



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council
Créée en 1952 sous le nom de Conseil de coopération douanière

PERMANENT TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE

PC0517E1a

219th/220th Sessions

16 – 20 April 2018

Brussels, 2 May 2018.

SUMMARY REPORT

THE 219TH/220TH SESSIONS OF THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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	XIV 9.30 – 10.00	d) Study Report on Disruptive Technologies <i>(For discussion and guidance)</i> <i>As agreed by the last Meeting of the PTC, during the intersession, the Virtual Working Group on the Future of Customs would work on including all the work on disruptive technologies already carried out in a Study Report for submission to the PTC in April 2018. The Study Report will now be submitted to the PTC for discussion and</i>
	b) Upcoming events	
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Public

		guidance.	
	10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break	
		<p>e) Workshops on disruptive technologies</p> <p><i>(For discussion and guidance)</i></p> <p><i>The PTC delegates will be able to attend a number of workshops that will focus on different disruptive technologies such as Blockchain, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Biometrics, cryptocurrencies, drones, 3D printing etc that will expose practical application in Customs, the global supply chain and beyond.</i></p>	
		Kyoto A (English and French)	Kyoto B (English only)
	10.30 – 13.00	<p>Session I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blockchain technology <p><u>Moderator:</u> Oren Elimelech, Israel Ministry of Transport and Road Safety Cyber Security Director</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oren Elimelech, Cyber Security Researcher, Expert & Adviser, Research Associate @ International Institute for Counter-Terrorism ICT, 	<p>Session II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biometrics • Drones • Internet of Things <p><u>Moderator:</u> Chahid Azarkan, Dutch Customs</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christina Bell, Customs Attache, US - James McColm, WCO

		<p>Israel Ministry of Transport and Road Safety Cyber Security Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stewart Jeacocke, Customs Lead, IBM Government - Nicolas Buhmann, Commercial Manager Global Trade Digitization, Maersk, Denmark - Albert Veenstra, Scientific Director Dinalog, professor of Trade Facilitation and Logistics, Eindhoven Technical University <p>(Leads: Oren Elimelech)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joris Tenhagen, Director/Founder, Pharox - Paul Cross, Assistant Secretary for Identity and Biometrics Capability, Australia's Department of Home Affairs <p>(Leads: Chahid Azarkan, Tactical Architect, Dutch Customs; Christina Bell)</p>	
	<p>13.00 - 15.00</p>	Lunch break		
		Kyoto A (English and French)	Kyoto A (English and French)	
(Disruptive Technology)		<p>Session III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broader look into disruptive 	<p>Session IV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial intelligence 	

ion

		<p>technologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic foresight <p>15.00 <u>Moderator:</u> Gordana Vidanovic, Head of International Affairs, Serbian Customs 16.30</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul-Hervé Theunissen, Head of Unit, TAXUD - Pascal Ollivier, SOGET - Susana Wong Chan, Cross-Border Research Association - Gerard Rodrigues, Counsellor, Australian Border Force, Australian Embassy in Brussels <p>(Leads: Gordana Vidanovic, Paul-Hervé Theunissen)</p>	<p><u>Moderator:</u> Matome Mathole, Customs Attache, South Africa</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Myriam Broeders, Chief Technology Officer, Microsoft (Belgium- Luxembourg) - Julian Stephens, MJC² Limited, Synchro-Net project - Arno Kooij, Director Customs National Targeting Center, Dutch Customs - Adriaan Kom, Altares Dun and Bradstreet <p>(Lead: Matome Mathole; Jonathan Page, Customs Attache of Canada (tbc)</p>	
	<p>16.30 – 17.00</p>	Coffee break		
	<p>17.00</p>	<p>f) Plenary discussion – to conclude on the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies</p> <p><i>(For decision)</i></p>		

<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">- 18.00</p>	<p><i>The workshops on disruptive technologies will allow the participants to come up with a number of new ideas and draw some new conclusions that could be included in the Study Report. The plenary session will provide an opportunity to suggest new additions to this tool that is expected to be adopted by the PTC, subject to any proposed amendments.</i></p>	
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Item I – Opening and adoption of the Agenda

(a) Opening speech by Ms. Ana HINOJOSA, Director, Compliance and Facilitation, WCO

1. The Chairperson of the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC), Mr. Rob Van Kuik (Netherlands), opened the 219th/220th Sessions. The list of participants is set out at Annex I hereto.
2. The Chairperson gave the floor to Ms. Ana Hinojosa, Director, Compliance and Facilitation, WCO, to share her opening remarks. Ms. Hinojosa welcomed the delegates and shared a number of messages and expectations concerning the Agenda, stressing that the PTC is WCO's key technical committee dealing with procedures and facilitation. Bearing in mind its roles and responsibilities, and by addressing the many relevant topics on the agenda throughout this week, she was pleased that the PTC would be taking numerous small steps towards *Building a Secure Business Environment for Economic Development*, which is the theme of the WCO for 2018.
3. She explained that all the items had been divided into four different clusters: the first two days would be focusing on follow-up actions, day III on disruptive technologies, day IV on digital Customs matters and day V on PTC management items. She further explained what the expected outcomes are and invited the PTC for an active discussion.
4. In conclusion, the PTC:
 - took note of the opening remarks made by Ms. Hinojosa, Director, Compliance and Facilitation.

(b) Adoption of the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document

5. The Chairperson invited the PTC delegates to share any comments or suggest amendments to the Draft Agenda and Summary Document, including the latest changes made to the agenda. There were no comments.

Annex I to
doc. PC0517E1

6. In conclusion, the PTC:

- adopted the Draft Agenda (Doc. PC0495) and Summary Document (Doc. PC0496).

Item II – Updates and reports

- (a) Inter-sessional developments**
 - (b) Report from the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on E-Commerce**
 - (c) Report from the 8th Meeting of the WCO Working Group on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (16-17 Oct 2017)**
 - (d) Report from the 73rd Meeting of the Information Management Sub-Committee (30-31 Oct 2017)**
 - (e) Report from the 18th Meeting of the SAFE Working Group (25-27 Oct 2017)**
 - (f) Report from the 17th Meeting of the Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee (13-14 Nov 2017) Oral report**
 - (g) Report from the 14th Meeting of the Counterfeiting and Piracy Group (15-17 Nov 2017)**
 - (h) Report from the 37th WCO/UPU Contact Committee Meeting (16-17 Nov 2017)**
 - (i) Report from the 11th Meeting of the WCO/IATA/ICAO API/PNR Contact Committee (27-29 Nov 2017)**
-Airports in the 21st Century - Outcomes and recommendation from the 37th Session of the Enforcement Committee
 - (j) Report from the 78th Meeting of the Policy Commission (4-6 Dec 2017)**
 - (k) Report from the 9th Meeting of the WCO Working Group on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (15-16 Feb 2018)**
 - (l) Report from the 19th Meeting of the SAFE Working Group (21-23 Feb 2018)**
 - (m) Report from the 9th Meeting of the Capacity Building Committee (26-28 February 2018)**
 - (n) Report from the 17th Meeting of the Integrity Sub-Committee (1-2 Mar 2018)**
 - (o) Report from the 37th Session of the Enforcement Committee (19-23 Mar 2018)**
 - (p) Return-refill containers – an update**
7. All reports of WCO working bodies or by the Secretariat which were relevant to the work of the PTC were grouped together as “A” items and delegates had an opportunity to raise any questions or concerns, if necessary, while avoiding spending too much time on items which did not require much discussion.
8. The Secretariat presented oral reports from the 9th Meeting of the Capacity Building Committee, the 17th Meeting of the Integrity Sub-Committee and the 37th Session of the Enforcement Committee (sub-items (m), (n) and (o)), which were all taken good note of.
9. The Chairperson explained that the PTC was invited to look into Terms of Reference of the WCO/IATA/ICAO API/PNR Contact Committee (sub-item (i)), specifically into the amendments submitted by both the Contact Committee itself and the Enforcement Committee. The latter

were discussed in the week before the PTC meeting and communicated to the partner organizations which expressed certain reservations to the proposed changes. With that in mind, the PTC agreed on changes proposed by the API/PNR Contact Committee; PTC accepted the amendments proposed by the Enforcement Committee and agreed on bringing them back to the Contact Committee for further discussion. As proposed by one of the Members, the enforcement-related API/PNR discussions would continue to take place informally in the Secretariat, or potentially as a sub-group under the Enforcement Committee.

10. In relation to sub-item (p) on return-refill containers, two Observers expressed strong support for expanding the scope of the Virtual Group so far dedicated to the Customs treatment of return-refill containers to encompass other issues of importance such as the Customs treatment of container tracking devices. An observer suggested putting forward a paper for the next PTC meeting and working with interested Members and Observers under the relevant Virtual Group to expand the discussions to ensure seamless Customs treatment of containerised trade using increasing innovative technologies.
11. Lastly, the Chairperson invited the PTC to approve the Report from the 73rd Meeting of the Information Management Sub-Committee (sub-item (d)) and the Report from the 37th Meeting of the WCO/UPU Contact Committee (sub-item (h)).
12. In conclusion, the PTC:
 - took note of the reports of different WCO working bodies and of intersessional developments;
 - took note of the oral reports from the 9th Meeting of the Capacity Building Committee, the 17th Meeting of the Integrity Sub-Committee and the 37th Session of the Enforcement Committee;
 - took note of the update on return-refill containers and of the suggestion put forward by an Observer to expand the discussions under the related Virtual Working Group to the use of latest technologies, based on a paper to be developed by a group of interested Members/Observers;
 - approved the amendments proposed to the Terms of Reference of the WCO/IATA/ICAO API/PNR Contact Committee, submitted by the Contact Committee and agreed to the changes proposed by the Enforcement Committee and that they will be brought back to the Contact Committee for further discussion; and
 - adopted the Report from the 73rd Meeting of the Information Management Sub-Committee and the Report from the 37th Meeting of the WCO/UPU Contact Committee.

Item III –Customs-Railways Cooperation

- (a) Exchange of information between Railways and Customs**
- (b) Presentation by Turkey Customs**
- (c) Railway-postal cargo pilot project**

Annex I to
doc. PC0517E1

13. The WCO Secretariat introduced Doc. PC0499. In its October 2017 sessions, the PTC examined this topic and noted the associated issues, such as the lack of a harmonized set of data for Customs transit declarations and agreed to explore this topic further at technical level. The WCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and with the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) in July 2017 and in March 2018 respectively, to strengthen cooperation in the sector of railway transport. The Secretariat introduced the work on the postal-rail project with regards to railway transportation, where the WCO is working with UPU with an aim to enhance trade facilitation regarding Customs procedures.
14. As possible future key issues, relating to Customs procedures in railway transportation, to be discussed within WCO, the Secretariat mentioned: standardization of data elements for Customs transit declaration together with Advance Electronic Data; application of new technologies for Customs control; exploitation of Passenger Name Records, and related Customs procedures in the postal cargo area. Finally, the Secretariat suggested to start the discussion in an informal platform with the interested Members.
15. As the way forward for the WCO, several delegates expressed their appreciation and supported WCO Secretariat's proposal of setting up a Virtual Working Group to discuss railway transportation issues, taking into account the importance of sharing practical information amongst Members and potential benefits of standardization of Customs procedures in railway transportation. The Delegate of Georgia volunteered to lead the Virtual Working Group.
16. A representative of Turkish Customs gave a presentation, sharing their experience in Customs-Railways Cooperation. Outlining some of the national developments in railway transportation, he noted that Turkish Railways (TCDD) was authorized in April 2016, as stipulated in the Common Transit Convention, for possible simplifications of Customs procedures, and send consignment notes for the purpose of Customs transit declarations. In detail, TCDD receives CIM data from the Bulgarian side and sends the entry summary declaration produced by the CIM data for Turkish Customs before the arrival of a train. He explained that the harmonization of data between what Customs needs and what TCDD can provide is important for this cooperation and that allowing Customs to introduce the CIM data into the TCDD system is key for the simplification of procedures. He shared information on the current use of X-ray machines, that are placed in various cross-border points, for security purposes in railway transport.
17. Delegates noted the importance of the use of Advance Electronic Data from Railway companies and the need for standardizing them. Several delegates expressed their interest in technologies and equipment for Customs inspection and for tracking trains, such as Radio Identification Equipment and X-rays as well as the possibility of exchanging the X-ray scanned images. The Turkish representative explained that access to the CIM data provides the necessary information for tracking trains.
18. In conclusion, the PTC:
 - took note of the proposal by the Secretariat and the presentation by Turkey on Customs-Railways cooperation;

- discussed opportunities and possible issues to enhance trade facilitation in railway transportation; and
- agreed to establish Virtual Working Group to discuss the topic more in depth at technical level.

Item IV – Transit

- a) Update on recent activities in the area of transit**
- b) The use of Transit Office Master Data**

19. The Secretariat presented document PC0500 by providing details about two regional workshops on transit for the East and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa regions of the WCO that had been held respectively on 22-24 November 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa and on 11-13 April 2018 in Cotonou, Benin. The PTC was further informed that a regional transit workshop for the WCO Americas and the Caribbean Region would be held on 21-23 May 2018 in Asuncion, Paraguay. The regional transit workshops were being organized with the objective of promoting the implementation of the WCO Transit Guidelines and collecting national and regional best practices in the area of transit. By the end of the financial year 2018-2019, all WCO regions would have benefitted from such events.
20. The WCO Secretariat also updated the PTC with the ongoing work of the Data Model Projects Team (DMPT) to develop Master Data, the use of which could support the establishment of transit interconnectivity. This could be achieved by enabling a Customs office to recognize other Customs offices in the transit route and to determine the Customs office to and from which transit information should be sent or received in a harmonized and standardized manner. Information such as the address of the office, contact person, and means of communication of the contact person as well as the office, could be considered to be part of the proposed Office Master Dataset.
21. Another delegate enquired about the costs associated with the use of the WCO Data Model to support transit interconnectivity. The Secretariat informed that the WCO Data Model is available free of charge for all Member administrations.
22. Another delegate shared the experience of developing regional transit connectivity in the West and Central Africa (WCA) region. The Secretariat responded that the WCO has assisted the Customs administrations in the region to develop a harmonized and standardized transit dataset based on the WCO Data Model. One of the reasons for developing the proposed transit Customs office Master Data was based on the use case of data in the WCA region.
23. The Delegate of India presented the national experience in the area of transit, including the establishment of an electronic cargo tracking system with an e-sealing facility and the associated pilot projects with Bangladesh and Nepal. He also presented the work on various multi-modal projects, involving transit by rail and road, and provided full support to the work of the DMPT on the mechanism to exchange transit master data.
24. In conclusion, the PTC:

- took note of the update on recent WCO activities in the area of transit, including the regional workshops;
- took note of India's experience, and
- supported the work of the DMPT to continue the development of Transit office Master Data; and
- encouraged the use of the standardized office coding systems¹ as recommended in the WCO Data Model in the connection to transit interconnectivity.

