

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP**  
**ON DATA AND STATISTICS**

**Confirmed by the Council :**           **June 2022**

**Established :**                           **2022**

**Duration :**                              **June 2025**

**Objectives**

1. Within the framework of the WCO Data Strategy, the primary objectives of the Working Group on Data and Statistics are to :
  - improve Customs statistics through new definitions, standards and methods;
  - enhance knowledge of and provide guidance on data governance and analytics in Customs administrations;
  - provide guidance and recommendations on the implementation and evolution of the WCO Data Strategy;
  - make the WCO part of the global statistical community and of global initiatives on data related to trade, taxation and security.

**Membership**

2. The Working Group is composed of representatives of WCO Members.
3. The Working Group may invite representatives from the private sector, international governmental/non-governmental organizations and other external stakeholders, academia, and subject matter experts to attend meetings as necessary and as observers.

**Organization and means of operation**

4. Members of the Working Group shall elect annually a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson from amongst the Member administrations. The outgoing Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be eligible for re-election once, for a cumulative period of no more than two years for each respective role.
5. The Working Group shall carry out its work through two annual meetings, to be held at WCO Headquarters. Intersessional work may be carried out “virtually”, as appropriate.
6. The Agenda, with attached meeting documents, will be prepared by the Chairperson of the Working Group in consultation with the WCO Secretariat and forwarded to Members by close of business 30 days prior to the scheduled meeting. The report of the Working Group shall be distributed to participants within one month after the meeting.
7. All working documents will be available in English and French. Meetings held at WCO Headquarters will be conducted with simultaneous interpretation in English and French.
8. The Working Group will report annually to the Policy Commission.

9. Members of the Working Group will fund their own participation, including travel, daily subsistence allowance and accommodation expenses. The administrative arrangements and provision of support services shall be the responsibility of the WCO Secretariat.

### **Duration**

10. The Working Group shall operate for an initial period of three years and, if necessary, shall request the approval of the Policy Commission to extend its operation.

### **Activities**

11. In accordance with its mandate and with further guidance given by the Council, the Working Group will conduct the following activities :
    - (a) Establish and implement a roadmap for the definition and standardization of statistics on all Customs competencies, their collection through the Annual Survey, dissemination on a Data Portal and sharing with WCO partner organizations, taking into account existing data sources among Members and regional and international organizations.
    - (b) Provide guidelines and tools on how to produce and disseminate statistics and open data, at the national and international levels, in connection with national statistical systems, for the benefit of Customs leaders, policy-makers, researchers and international organizations.
    - (c) Liaise with the international statistical and data community, in order to share knowledge, methods and tools and conduct joint experiments on data analysis and governance.
    - (d) Liaise with WCO working bodies, particularly with the group responsible for the Customs Data Model, and provide advice and recommendations on the consistency of WCO data initiatives and the evolution of the Data Strategy.
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