

   The report back items for this meeting include updates on developments regarding the TFA in the WTO and the WCO. It also includes an update on activities and developments under the WCO Mercator Programme.
B. Decision and Guidance;

These items include the adoption of the Draft Agenda and this Summary Document itself. It also includes the discussions under turning guidelines into practice: Results-based support for Specific TFA technical measures such as TRS, PCA and Transit, Single Window and Trade Facilitation: Report on research findings and related innovations, the discussions on the TFAWG Work Programme, the Annual Work Plan, Elections and potentially the topics to be discussed under Any Other Business.

C. Exploration and progression of Key Technical Issues;

These items allow for discussion on key (technical) issues, which Members and observers are facing, ideally common across a number of Members and/or regions. The time allotted to these items will be sufficient to allow for active participation by all delegates to fully explore the issues raised. These items will include donors and beneficiary countries progress reports in TFA implementation, TFA Article 12: Customs Cooperation, Account-based border management: a paradigm for enhanced facilitation and Separation of release from final determination of Customs duties, taxes, fees and charges (Art 7.3).

3. In addition to a summary of the background and expectations, an indication of whether the item is an A, B or C type, has been indicated next to each agenda item below.

I. Opening and adoption of the Agenda.....”B”

Documents PT0097 and PT0098

a) Opening of the Joint Session by Mr. Ricardo TREVIÑO CHAPA, Deputy Secretary General, and the Directors for Compliance and Facilitation Mr. Pranab Kumar DAS and Capacity Building Mr. Taeil KANG

4. The opening by Mr. Ricardo TREVIÑO CHAPA, Deputy Secretary General of the WCO, will set the scene for the TFAWG two day meeting, which will include a joint session with the CBC, to discuss topics of common interest. The Deputy Secretary General will also introduce the new Directors for Compliance and Facilitation and for Capacity Building.

 b) Remarks by the Chairpersons of the CBC and TFAWG

5. The Chairpersons of the CBC and TFAWG will provide their opening remarks.

 c) Adoption of the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document

6. The Secretariat in consultation with the Chairpersons prepared a Draft Agenda and a Summary Document for the meeting. The objective of the SD is to provide delegates with clear and concise information on the substance of agenda items and guidance on the actions required from the TFAWG.

7. The TFAWG will be invited to adopt the Draft Agenda and Summary Document.

II. Keynote Addresses.....”A”

2.
• Keynote address by Mr. P.P. 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

8. Commissioner Valashia will address the various challenges organizations like Customs face as they are increasingly engaged in multiple simultaneous changes. He will discuss the key role Customs administrations have in government strategies and policies to foster sustainability for prosperity and how they contribute to national and global development.

• 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)

9. H.E. Ambassador HAQJO will address developments taking place in the WTO TFC and how this relates to the WCO.

III. WTO TFA Developments…..”A”

a) WTO Secretariat – state of play of the TFA;

b) Members – opportunity to share national experiences regarding implementation of National Committees on Trade Facilitation (NCTFs) and related activities

10. This item will inform the Joint Session of all relevant developments regarding the TFA from the WTO and WCO perspectives. It will also provide an opportunity for Members to inform the Joint Session about national developments related to TFA acceptance and implementation.

IV. The Mercator Programme: Taking stock of progress and lessons learnt…..”A and C”

   Document HC0132

a) Progress and the future of Mercator

11. The WCO Mercator Programme, launched in July 2014, aims to assist governments worldwide in implementing trade facilitation measures under the WTO TFA expeditiously and in a uniform manner using WCO instruments and tools by 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.

b) Members, donors and development partners perspective

12. This agenda item will 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.

c) **The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and related cooperation/support under the Mercator framework**

13. The Meeting will 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.

V. Turning guidelines into practice: Results-based support for Specific TFA technical measures.....”B”

Document PT0099

a) **Time Release Study (TRS)**

b) **Post Clearance Audit (PCA)**

c) **Transit**

14. The Joint Session will have the opportunity to learn how the interaction between Members and the 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 WCO tools and guidance in different areas.

15. 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 the impact of related support. Delegates will be invited to comment on the initiatives and, as appropriate, provide recommendations for further enhancement of the tools and related capacity building initiatives.

VI. Single Window and Trade Facilitation: Report on research findings and related innovations.....”B”

Document PT0100

a) **Study Report on Single Window: Current state of play**

16. The Secretariat will present the latest findings on the Single Window environment collected through a WCO survey. A refined Maturity Model may be envisaged to enable Members to clearly identify and assess the 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 guidance.

b) **RAMMAP-SWIM**

17. 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 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.

VII. Wrap up of Day 1.....”A”

18. This will offer a short summary and takeaways of the Joint Session.

VIII. TFA Article 12: Customs Cooperation.....”C”

   a) Measures Promoting Compliance and Cooperation (Article 12.1)
      • WCO Voluntary Compliance Framework
   b) Exchange of Information (Article 12.2 – 12.12)
      • WCO Model Bilateral Agreement
      • Globally Networked Customs
      • Customs Enforcement Network Applications (CEN, nCEN, CENcomm)
   c) Presentation(s) of national experience(s)
   d) Discussion in break-out groups

19. 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.

20. 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.

   f) Plenary session (report from the break-out groups) – TFA Article 12: Customs Cooperation

21. The three break-out groups will report on their findings to the plenary session and the Meeting will take note of the findings.
IX. Account-based border management: a paradigm for enhanced facilitation .....”C”

22. The concept of account-based border 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 border management and its applicability to Customs and border clearance processes for enhanced facilitation and effective holistic risk management, as well as associated requirements and critical success factors.

X. Separation of release from final determination of Customs duties, taxes, fees and charges (Art 7.3) .....”C”

- Presentation(s) of national experience(s)

23. According to Article 7.3 of the WTO TFA, each Member shall adopt or maintain procedures allowing for 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.

24. The TFAWG will have an opportunity to hear about Member(s)’s experience on the implementation of Article 7.3.

XI. TFAWG Work Programme and Annual Work Plan .....”B”

25. The TFAWG Work Programme and Annual Work Plan are the instruments to drive the work of the TFAWG and determine its agenda.

26. The TFAWG will have the opportunity to discuss the progress in the past financial year and to set new goals for the new financial year.

27. 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.

XII. Elections .....”B”

- Elections of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the TFAWG

28. 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.

29. The TFAWG will be invited to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson amongst its Customs members for a two year term.
XIII. Any Other Business------ “B”

30. Delegates will have an opportunity to discuss topics in addition to the ones listed in the agenda. No requests received for topics to be discussed under Any Other Business so far.

XIV. Closing

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