Item V – Non-intrusive inspection (NII)

○ Update from the 3rd Meeting of the Technical Experts Group on Non-intrusive Inspection (12-13 March 2018)

25. The Secretariat provided an update on the work of the Technical Experts Group on Non-intrusive Inspection (TEG-NII), including a short summary of the mandate of the Group, which was to promote synergies between Customs and the Industry to develop a standard NII data format (Unified File Format or UFF) and to discuss other NII technical issues as proposed by members of the Group. After explaining the phases of the UFF Development Programme, the Secretariat reported on the progress under its Phase 2 and the associated testing, which was to be done through a digital pilot. The PTC was informed that Phase 2 was progressing with a certain delay and, as per the conclusions of the 3rd Meeting of the TEG-NII of 12-13 March 2018, was planned to be completed by June 2018.
26. The PTC was further informed that, in addition to the progress under Phase 2 of the UFF Development Programme, the 3rd Meeting of the TEG-NII had discussed other NII-related issues such as a survey to be conducted among Members with the objective of developing a compendium-type of document containing information on the NII systems deployed by the Customs administrations worldwide; latest NII technologies; maintenance of NII equipment; testing of NII systems; the benefits of material discrimination; a concept for a unified approach to NII related training etc.
27. A delegate inquired about the types of NII systems included in the scope of the UFF Development Programme and, following the clarification provided by the Secretariat that the development covered high-energy scanners, suggested that the TEG-NII considered adding, at a later stage, mail inspection systems and air cargo inspection systems to the scope of the Programme.

28. In conclusion, the PTC:

¹ Five digits of UN/LOCODE plus additional user code.

- took note of the oral update from the 3rd Meeting of the Technical Experts Group on Non-intrusive Inspection (12-13 March 2018) and of the suggestion by a delegate to include mail scanners and air cargo scanners in the scope of the UFF Development Programme.

Item VI – Integrated Supply Chain Management (ISCM)

○ Draft updated ISCM Guidelines

29. The Chairperson introduced this Agenda item, stating that the last PTC Meeting had agreed with the two-phased approach for a quick update of the ISCM Guidelines during the current review cycle and their final review and integration into the SAFE Framework of Standards (SAFE FoS) during the next review cycle.
30. The Secretariat presented Doc. PC0504, explaining the process of the current update of the ISCM Guidelines facilitated by the Netherlands. The updated Guidelines included, among other things, recent global developments and changing international supply chain dynamics; relevant provisions of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA); alignment of terms in line with the SAFE Framework of Standards; mutual recognition of AEOs and associated trader identifier requirements, 'Data Pipeline' concept for seamless data exchange and access; and ISCM related projects/pilots and initiatives to provide the practical implementation perspective.
31. It was noted that the February 2018 meeting of the SAFE Working Group (SWG) had discussed and approved the draft updated Guidelines. Going forward, the Guidelines would be further reviewed and suitably integrated into the SAFE FoS during the next review cycle. The PTC delegates were requested to consider the updated Guidelines. The Secretariat also invited interested PTC delegates to join the 'SAFE Mini-Group on E-Seals' that had been established by the SWG to carry out further work on the use of e-seals for enhancing end-to-end supply chain integrity and security.
32. During the discussion that followed, delegates appreciated the work done on the update of the ISCM Guidelines. A delegate said that the ISCM concept provided a different approach to Customs control and shared the experiences with the EU-China Smart and Secure Trade Lanes (SSTL) pilot project that was underway for testing end-to-end supply chain security. He informed that the scope of the project was being expanded to air and rail transport, in addition to maritime transport. Based on the lessons learned from various pilots to date, the ISCM concept should be further developed from a practical implementation perspective, including through the use of data pipeline and Blockchain.
33. Another delegate noted the importance of ISCM and data pipeline in the context of data exchange and data security and suggested to define data terms more explicitly and to align data sets with the current version of the WCO Data Model. Sharing his administration's (India) experiences with the use of e-seals in export cargo, he expressed willingness to participate in the Mini-Group on E-Seals and the envisaged future work in the area of ISCM.

34. Responding to a suggestion to bring the ISCM Guidelines closer to the SAFE FoS to further support an effective implementation the SAFE, it was clarified that the ISCM Guidelines would be integrated into the SAFE FoS to provide cross-cutting support to all the three Pillars during the next review cycle.

35. In conclusion, the PTC :

- considered and approved the updated ISCM Guidelines. Delegates could provide further suggestions, if any, by 30 April 2018;
- agreed to comprehensively review the Guidelines and incorporate them appropriately into the SAFE Framework of Standards during the 2021 SAFE review cycle; and
- took note of the interest expressed by delegates in the future work concerning ISCM including e-seals.

Item VII – SAFE Authorized Economic Operators and TFA Article 7.7

○ **Linkages between the SAFE Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme and Article 7.7 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)**

36. Introducing this Agenda item, the Chairperson said that a clear understanding of similarities and differences between the SAFE AEO Programme and Article 7.7 of the WTO TFA Authorized Operator (AO) Scheme was of critical importance.

37. The Secretariat presented Doc. PC0505, informing that the issue of linkages between the SAFE AEO Programme and Article 7.7 of the WTO TFA had been under discussion since the conclusion of the WTO TFA in December 2013. There had been some concerns as to whether Members would be required to implement two programmes/schemes – one under the SAFE FoS, having submitted a 'letter of intent' to implement the SAFE, and another one under the TFA to fulfil the obligations of Article 7.7, having ratified the same. Furthermore, there had been thoughts on whether and how two programmes/schemes could complement and supplement each other by leveraging synergies between them.

38. To that end, a document in the form of 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQ), outlining relevant questions and corresponding answers had been developed. The draft FAQ was further refined and approved by the SWG meeting held from 21 to 23 February 2018 (Annex to Doc. PC505E) for the consideration by the PTC.

39. In the ensuing discussion, several delegates supported the FAQ, recognizing their value for clarifying some underlying concepts and providing practical guidance for a better understanding of the linkages and complementarities between the SAFE AEO Programme and

Article 7.7 of the WTO TFA. This would help Members who had either implemented or had initiated steps to implement AEO programmes in order to better align with the obligations stipulated in Article 7.7 of the WTO TFA.

40. A delegate noted that the recent amendment in the SAFE FoS (Standard 3 of Pillar 2) to expressly provide for certain minimum tangible benefits to AEOs would further align the SAFE AEO Programme with the criteria and requirements of Article 7.7 of the WTO TFA. Another delegate added that the SAFE Package, being very comprehensive, fully supported the implementation of Article 7.7 of the WTO TFA. It was also mentioned that supply chain security criteria should have sufficient flexibility and customization in order to meet specific needs of various business models.
41. In this context, some delegates also advocated for enhanced coordination between the WCO and the WTO. One delegate mentioned the remarks from a delegate made by a delegation in the discussion on the issue during the SWG meeting in February 2018, with regards to the WCO's competency concerning the interpretation of the instruments of other international organizations including the WTO.
42. In response to a question on the future of this document, the Secretariat explained that the FAQ, once approved by the Policy Commission and the Council, would be published as part of the 2018 SAFE Package and made available at the WCO Website.
43. In conclusion, the PTC :
 - discussed and endorsed the FAQ on the linkages between the SAFE AEO Programme and Article 7.7 of the WTO TFA, and recommended their submission to the June 2018 Policy Commission and Council for their respective consideration and adoption as part of the 2018 SAFE Package.

Item VIII – Time Release Study (TRS)

a) Updated TRS Guidance

44. After introducing the topic, the Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the finalized draft version of the TRS Guide (version-3). The Secretariat presented the document PC0506E, indicating that based on the decision of the joint session of the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) and the Working Group on the WTO Agreement of Trade Facilitation (TGAWG) held in October 2016, a draft updated version of the Guide was developed by a group of experts. The draft updated Guide was presented to the October 2017 joint session of the PTC and the TFAWG that took note of it and encouraged Members to share their related working experiences and good practices with the Secretariat. The update of Guide had since been finalized.

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45. The Secretariat then outlined some of the key features of the updated TRS Guide, in particular the additional Phase (Phase-IV) in the TRS methodology, known as 'monitoring and evaluation phase', the use technological means for collecting time stamped data and Members' experiences and initiatives with respect to TRS.
46. It was expected that the updated TRS Guide would provide further support in measuring their release times, thus identifying bottlenecks and improving performance through appropriate policy and operational measures.
47. Delegates appreciated and supported the finalized draft TRS Guide as a very useful tool for performance management, and welcomed the inclusion of the Phase-IV in the TRS methodology. A delegate suggested improving text on business process mapping, clearly distinguishing the Customs part from the part falling under the remit of other government agencies.
48. Another delegate raised a concern on the definition of 'physical release' that stated release as the last step of the Customs clearance process, noting that release could also take place before the clearance. In this regard, he mentioned the definition of 'Customs release' as stipulated in the Revised Kyoto Convention. The Secretariat clarified that the 'physical release' meant the release from all relevant government agencies and stakeholders (not only Customs) to the trader or his/her agent. Acknowledging that release could take place prior to clearance and the definition of 'physical release' was accordingly revised and simplified as below:

***“Physical Release:** The step of the clearance process when the goods are physically placed at the disposal of the importer or exporter or his/her legal representative for home consumption or export or any other Customs procedure. In the case of export or international transit, it is the stage when the goods are considered to have departed the Customs territory.”*

49. Furthermore, a delegate suggested the Secretariat to consider organizing Members' experiences in a harmonized template. The Secretariat responded by stating that given the different focus and approach by different Members, it was found difficult to organize their TRS experiences in a harmonized manner. However, the suggestion had been well noted for future revisions of the Guide.

In conclusion, the PTC:

- discussed and approved the updated version of the TRS Guide (version 3.0), with the suggested changes and requested the Secretariat to finalize it by carrying out necessary editorial changes and alignment of the French version with the English version; and
- encouraged Members to continue using the TRS Guide as a performance measurement tool, in particular with regard to the monitoring and evaluation of the TFA implementation.

b) Presentation by India

50. The PTC work programme suggests that the Members regularly share their experiences of conducting the Time Release Study. Accordingly, the Delegate of India shared its national experiences and the report of the 2018 TRS conducted at their largest Customs House. The main objectives of the TRS 2018 were: engagement of all stakeholders with Customs in the front; measuring distance to target of release time set by the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan; identifying relatively more time-consuming categories of consignments, commodities and sub-processes; better perception management by putting forward evidence based data in comparison to perception index of 'Ease of Doing Business' Report and improving Coordinated Border Management.
51. The Delegate elaborated some of the key outcomes such as the reduction in release time by 20% in 2018 over 2017, as a result of the regulatory, policy, procedural and ICT improvements. The study had helped in a better appreciation of the gap between the actual release time for imports and the one indicated in the World Bank report, as well as initiating additional measures to improve the release time. He concluded by mentioning that the Indian TRS 2018 identified four essentials of expeditious release and clearance – a) Advance document filing by importer; b) Full facilitation based on Integrated Risk Management System in Single Window; c) AEO Status; and d) Direct Port Delivery (DPD) scheme.
52. In conclusion, the PTC:
- took note of the presentation of India's Time Release Study in 2018.

tem IX – Customs revenue benchmarking database

o Presentation by Switzerland

53. The Chairperson explained that at the 4th Meeting of the WCO Working Group on Revenue Compliance and Fraud, held in November last year, Switzerland delivered a presentation on the proposal for a Customs Revenue Benchmarking Database (CRBD) and the final outcomes of the study and exploratory meetings conducted so far. The Working Group recommended that a discussion be held during the next Session of the Permanent Technical Committee in 2018 for further guidance and consideration.
54. With that in mind, the Swiss delegation was invited to make a presentation. The Swiss representative provided more information on the background to the CRBD in the context of performance measurement. He explained that a Feasibility Study was finalized in 2017 by the Cross-Border Research Association and a number of interested Members (Vietnam, Finland, New Zealand and Switzerland).

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55. The purpose of the planned CRBD is to create a transparent and easy to use global database of the tax revenue collected by Customs authorities. It would include the Customs duties and taxes that are collected by the Customs authorities, as well as a split of total government revenue and costs of collection by the Customs administrations. It would also include the basis of the individual Customs duties and other taxes and will provide an overview of the various systems of tax and Customs duty collection around the world.
56. According to the Study, this database would be made available in full to WCO Members and potentially to the private sector, international organisations, universities and the media. It is expected that the database would contribute to the transparency of indirect tax categories and applied tax rates across the globe. The presentation and the full Study Report are available on the WCO web site (http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/meeting-documents/permanent-technical-committee/219/pc_itemix_crbd_study_report_switzerland_enonly.pdf?lang=en).
57. The recommendation put forward by the study group was to implement the CRBD in an initial phase with a small test group of up to ten volunteering Members, with an estimated total cost of 260.000 EUR. The experiences drawn from the first year of operation would be taken into consideration while making the data available to all Members, the cost of which is estimated at 84.000 EUR per year. The WCO would provide the required IT infrastructure, while the annual updates would be provided by the Members.
58. After approval by the PTC, the proposal would be put forward to the Finance Committee and the Policy Commission. The next steps would include approval by the Council in 2019 and testing of the database, while 2020 would be the target year for going live for all Members.
59. A number of Members expressed support for this proposal and volunteered to take part in the project, while one Member expressed concern about the financial implications and the need to submit this proposal to the Finance Committee.
60. In conclusion, the PTC:
- took note of the presentation by Switzerland on the Customs revenue benchmarking database and the proposal for developing a Members' database; and
 - took note of the positive responses to the Swiss proposal and agreed to take the work forward, firstly by submitting it to the Finance Committee, to be followed by submission to the Policy Commission and Council.

