

Mission in support of Customs reform and modernization in Guinea



5 – 12 June 2010

As part of Phase II of the Columbus Programme, and upon the request of the Guinean Customs Administration, a support mission to assess the implementation of the diagnostic report recommendations and to plan modernization activities was carried out from 5 to 12 June 2010 by the WCO and the Regional Office for Capacity Building for the West and Central Africa Region (ROCB-WCA).

The mission, financed by the Netherlands Government's Customs Co-operation Fund, enjoyed the support of two experts : Souleymane SANGARE, an accredited expert from Côte d'Ivoire, and Fatayu OYENIYE, WCO Technical Attaché to the ROCB-WCA.

The WCO mission was received in Conakry by Mr. El hadj Alpha Yaya Diallo, Director General of Guinean Customs, his deputies and a team of senior officials from the Directorate General, a member of the Reform Committee. The exchange of views permitted an analysis of Guinean Customs' objectives and expectations, thus highlighting the Customs Administration's development priorities and Customs management's clear commitment to taking ownership of its modernization process.

The Reform and Modernization Committee, led by Mr. Karinka CONDE (Advisor to the National Director) and bringing together the Heads of Division within the Directorate General, strove to identify and formulate the Customs Administration's

priorities. The WCO experts guided participants through the discussions on the approach to organizational change. The mission also identified potential ways of optimizing Customs' performance, especially through expertise in goods acceptance and valuation procedures.

A meeting with the private sector, attended by Customs management, also took place and provided an opportunity to pinpoint private sector expectations.

The workshop discussions resulted in the development of a three-year plan for 2010-2012, a 2010 action plan as well as a project profile template which will be used to translate the priorities into detailed actions.

This mission concluded with an oral report made to the Minister of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Guinea, during which the experts reiterated the need for fearless political support to ensure the success of the Customs' Administration's modernization process.

The WCO welcomed the expected progress and reiterated its readiness to assist Guinea with its Customs modernization strategy.