



IFCBA



REVITALIZING THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM

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REVITALIZING THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM: THE “3 P’S”

PEOPLE
PRAGMATISM
PROSPERITY



PEOPLE

- core customs competencies: classification, valuation and origin
- “they are like my children – I love them all equally...” (but that is just not true!)

PEOPLE

- development of HS expertise – the value of knowledge
- nothing is stagnant – new goods, new opinions, new circumstances, new technology, new duty rates
- new uncertainty in global trade – non-negotiated tariffs, retaliatory tariffs, surtaxes: challenge for people and relationships



PRAGMATISM

- rules are important – and rules can be improved
- international practice and national differences, reflecting national priorities
- transition of HS from revenue collection to risk management to requirements of other agencies



PRAGMATISM

- “the cost of doing the same old thing is far higher than the cost of change”
- change is difficult, especially among such varied stakeholders: strategic interests, commercial interests, practitioner interest, regulatory interests – how to align and prioritize these?

What CAN be done?



PROSPERITY

- potential for level playing field in negotiating trade agreements
- engagement of stakeholders, and especially practitioners, internationally and nationally, as revitalizing options are explored and implemented



PROSPERITY

- consideration and implementation of effective mechanisms to challenge HS
- consideration and implementation of effective mechanisms to encourage voluntary compliance
- commitment to training, and education, preferably in partnerships



PEOPLE

- willingness of people in this room to come together to explore possibilities by listening to each other, and sharing experience and ideas
- need your support to move forward and to sustain momentum for change



THANK YOU

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