Item X – World Bank’s “Doing Business”

o Update on the engagement with the World Bank on “Doing Business”

61. The Chairperson introduced the item by stressing that the concerns surrounding the World Bank’s “Doing Business” report had been raised and discussed at recent sessions of the Policy Commission. The WCO had accordingly engaged with the World Bank with a view to enhancing the methodology used for the “Doing Business” survey, particularly the “Trading Across Borders” section, and to facilitate input from Customs to improve the quality of the survey.
62. Mr. Ping Liu, Director, Tariff and Trade Affairs, provided more information on this matter. He explained that the Members felt that the ranking exercises may not be objective due to data bias and differences in the geographical and trade environment. Furthermore, while such exercises could provide motivation for reform, they may also have a negative impact on perception of the doing business environment in an economy.
63. The Director explained the objectives and the latest developments relating to the “Doing Business” survey. With the aim of improving the quality of the data collected and making valuable contributions to the improvement of its methodologies in the future, the WCO Secretariat contacted all Members in February this year in writing, proposing that the registered contact points of all WCO Members be shared with the World Bank ‘Doing Business’ team to facilitate communication.
64. The World Bank subsequently informed the Secretariat that they are very pleased with the engagement of WCO members with the Trading Across Borders indicator. As at 27 March, WCO members have already submitted 27 surveys, while 47 others have confirmed their participation.
65. One of the key efforts made by the Secretariat in engaging with the WB is to try to improve the methodologies used by the Trading Across Borders with professional Customs input regarding what’s really happening on the ground and to promote the use of the Time Release Study in calculating the indicators.
66. The Director also explained some of the concerns shared with the World Bank, such as: significant difference in the result of time and cost associated with trade procedures depending on which of the two different modes of transport (by land or by sea) is used; the choice of commodities; granulation of data by stages of clearance by different agencies etc. The World Bank explained that the changes to methodology need the approval of the World Bank Group Board. This is a long process and there is strong interest in keeping the reports stable for at least the next 2-3 years, since they were changed 2 years ago (following a 2-year consultation process).
67. The Director concluded by asking the PTC a question on how to move forward on better use of the TRS for Trading Across Borders?

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68. The PTC delegates fully supported Secretariat's engagement with the World Bank Group on "Doing Business" and felt that it will have a positive impact in terms of mitigating the many concerns on the results of this survey expressed on this occasion as well. Namely, it was clear that the survey results were being reviewed by the governments and had an important impact on the decision making.

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69. There was a number of suggestions put forward by the delegates:

- a. Parts of the survey could be subdivided to provide more clarity on the different steps in the clearance procedures;
- b. The creation a special group could be considered to identify the concerns and ways for improving the process;
- c. The TRS results should have an important role not only in improving the results of the “Doing Business” survey, but also in being a more reliable alternative to the survey, to be published on a regular basis, as it provides reliable data;
- d. The WCO should continue such engagement with the World Bank Group.

70. One of the delegates explained that a number of stakeholders including Customs were working closely with the World Bank at national level to ensure that the results of the “Doing Business” survey were more accurate. With the gained experience in mind, they expressed their willingness to support the WCO in their engagement with the World Bank. A number of other Members also expressed their readiness to contribute in the same respect.

71. In his closing remarks, the Director explained that even though the TRS is considered a more accurate tool for measuring cross-border procedures, the influence of the “Doing Business” survey results is much greater, and therefore calls for WCO’s full engagement in ensuring, together with the World Bank Group, that the results of this survey are as reliable as possible.

72. In conclusion, the PTC:

- took note of the report by Mr. Ping Liu, Director, Tariff and Trade Affairs, on the engagement of the Secretariat with the World Bank Group on the “Doing Business” survey with a view to enhancing the methodology used, particularly in the “Trading Across Borders” section, and to facilitate input from Customs to improve the quality of the survey;
- took note of the full support expressed by the PTC to the engagement of the Secretariat with the World Bank Group; and
- took note of a number of recommendations shared by the delegates in terms of further enhancing the engagement with the World Bank Group and improving the results of the “Doing Business” survey, as well as the role that the TRS should play in that respect.

Item XI – Glossary of International Customs Terms

o New proposed terms for inclusion in the Glossary

73. The WCO Secretariat presented Doc. PC0507 and its Annex I with the four new terms proposed therein for inclusion in the Glossary of International Customs Terms: ‘Customs territory’, ‘Customs valuation’, ‘De minimis’ and two potential options for ‘Globally Networked Customs (GNC)’. The Secretariat also presented a proposal for the categorization of terms in three different categories: 1) Traditional concept, 2) Legal Concept, and 3) New trend concept, including IT (in Annex II to the Doc. PC0507).

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74. Some delegates suggested that the definition of 'Customs territory' needs to be aligned with the amendments of the Revised Kyoto Convention, which is currently being reviewed. Through the discussions, it became evident that this definition was a politically sensitive issue for a number of Members.
75. Another Delegate some technical issues regarding both the draft definition of 'Customs Valuation', sourced from the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation, and the draft definition of '*De minimis*', originated from the RKC provisions.
76. The WCO Secretariat explained the similarities and differences between the two draft definitions of GNC. The Chairperson suggested that the first definition of GNC be approved, subject to deletion of part of the text ('of commercial nature'), in line with delegates' comments and feedback. There was no objection to the first definition of GNC.
77. It was agreed that the WCO Secretariat will prepare a number of draft definitions based on further research and collaboration with volunteers from Member Customs administrations, for discussion and potential inclusion in the Glossary of International Customs Terms at the Autumn 2018 PTC Sessions.
78. In conclusion, the PTC:
 - approved the term 'Globally Networked Customs (GNC)' with a view to incorporating it into the Glossary, subject to amendment to the first draft definition of 'GNC' as proposed during the meeting (deleting 'of commercial nature'); did not approve the proposed draft definitions of the other three terms – 'Customs territory', 'Customs valuation', '*De minimis*', due to either political sensitivities or technical reasons; and
 - decided that the next update of the Glossary was to be prepared by the Secretariat with the support of volunteers from Member Customs administrations and would be placed on the Agenda for the Autumn 2018 sessions of the PTC.

Item XII – Special Customs Zones / Free Zones

o Progress report on Special Customs Zones / Free Zones

79. Referring to Doc. PC0508, the Secretariat presented the background and the content of a detailed project plan to examine the current situation and share experiences of Members, which includes an on-line survey, field studies and regional workshops. The aim is to develop a comprehensive research paper that will contribute to the possible revision of an existing or development of a new WCO tool on Special Customs Zones / Free Zones.
80. In the presentation, the Secretariat mentioned that the number of Special Customs Zones / Free Zones is dramatically increasing and that also the abuse of these zones for illegal activities was increasingly reflected in various reports produced by international organisations, like

for instance OECD in its recent report "Trade in Counterfeit Goods and Free Trade Zones (15 March 2018)". Some of these reports mention that the "lighter" Customs procedures/controls make these zones attractive to criminal organizations, even though the Revised Kyoto Convention, which is the only international convention that provides standards for Special Customs Zones / Free Zones, clearly says that Customs controls can be applied in these zones.

81. A Delegate mentioned the importance of considering not only the control aspect, but also the economic aspect of Special Customs Zones / Free Zones and proposed other issues such as origin. Another Delegate stressed that even though there is no doubt regarding the importance of this issue for Customs, it is necessary to eliminate duplication of work, in terms of research and surveys. Several delegates appreciated the proposed project plan and suggested to share the results of the survey and research in the next PTC sessions. Another Delegate asked for more detailed information on the workshops.
82. The Secretariat explained that it would examine the economic aspects, and cooperate with other related organizations in developing its research, to avoid the duplication of surveys and to reduce the burden on Members. The Secretariat further explained that the purpose of the workshops is to share the challenges and best practices and discuss the possible global standards. The Secretariat will decide the venues of the workshops based on the survey results and will share more detailed information once available.
83. In conclusion, the PTC:
- took note of the presentation by the Secretariat on Special Customs Zones / Free Zones; and
 - agreed on the proposed project plan to conduct an analysis of these zones and examine the necessity of revising existing WCO tools or developing a new tool based on the results of an on-line survey and workshops.

Item XIII – Coordinated Border Management (CBM)

- (a) Update of the CBM Compendium**
- (b) Update on the Customs-Police Handbook**

84. Coordinated Border Management is one of the building blocks for modern Customs administrations identified in the WCO strategic document "Customs in the 21st Century". Similarly, the WTO acknowledges the importance of CBM for trade facilitation and has incorporated the concept in the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) which entered into force on 22 February 2017.
85. In order to support Members in implementing CBM, the WCO developed the CBM Compendium. It contains practical information about the processes required to establish CBM, as well as country practices and experiences. These practices and experiences are very much relevant for countries embarking on CBM projects. The Secretariat informed the PTC delegates about the proposal to include two further country practices and experiences in the CBM Compendium, one from Botswana and one from Finland

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86. The Secretariat also presented the newly developed Customs-Police Cooperation Handbook that was drafted together with INTERPOL stressing the importance of CBM with all relevant stakeholders. The Secretariat's intention was to incorporate the Handbook in the CBM Compendium and it was currently looking at the best options to achieve this.

87. PTC delegates expressed their appreciation for the CBM Compendium and the Customs-Police Cooperation Handbook, shared national experiences in the area of CBM and offered to actively contribute to the Secretariat's work.

88. In conclusion, the PTC:

- endorsed the new version of the CBM Compendium that included the national experiences of Botswana and Finland; and
- agreed that the Customs-Police Cooperation Handbook should be appropriately included in a future edition of the CBM Compendium.

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Item XIV – Disruptive technologies

(a) Study Report on Disruptive Technologies

89. This agenda item, that took the whole of day III of the PTC Meeting, was facilitated by the Vice-Chairperson of the PTC and the Moderator of the Virtual Working Group on the Future of Customs (VWG FC) Mr. Matome Mathole.
90. Director, Compliance and Facilitation, used this opportunity to welcome all the delegates who came to attend this day and the workshops and thanked all the speakers who would be contributing to the discussions with their knowledge and expertise.
91. The Vice-Chairperson introduced the item by stressing that the PTC meeting in April 2017 agreed that the Future of Customs Group should address two particular priorities: a) disruptive technologies; and b) strategic foresight. In line with the agreed, the Group prepared for a discussion on disruptive technologies at the October 2017 meeting through a break-out session. This discussion resulted in a list of recommendations and PTC decided to have a full day devoted to this topic at the April meeting.
92. The PTC also decided to develop a Study Report on Disruptive Technologies, that will collate all the work already carried out under the Group, including papers developed by a number of its members, and to more broadly bring together relevant information from open sources, as well as outcomes of discussions under the PTC and other WCO working bodies and meetings. This agenda item was going to cater for the two requests submitted by the last PTC Meeting.
93. The Secretariat introduced Doc. PC0510 and the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies that brings together lessons learnt and recommendations stemming from research, pilot projects and discussions taking place under the PTC and other WCO bodies. The Secretariat thanked all the members of the VWG FC who have contributed to the Study Report with their papers and presentations.
94. The objective of the Study Report is to raise awareness within the Customs community of the latest technologies and their potentials, by firstly demystifying each of them individually and providing practical examples on how they could support or have an impact on Customs and border management in the future. The Secretariat stressed that bringing forth specific conclusions and recommendations in this domain is to a large extent a moving target as, on the one hand, advances in latest technologies are usually faster than the ability of Customs and governments to follow, and on the other, experience in their use is not as sufficient and wide-spread as one would expect or desire.
95. The Secretariat also explained the structure of the Study Report, that would allow for the Study Report to grow as a living document and suggested that, bearing in mind the fluidity of the topic, that the VWG FC would continue to further develop it, in the year ahead, to include other topics and aspects of the subject, pilots, Members' experiences and lessons learnt. The PTC would finally revisit the updated draft Study Report in the PTC meeting in Spring 2019.

96. Mr. Ernani Checcucci, Director, Capacity Building, stressed the challenges that Customs administrations were facing in terms of absorbing and managing the new technologies. In that respect he suggested that the capacity building component be included in the Study Report which could be shared for contributions in the Capacity Building Committee.
97. The PTC expressed high appreciation for the quality and usefulness of the Study Report, that was felt to be topical and timely. A number of delegates raised questions whether the term “disruptive technologies” was the most adequate to use in this case and whether all of the latest technologies that would be relevant for Customs and border management would necessarily need to be disruptive. It was felt that it might seem like a negative term. In that respect, there was agreement to consider modifying the title of the Study Report to more adequately reflect its content.
98. The representative of China suggested a number of pilots that could be of relevance to this tool, such as the Smart scanning and use of Artificial Intelligence, as well as artificial identification of passenger control.
99. A number of delegates emphasized the importance of the capacity building component and of ensuring that the element of introduction of latest technologies in the Customs environment was properly addressed, including the scope and the necessity of performing a cost/benefit analysis.
100. The representative of UNECE and UN/CEFACT mentioned that his organization had produced a white paper on Blockchain technology and its impact on trade facilitation. Another Observer stressed that the latest technologies should be used primarily to support Customs procedures in achieving enhanced trade facilitation.
101. In conclusion, the PTC:
- took note and agreed on the objectives and structure of the Study Report;
 - agreed to consider modifying the title of the Study Report to more adequately reflect its content;
 - took note of the suggestions put forward for inclusion in the Study Report, such as a number of pilot projects and the capacity building component; and
 - agreed to continue exploring the topics and collecting experiences to be included in the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies during the year ahead and to revisit this topic at the Spring 2019 PTC meeting.

(b) Workshops on disruptive technologies

(c) Plenary discussion – to conclude on the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies

102. Under this sub-item, the PTC delegates were invited to attend a number of sessions/workshops that focused on different disruptive technologies. They were aimed at exposing practical application of the latest technologies in Customs, the global supply chain and beyond:
- Session I: Blockchain technology;
 - Session II: Biometrics, Drones, Internet of Things and other technologies;
 - Session III: A broader look into disruptive technologies and strategic foresight; and
 - Session IV: Artificial Intelligence.
103. Sessions I and II were run in parallel, while sessions III and IV in plenary. The objective of the sessions was to allow the PTC delegates to come up with a number of new ideas and draw some new conclusions that could be reported in the plenary session at the end of the day and ultimately included in the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies during the intersession. The intention was also to draw on some of the lessons learnt and to record the on-going projects and efforts already invested in the new technologies.
104. Speakers from Customs and governments more broadly, the private sector and academia took part in the four sessions. A detailed agenda is available at the beginning of this report. All the presentations from the four sessions are available on the WCO web site, under the section of this PTC meeting.
105. After the conclusion of the sessions, the Vice-Chairperson firstly invited the leads from Sessions I and II to report on their discussions to the plenary. He then invited the delegates to provide any further contributions that could be included in the Study Report during the intersession.
106. A Delegate underlined that education was of vital importance to the introduction of latest technologies in Customs and suggested that the Customs Data Officer, as mentioned in the IT Guide for Executives, be explained in more detail in the Study Report. Another Delegate proposed that the VWG FC look into the training and development component.
107. Director Mr. Checcucci informed the PTC that the PICARD professional standards for Customs would be reviewed to examine the new requirements. In that respect, the introduction of latest technologies would be considered important.
108. The Vice-Chairperson and the Secretariat thanked all the speakers and delegates for their active contribution. They informed that the presentations will be revisited and speakers contacted for cooperation on the further enhancement of the Study Report during the intersession.

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109. The PTC delegates were invited to approach either the Secretariat or the Vice-Chairperson if they wish to contribute to the inter-sessional work.

110. In conclusions, the PTC:

- took note of all the presentations and contributions on the different latest technologies shared by both the speakers and the delegates during the workshops; and
- was encouraged to contribute to the further development of the Study Report with new projects, insights and lessons learnt.

Item XV – E-Commerce

(a) Feedback from the First Global Cross-Border E-Commerce Conference (Beijing, 9-10 February 2018)

111. The Chairperson introduced the topic of E-Commerce by mentioning that there had been several developments since the last PTC meeting that would be presented for the PTC's consideration.

112. The delegate of China provided the key highlights of the First Global Cross-Border E-Commerce Conference that was co-organized by the WCO and China Customs on 9 and 10 February 2018 in Beijing, China. Over 2,000 high-level policy and decision makers, as well as operational experts, from Customs administrations, other government agencies, E-Commerce stakeholders, international organizations, regional economic communities, civil society, academia and other stakeholders from over 125 countries deliberated various aspects of cross-border E-Commerce through plenary and breakout sessions, with a view to exploring new strategies and approaches that should be beneficial to all.

113. He went on to state that the Conference supported the WCO with the development of a Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce based on the "Luxor Resolution" adopted by the December 2017 Policy Commission. A Beijing Declaration was adopted that outlined the vision for Customs and E-Commerce stakeholders for supporting secure and sustainable development of cross-border E-Commerce.

114. An Action Initiative for the industry was also issued by E-Commerce operators, calling upon stakeholders in the E-Commerce chain to work with Customs and other relevant government agencies for sound and rapid development of cross-border E-Commerce. Finally, acknowledging the value of this forum, the Conference suggested the Global Cross-border E-Commerce Conference be held every two years in different regions.

115. The Director, Compliance and Facilitation, then thanked China Customs for the successful organization of the Global Conference in a very short time period after the adoption of the “Luxor Resolution” on cross-border E-Commerce and the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC 11) side event on E-Commerce. The Conference provided a global platform to discuss the key principles laid down in the “Luxor Resolution”.

116. She continued by mentioning that the Conference discussed several interesting facets of cross-border E-Commerce and heard presentations on its potential impacts on different economies. She commended dynamic support and valuable contributions made by the WCO Working Group on E-Commerce (WGEC) Chairs, the Sub-Groups Co-Leads, and several WGEC members that led to the success of the Conference. In conclusion, she said that another key feature of the event was the participation of a number of postal operators from different parts of the world that provided a good opportunity to engage with them and address issues relating to the postal chain through innovative solutions.

117. In conclusion, the PTC :

- took note of the feedback on the First Global Cross-Border E-Commerce Conference held in Beijing on 9 and 10 February 2018.

(b) Report from the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on E-Commerce (9-12 April 2018)

118. The Customs Co-Chairperson of the WCO Working Group on E-Commerce (WGEC) briefly presented key outcomes of the 3rd WGEC meeting held from 9 to 12 April 2018. The WGEC meeting had begun with the updates on intersessional developments and presentations by World Cargo Alliance (WCA) eCommerce, International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Korea on their E-Commerce related work and initiatives. The updated Immediate Release Guidelines adapted to the E-Commerce environment were then adopted.

119. Moving on, the Co-Chairperson said that the WGEC had mainly focused on the development and further refinement of Standards of the draft Framework of Standards, based on the eight principles set out in the “Luxor Resolution”. Through robust and in-depth discussions and constructive collaboration, the WGEC had finalized 15 Standards and associated introductory text. In addition, a Council Resolution had been drafted that could be adopted by the Council along with the Framework of Standards. He concluded by stating that these documents would be reviewed and potentially approved by the PTC at this meeting.

120. In conclusion, the PTC :

- acknowledged the report outlining the key outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on E-Commerce, as presented the Customs Co-Chairperson.

(c) Draft Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards

121. The Secretariat presented Doc. PC0502E, explaining the background, context, and process of development of the draft Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce and associated draft Council Resolution. The draft Framework of Standards had been further developed and finalized by the WGEC at its 3rd meeting held from 9 to 12 April 2018. The WGEC had noted that some of the outstanding issues require more detailed discussions from wider perspectives and additional work by extending its term for another year.
122. Regarding the next steps, the draft Framework of Standards, would need to be further enriched with Technical Specifications and guidelines for harmonized and effective implementation of Standards. In addition, a number of envisaged Annexes, for example 'Definitions', 'Flow Chart', 'Data Elements', 'Implementation Strategy', 'Case Studies', and 'Pilots' were also under development. To that end, a draft work plan with concrete actions and timelines had been developed for the consideration of the PTC.
123. During a wide-ranging discussion that followed, several delegates expressed their appreciation of, and support for, the draft Framework of Standards and the draft Council Resolution in terms of the mandate given by the December 2017 Policy Commission. They particularly acknowledged the amount of work done in such a short time.
124. Delegates suggested that it should be clearly indicated that this Framework of Standards was not yet fully developed and work would continue to further enrich it with Technical Specifications and Annexes (e.g., Definitions, Data Elements, Case Studies). In this regard, a delegate proposed that the Framework as it existed could potentially be termed as 'Core Framework of Standards'.
125. A delegate noted that a thorough discussion was needed, if some of the Members and stakeholders' still had concerns about the Framework. Another delegate wondered how Members could implement the Framework when Technical Specifications were yet to be finalized. Some other delegates stated that the implementation of the Framework could start based on the key principles and the Standards that had been agreed so far. It was added that draft Framework of Standards was not a legally binding treaty.
126. Following the exchange of views, it was agreed that a cover note to the draft Framework of Standards, providing a detailed explanation on what had been agreed thus far and what still needed to be done, should be submitted to the June 2018 Policy Commission and Council.
127. A delegate put forward a suggestion to specifically include 'physical goods' in the title of this Framework and requested that the WCO should develop guidance on 'intangible goods' too. To this proposal, it was reiterated that the Framework was intended to address issues relating to cross-border movement of physical goods. In addition, it was mentioned that the moratorium on charging duties on 'intangible goods' had been extended for another two years by the MC11.

128. Concerning the draft Resolution, there were two views: whether to move forward at this stage or wait for its adoption until the Framework was fully developed. In the ensuing deliberations, some delegates felt that it might be premature to adopt a Resolution when the full package on E-Commerce was not yet ready, as well as there was already the “Luxor Resolution” on Cross-Border E-Commerce. Some other delegates said that it was great opportunity to adopt a Resolution at the June 2018 Council to provide more visibility to the Framework.
129. A delegate distinguished the Resolution adopted by the Policy Commission from the Resolution adopted by the Council comprising full membership of the WCO and observers (the private sector and international organizations). Furthermore, the “Luxor Resolution” laid down key principles on cross-border E-Commerce, whereas the current draft Resolution was intended to encourage action by Members including the implementation of the Framework.
130. Finally, it was agreed to submit the draft Resolution to the June 2018 Policy Commission and Council along with the draft Framework of Standards.
131. Delegates proposed a few suggestions to the draft Resolution that included : deleting references to ‘Customs or Economic Unions’ and replacing ‘Council’ with ‘WCO’, as well as adding the wording ‘to develop supporting documentation’ to indicate that additional guidance material including Technical Specifications would be developed going forward. The Secretariat noted that a legal opinion would be sought on the proposed changes, when finalizing the draft Resolution.
132. Following the discussion, the delegates agreed with the draft Framework of Standards and the draft Council Resolution. It was suggested that Secretariat should carry out thorough linguistic and consistency checks, when finalizing these documents. Also, the French version of the draft Framework needed to be fully aligned with the finalized English version.
133. Concerning the future work, there was also a broad support and commitment to the draft work plan by extending the WGEC’s term for another year. Noting that the draft work plan was quite ambitious, a delegate suggested that there should be a possibility for the June 2019 Council to mandate the December 2019 Policy Commission to consider and endorse some of the envisaged work, should they not be completed by June 2019.
134. Another delegate noted that it was equally important to set out a clear roadmap beyond June 2019 in terms of the implementation and maintenance of the Framework, and discussion to that end should also continue in parallel. To this end, it was suggested to add an additional activity under item 7 of the draft work plan: ‘discuss and establish the process for future development and maintenance of the Framework of Standards beyond June 2019’.
135. A few delegations (Japan, Mexico, Russian Federation and Thailand) noted that they needed some time to consult with their capitals and might provide additional feedback/comments at the Policy Commission and/or the Council. It was also requested to make the PTC report available at the earliest in order have sufficient time for preparing for the June 2018 Policy Commission and Council.

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136. The draft Framework of Standards and the draft Council Resolution are set out in Annexes II and III to this Report, and are a result of discussions and additional inputs provided by the delegates. In addition, the WGEC's draft Work Plan is also appended as Annex IV to this Report.

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137. In conclusion, the PTC :

- supported the draft Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce and agreed to forward the associated draft Council Resolution (Annexes II and III);
- recommended the submission of the draft Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce and the draft Council Resolution after linguistic and consistency checks to the June 2018 Policy Commission and Council for their respective consideration and adoption; and
- proposed to the Policy Commission and the Council to extend the term of the Working Group on E-Commerce until June 2019 to enable it to finalize and conclude the outstanding work and approved a draft Work Plan (Annex IV).

(d) Update of draft Immediate Release Guidelines (IRG)

138. The Secretariat introduced the topic and provided a brief summary of the update of the draft IRG. The update, which was carried out by the Secretariat included, amongst other things: the use of electronic data with an updated data-set based on the WCO Data Model Version 3.7; the use of new technologies such as Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technologies for Customs procedures; and some new initiatives related to cross-border E-Commerce. The update also includes national experiences based on inputs from Members. The Secretariat stressed that the final IRG is expected to be presented to the June 2018 Policy Commission and the Council as part of the E-Commerce Package.

139. In conclusion, the PTC:

- adopted the updated Immediate Release Guidelines and agreed to present it to the Policy Commission in June 2018 for adoption as part of the E-Commerce package, if necessary.

Item XVI –Trader Identification Number (TIN)

(a) Draft Council Recommendation on TIN

(b) Draft Guidelines on TIN

140. The Chairperson introduced this Agenda item by expressing satisfaction at the development of a standardized and globally unique TIN format and associated Guidelines through the collaborative work done by the SWG and the Data Model Projects Team (DMPT) by engaging various stakeholders.

141. The Secretariat presented Doc. PC0512E, providing the context and background of the work relating to the development of a globally unique TIN format, associated Guidelines and Recommendation on TIN. Given the growing number of AEO-MRAs, a standardized and

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unique TIN would be useful for their effective implementation in terms of efficient identification of MRA partners' AEOs for granting mutually agreed facilitation benefits.

142. It was noted that the February 2018 SWG meeting considered and approved the draft Council Recommendation and draft Guidelines on TIN. To support the agreed TIN format, the DMPT had processed and approved a Data Maintenance Requests (DMRs) on the creation of new data element "Identification issuing country, coded".
143. Another DMR concerning the expansion of the trader identifiers from up to seventeen digits alpha-numeric (an..17) to up to thirty-five digits (an..35) had also been processed by DMPT, though it was not directly related to the agreed TIN solution.
144. Acknowledging the importance of the topic and the work done for last few years, delegates extended an overall support to the draft Recommendation and the draft Guidelines on TIN. A delegate noted that a comprehensive impact assessment (including IT aspect) should be carried out by engaging private sector stakeholders, prior to the implementation of the TIN solution as set out in the Guidelines; this in order to ensure that the solution was fit for the purpose and did not create any negative impact on costs and resources.
145. A representative from the private sector said that the term TIN sounded as a broad concept to identify a trader in general and might not represent what the Recommendation and the Guidelines wished to accomplish, i.e. to facilitate AEO-MRA implementation in an efficient and harmonized manner. It was suggested replacing the term 'TIN' with 'AEO Identifier' in order to provide better clarity on the scope and remit of the Recommendation and Guidelines.
146. With respect to the above observation, it was clarified by the Secretariat that the TIN solution as stipulated in the Guidelines had been developed to primarily support AEO-MRA implementation, but they could equally be applied in the context of any cross-border exchange of data of economic operators for other business processes, for example mutual recognition of controls, enforcement, and mutual recognition of authorized operators/trusted operators.
147. Concerning the number of characters in trader identifiers, another delegate said that there was a need for certainty and harmonized implementation in order to avoid disparate approaches that would have IT and cost implications.
148. In conclusion, the PTC :
- considered and approved the draft Council Recommendation and draft Guidelines on Trader Identification Number; and
 - supported further work on the finalization of AEO Master data structure and data exchange mechanism.

Item XVII – Data Analysis

o **Draft Guidance on Data Analytics**

149. Moving on to this topic, the Chairperson noted that data analysis could help Customs and other agencies in effective and timely risk management by exploiting latent trends and patterns, thus facilitating compliant traders while intercepting fraudulent shipments. Sharing Dutch Customs' experience with data analytics, he expressed happiness over the development of the Guidance to help Members operationalizing data analysis techniques.
150. The Secretariat presented Doc. PC0513E, reminding delegates that the WCO had dedicated the year 2017 to "Data Analysis for Effective Border Management". Within this context, the SWG had developed a draft Guidance on Data Analytics, by leveraging Members and stakeholders' working experiences and the discussions held at various working bodies (for example the PTC and the Enforcement Committee). Explaining the main features of the draft Guidance that outlined data analytics concept, strategy, governance, use cases, capabilities, tools, and associated processes, the Secretariat invited the PTC to approve the draft Guidance, as well as encourage Members and stakeholders to provide more practical examples.
151. During the discussion, delegates expressed appreciation for the development of the Guidance on Data Analytics. Canada, China and the Netherlands volunteered to provide working examples (including practices on data protection and security, and AEO data analysis) to further enrich the Guidance.
152. In conclusion, the PTC :
- endorsed the draft Guidance on Data Analytics as a 'living document' that could be further enriched with working examples and case studies provided by Members and stakeholders.

Item XVIII– IT Guide for Executives

o **Update of the IT Guide for Executives**

153. The Secretariat presented Doc. PC0491E, explaining the background, the discussions held thus far and the work done by the Secretariat in the intersession.
154. The delegates were informed that the IT Guide for Executives, which was developed in 2015 in its former version, provides information on the strategic management process concerning the use of ICT in Customs and assists Customs administrations at senior-management level to address IT issues in a holistic manner. As at the time of the first development of the Guide the conceptualization of Digital Customs was in its early stages, some new aspects of this approach including the role of Digital Customs in the implementation of the WTO

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Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA), as well as associated concepts and tools have not been adequately addressed in the Guide. In order to support Members in their efforts to achieve ICT implementation and enhancement, the update of the IT Guide for Executives was included in the “Digital Customs Work Plan” for 2016/2017-2017/2018.

155. Highlighting the importance of the IT Guide for Executives for the strategic management processes, the Secretariat shared detailed information on the updated chapters in the Guide. The vision of Digital Customs, including the Digital Customs Maturity Model and the role of Digital Customs in the implementation of the TFA, has been included in the updated Guide. Reflecting the experiences shared at the 72nd Meeting of the Information Management Sub-Committee, a new part on Business Process Management was added. Furthermore, the information on ICT project management was updated and restructured and new Chapters on Data Analysis and Data Governance were included.

156. In conclusion, the PTC:

- took note of the draft updated IT Guide for Executives that the Secretariat had developed in the intersession to capture the latest developments in areas related to the strategic view on ICT implementation for Customs, such as Digital Customs, Business Process Management, ICT project management, Data Analysis and Data Governance; and
- the PTC adopted the updated draft of the IT Guide for Executives.

Item XIX – PTC Work Programme

o Update of the PTC Work Programme 2016-2019

157. The PTC works in line with a long term Work Programme (WP) that is directly linked to the WCO Strategic Plan. It is intended to be updated in accordance with the decisions taken by the Committee and the governing bodies of the WCO, namely the Policy Commission and the Council.
158. The Secretariat explained that the WP 2016-2019 had been updated, with progress included, to reflect inter-sessional developments, as well as to include the new topics discussed by the PTC, such as Customs-Railways cooperation and Special Customs Zones / Free Zones. In addition, some of the deadlines were amended to include more feasible targets.
159. A Member suggested that Performance Measurement be included as a topic in the WP 2016-2019 to bring together a number of tasks such as the Customs revenue benchmarking database and the engagement around the World Bank's "Doing Business", but also to include performance measurement and monitoring more broadly. This addition is visible in the PTC Work Programme 2016-2019 in track changes in Annex V to this report.
160. The Secretariat encouraged the Members to put forward papers on any new suggested topics that they would like to be discussed by the PTC.
161. In conclusion, the PTC:
- took note of the progress to date on the implementation of the PTC Work Programme 2016-2019; and
 - approved the changes made to the PTC Work Programme 2016-2019, including the proposal to add Performance Measurement as a new topic.

Item XX – Elections

o Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the PTC

162. The PTC elects a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson each year. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are elected for a period of one year and are eligible for re-election.
163. The Chairperson invited the delegates to nominate a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson amongst its delegates, for the 2018/2019 financial year.

164. The PTC unanimously elected Mr. Ian Saunders, Acting Assistant Commissioner, International Affairs, United States Customs and Border Protection, as the Chairperson of the PTC, and Ms. Maka Khvedelidze, Deputy Head of International Relations, Georgia Revenue Service, as the Vice-Chairperson. The two nominations were widely supported by the PTC delegates.
165. Both the representatives accepted the proposals and confirmed their willingness to serve, respectively, as Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson of the PTC for the following financial year.
166. The PTC delegates expressed full appreciation for all the excellent work and contributions of the outgoing Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Rob van Kuik (the Netherlands) and Mr. Matome Mathole (South Africa), to the success of the PTC in the past three years.
167. In conclusion, the PTC:
- unanimously elected Mr. Ian Saunders, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, International Affairs, United States Customs and Border Protection, as the Chairperson of the PTC, and Ms. Maka Khvedelidze, Deputy Head of International Relations, Georgia Revenue Service, as the Vice-Chairperson;
 - expressed full appreciation for all the excellent work and contributions of the outgoing Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Rob van Kuik (the Netherlands) and Mr. Matome Mathole (South Africa), to the success of the PTC in the past three years.

Item XXI – Any other business

(a) Proposals for agenda items for the next PTC meeting

168. The Chairperson invited delegates to suggest Agenda item(s) for the next PTC meeting. Since no item was proposed by delegates for the next PTC meeting, the Chairperson invited delegates to advise the Secretariat during the intersession if they wanted any issue to be discussed at the next PTC meeting.
169. In conclusion, the PTC:
- agreed that interested delegates could communicate suggested Agenda items to the Secretariat for consideration and discussion at the next PTC meeting.

(b) Upcoming events

170. The Secretariat provided an update of the relevant WCO meetings and events scheduled during the current financial year:

- WCO events: WCO IT Conference & Exhibition (6-8 June 2018, Lima, Peru) and the WCO Knowledge Academy (2-7 July 2018, Brussels); and
- meetings of WCO working bodies: Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee (3-4 May 2018), Data Model Project Team (14-16 May), Information Management Sub-Committee (17-18 May), Policy Commission (25-27 June) and Council (28-30 June).

171. In addition, the delegate from Turkey provided a presentation on the upcoming 13th PICARD Conference taking place in Malatya, Turkey from 9 to 11 October 2018. He further shared a promotional video and invited the delegates to join the Conference.

172. In conclusion, the PTC:

- took note of the upcoming WCO meetings and events, including the presentation on the 13th PICARD Conference presented by Turkey.

Item XXII – Closing

173. The Director, Compliance and Facilitation, thanked all the delegates for their engagement throughout the meeting and thanked the Swiss delegate Mr. Robert Lüssi, who was attending his last PTC meeting before retiring, for his many years of engagement with the WCO, including the chairing of the Finance Committee.

174. She further expressed high appreciation for the excellent contribution that the outgoing Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson have made to the work of the PTC in the past three years.

175. Both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson thanked the PTC for their support in the work carried out to date. The Chairperson finally thanked the WCO Secretariat for the hard work and the delegates for their participation in the meeting. The Chairperson then closed the meeting.

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DRAFT WCO CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE FRAMEWORK OF STANDARDS



World Customs Organization

(June 2018)

Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards

Foreword by Secretary General of the World Customs Organization

The growing trade in cross-border electronic commerce (E-Commerce) in physical goods has generated enormous opportunities for the global economy, providing new growth engines, developing new trade modes, driving new consumption trends and creating new jobs. This unprecedented growth has revolutionized the way businesses and consumers market, sell, and purchase goods, providing wider choices, advance shipping, payment and delivery options. It has also opened up global economic opportunities to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in terms of wider access to overseas markets by lowering entry barriers and reduced costs.

At the same time, cross-border E-Commerce, in particular Business-to-Consumer (B2C) and Consumer-to-Consumer (C2C) transactions, is presenting a number of new challenges and opportunities to governments. This fast-evolving trading environment requires comprehensive and well-considered solutions from all stakeholders, including Customs authorities, to manage the unprecedented growth in volumes, to overcome the lack of global standards and guidelines, and to address associated border risks.

In this context, the World Customs Organization (WCO) has been working through a multi-stakeholder Working Group on E-Commerce (WGEC) comprising representatives from governments, the private sector, international organizations, E-Commerce stakeholders, and academia, to develop collaborative solutions supporting the needs and expectations of all stakeholders in the E-Commerce supply chain.

Working in the true spirit of collaboration, the WGEC has explored, in detail, the main drivers of E-Commerce, examined existing business models, considered current and likely future trends, set out key principles supporting facilitation and controls, collated best practices, and developed scalable solutions, based on extensive research and consultation. The Working Group has also developed a set of global standards, associated guidelines and recommendations to facilitate cross-border E-Commerce in a way that meets the needs of E-Commerce stakeholders, consumers, Customs and other relevant government agencies alike.

The key to the effective and efficient management of cross-border E-Commerce is the use of timely and accurate information, ideally from its source, to allow the early risk assessment and clearance of legitimate transactions in an automated environment with minimum need for physical interventions. The growing volumes and expectations by consumers for rapid clearance and delivery also mean that new models of revenue collection and border interventions are needed from Customs and other relevant government agencies.

The international nature of cross-border E-Commerce requires a holistic and harmonized approach. It is imperative that governments and E-Commerce stakeholders continue to work collaboratively to develop pragmatic, fair and innovative solutions that contribute to the global economy while ensuring the safety and security of people and the economy. A cornerstone of this approach is the development of a Framework of Standards that articulates a set of fundamental standards along the key principles identified and adopted in the WCO Luxor Resolution on Cross-Border E-Commerce.

The Framework draws on the collective experience and knowledge of experts from Customs, other government agencies, industry, academia, and civil society and is in keeping with the mandate of the World Customs Organization to contribute to the standardization and harmonization of border regulatory processes.

It gives me great pleasure, to present the WCO Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards to the international community. Going forward, these Standards need to be supplemented by technical specifications, an implementation strategy and a robust capacity building mechanism to support the management of cross-border E-Commerce.

I encourage all WCO Members and stakeholders to swiftly implement the standards contained in the Framework in a coordinated and harmonized manner, as well as and continue enriching the Framework with technical specifications and additional guidance based on the lessons learned from the early implementation and the outcomes of pilots. This will build the necessary momentum for further improving border management and enhancing trade facilitation.

Kunio Mikuriya
Secretary General
World Customs Organization
June, 2018

Public Version

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I. Introduction

The growing trade in cross-border electronic commerce (E-Commerce) has generated enormous opportunities for the global economy, providing new growth engines, developing new trade modes, driving new consumption trends and creating new jobs. This unprecedented growth has revolutionized the way businesses and consumers market, sell, and purchase goods, providing wider choices, advance shipping, payment and delivery options. It has also opened up global economic opportunities to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in terms of wider access to overseas markets by lowering entry barriers and reduced costs.

At the same time, E-Commerce, in particular Business-to-Consumer (B2C) and Consumer-to-Consumer (C2C) transactions, is presenting a number of new challenges to governments and businesses alike. This fast evolving trading environment requires comprehensive and well-considered solutions from all stakeholders, including Customs authorities, to manage growing volumes, to overcome the lack of global standards and guidelines, and to address associated risks.

The new and rapid expansion of cross-border E-commerce is impacting all countries and jurisdictions, so its management needs a globally innovative, inclusive, strategic and collaborative approach. It is imperative that governments and the private sector ensure that the potential benefits are realized by working in partnership to ensure the facilitation of legitimate cross-border E-Commerce trade, fair and efficient revenue collection and community protection.

The lack of global standards for effective management of cross-border E-Commerce has an impact on trade facilitation, safety and security, and compliance. Therefore, global standards appear to be essential in better leveraging this new channel of trade as a new engine of global economic growth.

Customs and other border agencies play a crucial role in the flow of E-Commerce shipments and as such, there is a need for a World Customs Organization (WCO) endorsed strategy to secure the legitimate movement of global E-Commerce trade with minimum intervention.

To this end, this 'Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce' is developed with the expectation that WCO Members will adopt these standards and practices that are based on mutual trust, communication, collaboration and an understanding of the benefits for all stakeholders, bearing in mind that whilst accommodating this new trade, current business processes should not be overlooked. Facilitation should be provided for cross-border E-Commerce without compromising a level playing field with traditional trade.

The Framework of Standards will provide overarching guidance for governments, in particular Customs administrations, the private sector and other stakeholders in meeting their collective and individual goals and objectives.

1. Characteristics of Cross-Border E-Commerce

There are different approaches and perspectives to E-Commerce. However, the definitions used by some international organizations and countries include elements such as the use of information and communication technologies and the Internet as a means of communication,

initiation of transactions, movement across borders from one economy to another, and electronic payment.

For the purpose of this Framework of Standards, cross-border E-Commerce is characterized as follows :

- Online ordering, sale, communication and, if applicable, payment,
- Cross-border transactions/shipments,
- Physical (tangible) goods, and
- Destined to consumer/buyer (commercial and non-commercial).

This Framework sets standards mainly for B2C and C2C transactions. However, Members are encouraged to apply the same principles and standards to Business-to-Business (B2B) transactions.

2. Current and emerging landscape

The digitalization of the international supply chain and cross-border E-Commerce is driving economic growth and contributing to economic prosperity on a global scale. The exponential growth in volumes of smaller consignments has spurred the emergence of various business and trade models to capitalize on the economic potential presented by E-Commerce. The growing internet-based economy has revolutionized the retail industry resulting in a major shift in buying patterns, increasing demands from industry and consumers for rapid delivery of consignments while at the same time, adding new vulnerabilities in the E-Commerce supply chain.

Cross-border E-commerce serves as an engine of innovation and brings enormous opportunities for economic and social development by fostering innovation, introducing new trade models, creating job opportunities and leading new consumer trends.

Growing volumes of cross-border B2C and C2C E-Commerce shipments are presenting a number of challenges to Customs, other relevant government agencies and private sector stakeholders in terms of ensuring rapid release and clearance while managing safety and security risks, efficient revenue collection and statistical analysis. Additionally, traditional challenges such as illicit trade, illicit financial flows, intellectual property rights infringement, counterfeit, piracy, and commercial fraud continue to exist.

The WCO is uniquely positioned to coordinate the global effort to facilitate legitimate cross-border E-Commerce. The organization has the membership and thus the participation of Customs and other relevant government agencies representing over 99% of global trade. Customs administrations have important powers that exist nowhere else in government - the authority to inspect cargo and goods shipped into, through and out of a country. Customs also has the authority to expedite entry, refuse entry or exit, and allow re-export and refund of duties and/or taxes. Customs administrations require information about goods being imported, and often require information about goods being exported. They can, with appropriate legislation, require that information to be provided electronically in advance by the various E-Commerce stakeholders, maintaining a level-playing field for relevant stakeholders.

Given the unique authorities and oversight, Customs can and should play a central role in the cross-border management of E-Commerce, leveraging existing conventions, instruments and tools. A holistic and standardized approach is required to optimize the E-Commerce supply chain while ensuring appropriate risk identification and management.

At its meeting in Luxor, Egypt in December 2017, the WCO Policy Commission endorsed a 'Resolution on Cross-Border E-Commerce' (the Luxor Resolution), which outlined a number of key principles for the global management of cross-border E-Commerce. Based on these principles, the Framework endeavours to provide standards for the implementation of the principles outlined in the Resolution, in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.

II. Objectives, principles and legislation

The Framework of Standards is intended to provide global baseline standards to assist Customs and other relevant government agencies in developing E-Commerce strategic and operational frameworks supplemented by action plans and timelines. It will be equally useful for Members that are seeking to enhance existing frameworks in order to effectively meet the requirements of new and evolving business models.

The Framework provides the standards for the effective management of cross-border E-Commerce from both facilitation and control perspectives. Overall, the Framework :

- Establishes global standards to promote certainty, predictability, transparency, safety and security, and efficiency in the E-Commerce supply chain.
- Promotes a harmonised approach to risk assessment, clearance/release, revenue collection, and border cooperation in relation to cross-border E-Commerce.
- Establishes a standardized framework for advance electronic data exchange between E-Commerce stakeholders and Customs and other relevant government agencies with the aim to facilitate legitimate shipments, providing a more level-playing field for various stakeholders.
- Seeks to strengthen co-operation between Customs administrations, other relevant Government agencies and other stakeholders involved in cross-border E-Commerce.

1. Eight Principles of the Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework

The Luxor Resolution outlines the eight guiding principles for cross-border E-Commerce:

- Advance Electronic Data and Risk Management,
- Facilitation and Simplification of Procedures,
- Safety and Security,
- Revenue Collection,
- Measurement and Analysis,
- Partnerships,
- Public Awareness, Outreach and Capacity Building, and
- Legislative Frameworks.

2. Standards of the Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework

The Framework sets out standards that should be used by Customs administrations, other relevant government agencies and E-Commerce stakeholders for harmonized implementation, bearing in mind the various business models and national specificities.

This Framework provides global standards to support cross-border E-Commerce that will contribute to national and global economic development, while at the same time ensuring appropriate controls to protect economies, societies and environments that include natural and production areas in both terrestrial and aquatic environments. It provides guidance on how border agencies should deal with high-risk consignments while expediting the clearance and release of low-risk goods, thus improving efficiency and predictability of the E-Commerce supply chain for traders and consumers and ensuring optimal utilisation of resources.

3. Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

The exponential growth in cross-border E-Commerce has, in some cases, outpaced the development and implementation of relevant laws to effectively regulate this trade. Some of the existing national/regional legal and regulatory provisions might not be in line with new business models in the context of exponentially growing cross-border E-Commerce.

The lack of systematic and harmonized legislation has highlighted significant vulnerabilities in the cross-border E-Commerce supply chain and it is imperative that Customs work with other relevant government agencies and E-Commerce stakeholders to address gaps identified through robust diagnostics.

The legal framework should be founded on the principles of good governance, fairness, transparency, whilst meeting the new and emerging requirements, as well as balancing of the diverse interest of all stakeholders involved in cross-border E-Commerce.

Legal and regulatory frameworks should address, among others, how to enhance facilitation, safety and security, and control of physical (tangible) goods through the provision of advance data across various business models; how to define the legal status and respective roles and responsibilities of the economic stakeholders involved in cross-border E-Commerce; how to observe privacy and anti-trust laws and protect the personal information of consumers; how to take care of the interests of e-vendors and e-platforms, intermediaries and customers; and how to facilitate safe and secure cross-border E-Commerce in a fair and non-discriminatory manner.

When establishing or adapting legislative frameworks for cross border E-commerce, Governments should leverage, among others, existing WCO conventions, instruments and tools, all relevant WTO agreements, in particular the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and other international conventions, standards and tools.

III. Implementation Strategy, Monitoring, Benefits, and Capacity Building

1. Implementation

It is understandable that not every Customs administration will be able to implement the Framework immediately. Therefore, the implementation of this instrument will require a phased approach in accordance with each administration's priority, capacity, human and financial resources and internal procedures, and should be supported by capacity building.

Customs administrations in close coordination with other relevant government agencies and E-Commerce stakeholders should implement this Framework in an appropriate and flexible manner.

To further support Customs administrations with the implementation of the Framework, the WCO is developing a high-level implementation strategy based on Members' experiences and case studies. The implementation strategy will provide a template for Members with key performance indicators and broad timelines with regard to the implementation of the Standards contained in this Framework.

2. Monitoring

A national implementation strategy should include provisions for review and tracking of the progress on a continual basis, including by developing key performance indicators to measure the effectiveness of the implementation process. Customs administrations should periodically notify the WCO about the measures undertaken and progress made towards the implementation of the Framework.

The relevant WCO Bodies will be responsible for managing and updating the WCO Framework of Standards and monitor its implementation.

3. Capacity Building

Effective capacity building is an important element to ensure widespread adoption and implementation of the Framework of Standards. In order to ensure expeditious and harmonized implementation of the Standards, strategies are required to enhance the capacity building provided to Members.

Customs administrations should cooperate together and engage with the WCO and other international organizations to build and enhance their capacities related to effective and efficient risk management and Customs procedures on cross-border E-Commerce, leveraging the suite of relevant WCO instruments and tools.

WCO Members that notify their intention to implement the Framework should, based on their respective needs, receive assistance from the WCO in collaboration with other development partners.

IV. Managing Cross-Border E-Commerce: Key Principles and Standards

I. Advance Electronic Data and Risk Management

1. Introduction

The use of advance electronic data for effective risk management is cross-cutting and underpins trade facilitation, security and safety, revenue collection and measurement and analysis.

The E-Commerce chain is both data-driven and data-rich. The confluence of a data-rich information space or value chain on the Internet and smarter, more powerful computing capabilities has made it easier to access, aggregate, analyse and use data throughout the E-Commerce environment.

Advance electronic data should be exchanged between the relevant E-Commerce stakeholders and Customs administrations in a timely manner for effective risk management, which is critical in dealing with this rapidly growing new mode of trade.

The establishment and enhancement of the exchange of information between E-Commerce stakeholders and Customs administrations through national electronic interfaces (such as Single Window) based on common messaging standards and a harmonized and standardized dataset would be highly beneficial (for example pre-arrival for general risk assessment and Customs clearance and pre-loading for security risk assessment).

Through the exchange of advance electronic data leading to efficient risk management, the efficiency of the supply chain can be improved while ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements, including revenue collection.

2. Standards

2.1. Standard 1: Legal Framework for Advance Electronic Data

A legal and regulatory framework should be established for requiring advance electronic exchange of data between relevant parties involved in the E-Commerce supply chain, and Customs administrations and other relevant government agencies to enhance facilitation and control measures, taking into account applicable laws, inter alia, those related to competition (anti-trust), and data security, privacy, protection, ownership.

2.2. Standard 2: Use of International Standards for Advance Electronic Data

Relevant WCO and other international standards and guidance should be implemented in accordance with national policy, in an effective and harmonized manner, to facilitate the exchange of advance electronic data.

2.3. Standard 3: Risk Management for Facilitation and Control

Customs administrations should develop and apply dynamic risk management techniques that are specific to the E-Commerce context to identify shipments that present a risk.

2.4. Standard 4: Use of Non-Intrusive Inspection Technologies and Data Analytics

Customs administrations should use data analytics and screening methodologies in conjunction with non-intrusive inspection equipment, across all modes of transportation and operators, as part of risk management, with a view to facilitating cross-border E-Commerce flows and strengthening Customs controls.

II. Facilitation and Simplification

3. Introduction

In many countries, Customs administrations have made significant improvements to facilitate legitimate trade and simplify procedures. However, taking into account the rapid growth in cross-border E-Commerce volumes, short time frames for intervention and lack of timely and accurate data transmission in some business models, it is necessary to re-strategize how Customs administrations apply existing WCO instruments and tools such as the Revised Kyoto Convention, the SAFE Framework of Standards and the Immediate Release Guidelines, and to identify modern and appropriate solutions that are more effective and efficient in responding to industry and consumers' expectations in terms of the safe, secure and fast movement and delivery of E-Commerce shipments across borders.

4. Standards

4.1 Standard 5: Simplified Clearance Procedures

Customs administrations, working in coordination with other relevant government agencies as appropriate, should establish and maintain simplified clearance formalities/procedures utilizing pre-arrival processing and risk assessment of cross-border E-Commerce shipments, and procedures for immediate release of low-risk shipments on arrival or departure. Simplified clearance formalities/procedures should include, as appropriate, an account-based system for collecting duties and/or taxes and handling return shipments.

4.2 Standard 6: Expanding the Concept of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) to Cross-Border E-Commerce

Customs administrations should explore the possibilities of applying AEO Programmes and Mutual Recognition Arrangements/Agreements in the context of cross-border E-Commerce, including leveraging the role of intermediaries, to enable Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and individuals to fully benefit from the opportunities of cross-border E-Commerce.

III. Fair and Efficient Revenue Collection

5. Introduction

In order to effectively deal with existing and emerging challenges with regard to revenue collection, particularly on a large number of relatively low-value and small cross-border E-Commerce shipments, Customs administrations should engage in close cooperation with Tax authorities as the responsible government body for tax regimes. In cooperation with Tax authorities, alternative collection models should be considered (e.g. vendor model, intermediary or consumer/buyer collection model), to move away, as appropriate, from the current transaction-based duty/tax collection approach where duties and taxes are assessed and collected at the border, towards an automated account-based approach that may involve collection of duties and taxes prior to shipping or arrival of the goods.

Customs administrations and revenue authorities at large must also consider related issues such as legal roles and responsibilities, jurisdiction/territory of Customs administration, cross-border cooperation, and implementation of post clearance audits and controls in the E-Commerce context.

Such consideration for alternative models of revenue collection should examine opportunities and challenges for governments and various business models, as well as should duly take into account the cost to be borne by trade operators in complying with this collection regime with respect to its development and implementation, depending on their national situation and their exposure to imports of low-value and small shipments.

6. Standards

6.1 Standard 7: Models of Revenue Collection

Customs administrations, working with appropriate agencies or Ministries, should consider applying, as appropriate, various types of models of revenue collection (e.g., vendor, intermediary, buyer or consumer, etc.) for duties and/or taxes. In order to ensure the revenue collection, Customs administrations should offer electronic payment options, provide relevant information online, allow for flexible payment types and ensure fairness and transparency in its processes. Models that are applied should be effective, efficient, scalable, and flexible, supporting various business models and contributing to a level playing field for and among the various E-Commerce stakeholders.

6.2 Standard 8: De Minimis

When reviewing and/or adjusting de minimis thresholds for duties and/or taxes, Governments should make fully informed decisions based on specific national circumstances.

IV. Safety and Security

7. Introduction

Given that there are diverse perspectives among Members concerning safety and security risks (including product safety), the characteristics of risk need to be established and applied by Customs administrations by involving other relevant government agencies to identify high-risk shipments that pose safety and security threats in cross-border E-Commerce channels. With respect to general safety and security threats to society and the environment, Customs should,

where appropriate, share with other Customs administrations information related to these risks in order to improve their ability to determine risk indicators and analyse risks.

Customs administrations' cooperation with other relevant agencies is particularly important for identifying and interdicting illicit and non-compliant goods moving through E-Commerce channels. Information can allow Customs administrations to focus their efforts on the highest risk shipments and facilitate the rapid release of low-risk shipments. Customs administrations also should share relevant intelligence, where possible, with trusted E-Commerce stakeholders to ensure the most effective partnership between public and private sector targeting efforts.

8. Standards

8.1 Standard 9: Prevention of Fraud and Illicit Trade

Customs administrations should work with other relevant government agencies to establish procedures for analysis and investigations of illicit cross-border E-Commerce activities with a view to prevent and detect fraud, deter the misuse of E-Commerce channels and disrupt illicit flows.

8.2 Standard 10: Inter-Agency Cooperation and Information Sharing

Governments should establish cooperation frameworks between and among various national agencies through relevant electronic mechanisms including Single Window, as appropriate, in order to provide cohesive and coordinated response to safety and security risks stemming from cross-border E-Commerce, thus facilitating legitimate trade.

V. Partnerships

9. Introduction

The rapidly evolving cross-border E-Commerce environment requires strengthening existing cooperation and partnerships and forging new ones with emerging participants in the E-Commerce supply chain in order to better address the associated challenges in a collaborative manner.

10. Standards

10.1 Standard 11: Public-Private Partnerships

Customs administrations should establish and strengthen cooperation partnerships with E-Commerce stakeholders to develop and enhance communication, coordination and collaboration, with an aim to optimize compliance and facilitation.

10.2 Standard 12: International Cooperation

Customs administrations should expand Customs cooperation and partnerships to the cross-border E-Commerce environment in order to ensure compliance and facilitation.

VI. Public Awareness, Outreach and Capacity Building

11. Introduction

In the era of trade diffusion driven by cross-border E-Commerce where anyone and everyone could potentially be a trader - buyer or seller - and can seamlessly swap their roles, there is growing need for establishing mechanisms to create wider awareness, in particular among these new and emerging class traders to enable them better appreciate various regulatory requirements and comply with them. This should include, among others, robust advocacy and outreach activities together with training and capacity building.

12. Standards

12.1 Standard 13 : Communication, Public Awareness and Outreach

Customs administrations should make consumers, the public and other stakeholders aware of the regulatory requirements, risks and responsibilities associated with cross-border E-commerce through comprehensive awareness raising, communication, education and outreach programmes.

VII. Measurement and Analysis

13. Introduction

An accurate measurement of cross-border E-Commerce is the key for well-considered policy and business decisions. In addition, this could be useful for better risk management by identifying trend, patterns and emerging dynamics.

14. Standards

14.1 Standard 14: Mechanism of Measurement

Customs administrations should work with relevant government agencies in close cooperation with E-Commerce stakeholders to accurately capture, measure, analyse and publish cross-border E-Commerce statistics in accordance with international statistical standards and national policy, for informed decision making.

VIII. Leveraging Transformative Technologies

15. Introduction

The dynamic and global nature of E-Commerce requires governments to be proactive and forward-thinking, leveraging future technologies to proffer solutions to emerging E-Commerce challenges. Ongoing innovation is needed including cooperation with the private sector and academia.

16. Standards

16.1 Standard 15: Explore Technological Developments and Innovation

Customs administrations in collaboration with other relevant government agencies, the private sector and academia, should explore innovative technological developments and consider whether these developments can contribute to more effective and efficient control and facilitation of cross-border E-Commerce.

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Public Version

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL ON THE FRAMEWORK OF STANDARDS ON CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE

THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL,

Recognizing that the implementation of the principles contained in the WCO Framework of Standards will be an important step in ensuring that Customs positions itself as a partner to the private sector, together with other interested stakeholders, in enabling the growth of cross border E-Commerce, while ensuring national safety and security and contributing to the facilitation of legitimate trade;

Noting the unprecedented growth in electronic commerce (E-Commerce) has revolutionized the way businesses and consumers market, sell, and purchase goods and has presented new challenges and opportunities to governments and businesses alike;

Considering that Customs administrations contribute to the economic competitiveness and social development of nations through the collection of revenue, and that implementing the Framework of Standards will be important to the accurate and efficient collection of duties and taxes;

Recalling the indispensable role of Customs administrations, in cooperation with other relevant government agencies, to ensure the most efficient implementation of national policies, laws and regulations to encourage economic prosperity while ensuring compliance and facilitation;

Noting ongoing essential engagements with partner intergovernmental organizations through relevant bilateral and multilateral platforms;

Taking into account the Resolution of the Policy Commission on the Guiding Principles for Cross-Border E-Commerce (Luxor Resolution on Cross-Border E-Commerce, December 2017);

Believing in the need for Customs administrations to implement standards regarding integrated Customs procedures, to develop supporting documentation and in the need for co-operation between Customs administrations and stakeholders in the E-Commerce supply chain;

Noting that Members and Customs or Economic Unions may need to consider modifications to their legal or other provisions to support the implementation of the WCO Framework of Standards.

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the Framework of Standards for Cross-Border E-Commerce;
2. That the Members of the Council and Customs or Economic Unions should:

- 2.1. implement as soon as possible in accordance with each administration's capacity and necessary legislative authority, principles, standards and other provisions contained in the WCO Framework of Standards;
 - 2.2 encourage any necessary improvements in Customs capability and integrity to provide a comprehensive framework for Cross-Border E-Commerce;
 - 2.3 identify the required sustainable capacity building measures, including the modifications to national legal and administrative rules and procedures, where appropriate, and pursue their realization to enable a comprehensive implementation of the provisions of the Framework of Standards;
 - 2.4 foresee the provision of technical assistance in order to encourage the implementation of the Framework of Standards;
 - 2.5 submit to the WCO an indicative timetable for implementation of the Framework of Standards suitable to their capacities;
 - 2.6 endeavor to secure the full cooperation of those involved in the cross border E-Commerce supply chain in the implementation of the Framework of Standards;
 - 2.7 participate in periodic evaluation meetings to assess progress towards implementation;
 - 2.8 provide to the WCO periodic reports on progress towards implementation of the Framework, to be discussed during each evaluation meeting; and
 - 2.9 consider the use of benchmarking methods to evaluate each Member's own implementation process.
3. That Members of the Council and Customs or Economic Unions should notify the WCO of their intention to implement the Framework of Standards. The WCO will transmit this information to the Customs administrations of all Members and to those Customs or Economic Unions which have notified the WCO.

E. CANON
Chairperson

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Draft Work Plan for the Working Group on E-Commerce

	Topic	Activity	Responsible	Timeline	Remarks
1.	Technical Specifications	Review current draft text and identify gaps/concerns and suggest amendments	Co-Chairs, Co-Leads and interested members and stakeholders	May 2018	
		Disseminate updated draft text for comments and feedback	Secretariat	June 2018	
		Develop consolidated text based on inputs/suggestions	Co-Chairs, Co-Leads and Secretariat	July 2018	
		Discuss and potentially finalize Technical Specifications	WGEC	September/October 2018	
2.	Flow Chart and Data Elements	Refine and further develop Flow Charts	Co-Leads (CBSA and IFCBA)	May 2018	
		Establish a Sub-Group on Data Elements comprising Co-Chairs, Co-Leads and interested Members and Stakeholders	Co-Chairs and Secretariat	June 2018	
		Establish the context, noting commercial environments of the stakeholders who hold the data Discuss the concept and develop draft Data Elements	Sub-Group on Data Elements (face-to-face meeting)	June 2018	
		Engage and consult Members and E-Commerce stakeholders	Co-Chairs and Secretariat	August 2018	
		Discuss Flow Chart and Data Elements	WGEC	September 2018	
		Continue consultations and	Co-Chairs and		

Draft Work Plan for the Working Group on E-Commerce

		further work	Sub-Group Co-Leads		
		Discuss and finalize Flow Charts and Data Elements	Sub-Group on Data Elements (face-to-face meeting)	January 2019	
		Finalize Flow Chart and Data Elements	WGEC	March/April 2019	
3.	Definitions	Review and update/expand the already identified terms	Interested Members and stakeholders and Secretariat	May 2018	
		Develop draft definitions	Co-Chairs and Interested Members and stakeholders	August 2018	
		Circulate draft definitions for consultation	Secretariat	August 2018	
		Finalize definitions	WGEC	September/October 2018	
4.	Implementation Strategy and Action Plan	Discuss and develop the envisaged implementation strategy and action plan for the implementation of the Framework of Standards at the national/regional level	Interested Members and Stakeholders	August 2018	
		Circulate for comments and feedback	Secretariat	August/September 2018	
		Continue consultations	Co-Leads and Secretariat	October 2018 to March 2019	
		Discuss and develop a Capacity Building strategy	Interested Members and Stakeholders	January 2019	
		Finalize Implementation Strategy and Action Plan	WGEC	March/April 2019	
5.	Case Studies and Pilots	Invite Members and	Members and	December 2018	

Draft Work Plan for the Working Group on E-Commerce

		stakeholders to share their working examples, initiatives/pilots	Stakeholders		
6.	Other Annexes to the Framework of Standards	Review the already developed draft Annexes (e.g., Business Models, E-Commerce Stakeholders : Roles & responsibilities, Alternate Models of Revenue Collection)	Co-Chairs, Co-Leads, and interested Members and stakeholders	June 2018	
		Disseminate for further comments and feedback	Secretariat	July 2018	
		Finalize all other Annexes	WGEC	September/October 2018	
7.	Final Report	Consolidate and prepare the finalized document for the June 2019 PC and Council Discuss and establish the process for future development and maintenance of the Framework of Standards beyond June 2019	WGEC, PTC, EC, Secretariat	June 2019	

Notes:

1. *Given the outstanding work and aforementioned indicate plan, a one-year extension of the term of the WGEC is being sought for.*
2. *The extension will entail associated costs in terms of meetings, interpretations, translation and other resources.*

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PTC Work Programme 2016-2019, including progress

Introduction

The Work Programme of the Permanent Technical Committee follows the WCO Strategic Plan and supports implementation of its goals and activities. It will be regularly updated to reflect the decisions taken by the Committee and the governing bodies of the WCO and to reflect the progress made.

Work Programme 2016-2019

The Work Programme aims to consolidate all the topics the Committee will be dealing with in a three-year period. This Work Programme refers to the three financial years: 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.

The Work Programme should be considered as a living document and will be updated to reflect the changes taking place in the Customs environment and to reflect the new demands of the Membership or decisions of the Policy Commission and Council. Topics which are being proposed for inclusion in the Work Programme, would first need to be discussed in a PTC meeting. In accordance with the PTC Agenda setting guidelines, two or more Members (and possibly Observer(s)) would be expected to put forward a document for discussion in order to allow the PTC to have a clear understanding of the topic and the reasons for its inclusion in the Work Programme.

The Programme largely supports achieving Strategic Goals 1 and 5 of the WCO Strategic Plan 2016/2017-2018/2019 and contributes to the implementation of the following Strategic activities falling under the two goals:

Strategic Goal 1 – Promote the security and facilitation of international trade, including simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures = Economic Competitiveness Package:

- **Strategic Activity 1.1:** Develop, manage and promote conventions, guidelines, standards and tools on trade security and facilitation;
- **Strategic Activity 1.2:** Support effective implementation of WTO TFA provisions through use of WCO instruments, tools and assistance
- **Strategic Activity 1.3:** Promote cooperation with other border agencies to enhance border efficiency and effectiveness;
- **Strategic Activity 1.4:** Enhance partnership with private sector.

Strategic Goal 5 – Promote Digital Customs to support, in particular, Coordinated Border Management and information exchange between all stakeholders:

- **Strategic Activity 5.1:** Digital Customs: Provide a framework to consolidate the development, promotion and deployment of the WCO's Information Technology (IT)-related standards, instruments, tools, guidelines and systems;
- **Strategic Activity 5.2:** Implement Globally Networked Customs (GNC);
- **Strategic Activity 5.3:** Use of IT in support of Coordinated Border Management;
- **Strategic Activity 5.4:** Develop, promote and manage WCO instruments and tools that provide the legal basis for technology enabled reforms.

For each of the Strategic Activities, the PTC Work Programme 2016-2019 provides a list of topics and related tasks to be carried out by the PTC.

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1. PTC tasks to support Strategic Activity 1.1: Develop, manage and promote conventions, guidelines, standards and tools on trade security and facilitation

“The WCO will continue to work on developing international standards for Customs procedures. It also promotes the Revised Kyoto Convention. The WCO will manage, further develop and promote the Economic Competitiveness Package, including the SAFE Framework of Standards, the Time Release Study, and other instruments and tools to achieve trade security and facilitation.”

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
Economic Competitiveness Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the progress in implementing the ECP Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress in implementing the Action Plan reported to the PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	Reported to the PTC in October 2016.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise the ECP Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Draft of the revised Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2016 	Completed
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Action Plan submitted to the Policy Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2016 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the ECP Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update of the ECP toolkit published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	Several tools have been developed (i.e. Transit Guidelines,

² The Work Programme differentiates two types of tasks: 1. ‘Maintenance’ which refers mainly to ongoing activities and update of existing tools; and 2. ‘Advanced’ which refers mainly to new tools and more advanced initiatives.

³ Apart from the PTC itself, responsible bodies include only those reporting to or informing the PTC and have a role to play in the completion of a task (discussion, guidance, endorsement). Other responsible bodies not mentioned here could, for example, be the Enforcement Committee (i.e. in the case of Coordinated Border Management), but as it does not report to the PTC, it is not included in this table either.

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
						Handbook on Inward and Outward Processing Procedures, Guidelines on Customs Brokers etc). The Toolkit will be updated at the end of Phase III of the Action Plan to include all relevant tools.
Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise the RKC Management Committee on maintenance, promotion, and implementation of the RKC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations of the PTC regarding the maintenance of the RKC agreed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	The April 2017 RKC/MC agreed for a comprehensive review of the Convention. To that end, the November 2017 RKC/MC established a virtual working group to initiate the work until the creation of a formal Working

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
						Group for the envisaged comprehensive review.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottlenecks regarding accession to the RKC identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>the accession to the RKC have been identified. At its Session in October 2016, the Joint Session of the PTC and the Enforcement Committee discussed the challenges and possible reasons for countries to refrain from RKC accession. The November 2017 RKC/MC, took stock of various challenges relating to the accession to</p>

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
						the RKC and explored potential solutions.
Time Release Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that WCO Members report to PTC and share best practices related to TRS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of reports received by the Secretariat with permission to share the results with WCO members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	More than 8 countries have agreed that their respective TRS reports can be shared with WCO Members. Additionally, the new version of the TRS Guide will also include Members' TRS experiences.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the use and implementation of the Time Release Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of presentations given by WCO members during PTC meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	Members presented their experiences at the PTC meetings during the reporting period. The April 2018 PTC will also hear a

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
						Member's experience with TRS.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep TRS tools up to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update of TRS tools discussed by the PTC and recommendations put forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2016 April 2018 	<p>3rd Version of the TRS Guide have been concluded and is expected to be approved at the April 2018 PTC.</p>
Performance Measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow and potentially contribute to the implementation and results of the Customs revenue benchmarking database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC/ Finance Committee /PC/ Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal submitted to the Finance Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Committee meeting in FY 2018/2019 	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates on developments provided to the PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring 2019 PTC meeting 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow and potentially contribute to the Secretariat's engagement with the World Bank Group on "Doing Business" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC/ PC/Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initiative discussed by the PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going 	<p>The PTC in April 2018 discussed and put recommendations forward in terms of how the quality of the survey results can be</p>

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	survey					improved in the future. A number of Members volunteered to support the engagement process.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow and potentially contribute to the development of performance measurement tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, Audit Committee etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates provided to the PTC on performance measurement initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going 	
Supply Chain Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss/approve technical issues forwarded by the SAFE WG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of issues discussed and approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>March 2017 and October 2017 SAFE WG Reports containing a number of technical issues presented to the PTC and approved.</p> <p>The February 2018 SAFE WG Report will be provided to</p>

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
						the April 2018 PTC for its consideration.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure issues related to Customs and SAFE Framework are brought to the PTC for information/update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, SWG, Technical Expert Group on Air Cargo Security (TEG ACS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on SAFE FoS including its 2018 review cycle reported to the PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>The draft 2018 edition of the SAFE Framework finalized and current review cycle concluded.</p> <p>The 2021 SAFE review cycle will commence in July 2018.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide guidance on the development of new tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and updated tools developed and presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2017, April 2018 	<p>A number of new tools, as well as updated tools will be presented at the April 2018 PTC.</p>
Integrated Supply Chain Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness on the ISCM Guidelines and explore further its key concepts, in particular, integrated Customs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, SWG, Information Management Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and presentations shared on Members' initiatives, best practices and other related projects in this domain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>Members' best practices and initiatives/pilots have been regularly shared.</p>

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	control, authorized supply chain, and connectivity between and among Customs administrations together with other stakeholders		e (IMSC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided guidance on the potential update of the ISCM Guidelines to reflect new developments and opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2017 February 2018 	Updated ISCM Guidelines will be presented to the April 2018 PTC for its approval.
Natural Disaster Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor implementation of the 2011 WCO Resolution on Natural Disaster Relief (NDR) and other related WCO tools and initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit to PTC paper on implementation measures relating to the Resolution on NDR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically 	Under the Customs for Relief of Epidemic Diseases (C-RED) Project, the Secretariat is providing capacity building to assist Members in implementing the 2011 Resolution on NDR. Progress is periodically reported to the PTC together with other intersessional developments. A dedicated paper will be

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
						submitted to the October 2018 sessions of the PTC.
Immediate Release Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support maintenance and ensure that technical issues and update of national experiences related to IRG are reported to PTC for discussion and guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, Working Group on E-commerce (WGEC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of WCO Members using the IRG increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	Potentially, the WCO will develop a performance measurement tool to capture implementation of WCO tools, including the IRG.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the IRG to include necessary changes relevant for E-Commerce submitted to the PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2018 	Updated IRG will be submitted to the April 2018 PTC.
Glossary of International Customs Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the Glossary of International Customs Terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New terms proposed to be included in the Glossary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2017 	Completed. The April 2017 approved 5 terms and the October 2017 PTC approved 7 new and one revised term for inclusion in to the Glossary.

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give guidance on the way forward for the definitions proposed by the Secretariat and reviewed by the Virtual Group, which do not form part of any WCO instrument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least three new definitions reviewed and approved yearly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>This target has been met during the reporting period.</p>
Postal Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take actions to promote the use of Customs/Post EDI messages and exchange of information in Postal Traffic with a view of enhancing facilitation and security of shipments transported by post 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, WCO/UPU Contact Committee, IMSC, WGEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Guidelines for exchange of electronic messages between Customs and posts based on the pilots' experiences and lessons learned developed and approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2018 	<p>Draft operational Guidelines for the exchange of electronic messages between Customs and posts were developed and discussed at the 37th WCO-UPU Contact Committee meeting in November 2017.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and provide guidance to the work of the WCO/UPU Contact Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCO/UPU CC reports, work programme, draft tools approved and issues arising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>37th WCO/UPU CC reports, work programme, new/updated</p>

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
				resolved		tools will be presented to the April 2018 PTC for its consideration.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised WCO–UPU Memorandum of Understanding signed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2018 	Revised WCO–UPU Memorandum of Understanding is being finalized.
Regional integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate and support the implementation of the RKC and the use of TRS in Regional Integration Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of meetings or tools in which the implementation of RKC and the use of TRS in Regional Integration Projects discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	TRS Guide has been updated to include guidance on the use of the TRS in a regional context. The document was discussed at the PTC and the TFAWG meetings in October 2017 and will be discussed at the PTC in April 2018.
Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Transit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transit Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2017 	The WCO

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	Guidelines			adopted		Transit Guidelines were approved by the PTC in April 2017 and officially launched in July 2017 at the WCO Global Transit Conference. The Secretariat is promoting the implementation of the Transit Guidelines through the organization of a series of regional workshops on transit and other awareness raising activities.
Data Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide guidance and support to the Virtual Working Group on Data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, Virtual Working Group on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of the Virtual Working Group on Data Quality to July 2017 Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2017 	No interest expressed by Members.

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	Quality		Data Quality	Commission		
E-Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss issues emanating from growth in e-commerce and provide strategic guidance and potential solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, WGEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific issues stemming from growing e-commerce, in particular those relating to facilitation, procedures, and revenue collection identified and discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	Resolution and Communiqué from the international Customs community on cross-border E-Commerce were approved by the October 2017 PTC.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and provide guidance to the work of the Working Group on E-Commerce (WGEC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WGEC Meeting reports submitted and issues referred to discussed/approved/c larified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>WGEC Meeting reports have been submitted to the PTC.</p> <p>Draft Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce will be submitted the April 2018 PTC for its consideration.</p>
Future of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	In April 2017

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
Customs	submitted to the PTC by the Virtual Working Group on the Future of Customs (VWG FC)		Virtual Working Group on the Future of Customs (VWG FC)	discussed		the PTC discussed Global Value Chains and the Handbook on Inward and Outward Processing Procedures. It also discussed the way forward for the VWG FC and decided to focus on: 1. Disruptive technologies and 2. Strategic foresight. In October 2017, the PTC discussed disruptive technologies and in particular papers and presentations submitted by the VWG FC members on the following topics:

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
						Biometrics, Virtual Reality, Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore recommendations submitted by the VWG FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations discussed and put forward to the Policy Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2017 June 2019 	The VWG FC will discuss which recommendations would be put forward to the Policy Commission. One possibility is to submit the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies which is under development.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new/update existing guidance on inward/outward processing and other procedures relevant for ensuring better connectedness in particular of SMEs and developing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, VWG FC Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New/updated guidance approved by the PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2017 	Completed. Handbook on Inward and Outward Processing Procedures and the Study on Global Value Chains were adopted by the PTC in

Topic	Tasks	Type of task ²	Responsible body ³	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	countries to Global Value Chains		(RKC/MC)			April 2017 and Council in July 2017.
Special Customs Zones / Free Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce research paper on SCZs /Free Zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research paper discussed by the PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	Discussion on Special Customs Zones / Free Zones was launched at the PTC in October 2017.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development/revisi on of WCO tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new tool developed or a revised tool adopted by the PTC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	

2. Tasks to support Strategic Activity 1.2 Support effective implementation of WTO TFA provisions through use of WCO instruments, tools and assistance

“The WCO will continue to work towards consistent and effective implementation of the TFA. The WCO and its Members have developed, and continue to develop, instruments and tools to unlock the significant potential of trade facilitation and assist Members to implement the TFA.”

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek means to support implementation of commitments stemming from the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation through the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, Working Group on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFAWG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At a joint meeting with the Working Group on the TFA (TFAWG) a number of topics and issues resolved jointly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2016 and October 2017 	The Joint PTC/TFAWG in October 2016 discussed Coordinated Border Management, RKC, Cargo Targeting System, TRS and

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	Mercator Programme					<p>others. The next Joint meeting was held in October 2017 and discussed TRS, CBM, National Committees on Trade Facilitation, Customs Brokers and Transit. Relevant documents were approved jointly by the two meetings.</p>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of technical guidance tools developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<p>During 2016 and 2017 a number of relevant guidance tools were developed: Transit Guidelines, Guidelines on Customs Brokers, Handbook on Inward and Outward Processing Procedures, etc. In addition, a number of tools</p>

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to Members' concerns regarding specific provisions and consider implications in terms of Capacity Building and Technical Assistance requirements within the framework of the Mercator Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, Capacity Building Committee (CBC), TFAWG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of particular TFA provisions, especially those forwarded by the TFAWG explored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>have been updated to better support TFA implementation.</p> <p>No particular concerns were raised by the TFAWG for discussion in the PTC. However, the SAFE Working Group recommended the submission of a "FAQ" document on the linkages between AEOs and Article 7.7 of the TFA to the PTC for consideration and adoption, if appropriate.</p>

3. Tasks to support Strategic Activity 1.3: Promote cooperation with other border agencies to enhance border efficiency and effectiveness

“The WCO will promote border agency cooperation to enable governments to reduce their border control costs whilst simultaneously delivering enhanced efficiency and effectiveness, when facing an increasing flow of goods and travellers, thereby contributing to a nation’s economic competitiveness by better facilitating trade and travel.”

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
Coordinated Border Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect innovative practices from Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, TFAWG, SAFE WG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study on existing Customs-Police collaboration practices, with a view to the production of a reference source discussed and submitted to the Policy Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2018 	The project is under enforcement sub-directorate, and the results (Handbook) will be presented to the next Enforcement Committee. The Handbook will be incorporated in the CBM Compendium that will be submitted to the PTC in April 2018.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update of the CBM Compendium. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, TFAWG, SAFE WG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update CBM Compendium with results of the study on Customs-Police collaboration practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2019 	As soon as the handbook is available publically, we will start the update of CBM Compendium
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with other International Organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, TFAWG, SAFE WG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue engaging; The number of meetings or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	WCO attended an OiE meeting in 2017 and an IPPC meeting in 2017.

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	concerning CBM			tools reflecting engagement with IPPC, OiE, Codex Alimentarius, World Health Organization and other relevant organizations		The WCO is negotiating an MoU with IPPC and also with International Organization for Migration (IOM).
Customs-Tax Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Guidelines for strengthening cooperation and the exchange of information between Customs and Tax authorities at the national level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, WGEC, Working Group on Revenue Compliance and Fraud (WGRCF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines finalised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2016 	Completed.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The topic of Customs-Tax cooperation discussed from different perspectives and related Members' practices collected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>Draft outline of a Guidance on Customs' role in the collection of indirect taxes was approved by the October 2017 PTC meeting.</p> <p>The draft Guidance is currently under further development.</p>
Customs-Railways Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options for trade facilitation measures to the crossing of frontiers in international 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, DMPT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific Customs-related issues in international rail traffic identified and discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>Discussion on Customs-Railways cooperation was launched at the PTC in October 2017.</p>

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rail traffic, better data exchange, including harmonisation of Customs data requirements for railway, simplification of Customs formalities and enhancement of Customs controls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on Members' initiatives, pilot projects and best practices shared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	

4. Tasks to support Strategic Activity 1.4: Enhance partnership with private sector

“Fostering Customs-trade partnership has traditionally been an important part of the WCO.s work. The WCO maintains close partnerships with a large number of private sector organizations. Such partnerships are in many cases formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding.”

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
AEOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide input on the AEO Compendium where necessary/relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTC, SAFE WG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually updated AEO Compendiums presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates of the AEO Compendium were presented to the SAFE Working Group which reported to the PTC.

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide guidance on MRAs and related work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, SAFE WG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated on MRAs developments and related activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>Updates on MRAs developments were presented to the SAFE Working Group which reported to the PTC.</p>
Customs-Business Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support strengthening of Customs to Business Partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, SAFE WG, TFAWG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and emerging opportunities of enhanced cooperation discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>New and emerging opportunities of enhanced Customs-Business cooperation have been discussed at various WCO bodies including the SWG and the PTC under different agenda items.</p>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practices and working experiences, including SMEs' engagement presented and incorporated into the Customs to Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>Specific guidance on SME's engagement and related best practices was included into the Customs to Business</p>

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
				Partnership Guidance		Partnership Guidance.
Customs Brokers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue work on policy considerations including the 'optional' use of Brokers as detailed in the WCO Study Report on Customs Brokers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, TFAWG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed working experiences concerning compliance of Brokers and related sanction/reward policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	Guidelines on Customs Brokers was presented and approved by the October 2017 joint session of the PTC and TFAWG.

5. Tasks to support Strategic Activity 5.1: Digital Customs: Provide a framework to consolidate the development, promotion and deployment of the WCO's Information Technology (IT)-related standards, instruments, tools, guidelines and systems

"The WCO will provide a cohesive, comprehensible and scalable framework to consolidate the development, promotion as well as deployment of the WCO's IT-related instruments, tools, guidelines and systems to enable ICT implementation to support Customs work, including enforcement and facilitation activities."

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
IT Guide for Executives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the IT Guide for Executives to include Members' practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The updated IT Guide presented to the PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April Autumn 2017 June 2018 	Updated draft will be presented in the next PTC (April 2018).
Data Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce annual updates of the Data Model to reflect the standard up-to-date requirements of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC, Data Model Project Team (DMPT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release 3.7.0 produced in 2017 and presented to the Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2017 	WCO Data Model version 3.7.0 was published in December

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	Members that are adopting the instrument			Commission		2017.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release 3.8.0 produced in 2018 and presented to the Policy Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2018 	Work is under progress.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A decision on potential Migration to version 4.0 reached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 2018 	At its September 2017 meeting, the DMPT agreed to continue discussing the migration to version 4.0 until a clear business case is established.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update report on global adoption of the WCO Data Model presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual 	Will be presented at the IMSC in May 2018 and reported to the Autumn sessions of the PTC.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical /non-technical documentation regarding Data Model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing December 2018 	A preliminary draft document has been developed by the DMPT. It is

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
				developed and approved by PTC		expected to be finalized by December 2018.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce and Maintain Information Packages to cover a wider array of cross-border regulatory procedures including all Customs major types of licenses, certificates and permits used in international trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC, DMPT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information packages covered by the scope of release 3.7 finalized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2017 	The work on Master Data Information Package continues in 2018, to be part of version 3.8.0.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information packages covered by the scope of release 3.8 will be finalized 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2018 	Work is under progress	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support provided to the maintenance of IMO FAL Compendium 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	Report on the progress of work on the 42 FAL committee (June 2018), finalization of the revision of the IMO FAL Compendium planned for 43 FAL committee (April 2019).	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 	Draft	

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
				provided to Development of global standards for Trader Identification in the AEO – MRA Context	2017	Guidelines on Trader Identification Number jointly developed with SAFE Working Group was endorsed by the SAFE WG in February 2018.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support provided to connectivity and interoperability in e-commerce environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	The January 2018 DMPT has initiated the work concerning the development of a standardized data set and messaging standards; it is expected to be completed by June 2018.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to the adoption of the WCO Data Model for the IPPC's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	The mapping initiative in cooperation with the Netherlands NVWA ⁴ and

⁴ Nederlandse Voedsel en Warenautoriteit

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
				e-Phyto project provided		the IPPC ⁵ is under progress.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerate adoption by Members and regional organizations by promoting 'My Information Packages' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC, DMPT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One example of "My Information Packages" produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	One Example was produced by the Netherlands.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Member encouraged to produce a further example of "My Information Package (MIP)" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	A draft guidance on mapping of a national dataset to the WCO DM, supporting the production of the MIP has been developed.
API Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce updates of the PNRGOV Message Implementation Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, WCO/IATA/ICAO API/PNR Contact Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PNRGOV Guidelines 16.1 finalized and presented to PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2017 	Completed (Endorsed by Council in June 2017).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the WCO/IATA/ICAO API Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, WCO/IATA/ICAO API/PNR Contact Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to "Umbrella Document" – Executive Summary on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2017 	Completed (Endorsed by Council in June 2017).

⁵ International Plant Protection Organisation

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
				Passenger Information) completed		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guidance on how to build API / PNR System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, WCO/IATA/ICAO API/PNR Contact Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on how to build API / PNR Systems is finalized and approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2017 	Completed (Endorsed by Council in June 2017).
UCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote implementation of UCR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC, SAFE WG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCR implemented in a project and presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous 	<p>No interest from majority of Members. Not enough practices from the Members.</p> <p>Identified Members who potentially use similar numbers will be asked to submit their eventual practices.</p>
Review/updating of IT related WCO instruments and tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop/enhance guidance in the area of Information Security Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to the guidance on data security management is produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2017 	A draft will be presented to the IMSC in May 2018.

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and collect Members' practices guidance in the area of the Business Continuity Planning Guidelines, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to the guidance on Business Continuity Planning Guidelines produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May June 2019 	Members' practices are being collected.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on the use of WWW sites by Customs - potential development of a Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on the use of WWW produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May October 2018 	A draft will be presented to the IMSC in October 2018.

Public Version

6. Tasks to support Strategic Activity 5.2: Implement Globally Networked Customs (GNC)

“The WCO will continue to provide a systematic approach which aims to deliver seamless, real-time and paperless flows of information between Customs administrations to meet the challenges of the 21st Century which require new approaches for cooperation between Customs administrations and all relevant stakeholders for purposes of applying Customs controls while facilitating legitimate trade.”

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
Globally Networked Customs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor progress of proof-of-concept for Utility Blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress on Utility Blocks presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodically 	Two Members from the European region were initially agreed to look to a possible UB, but the Project of exchange was put on hold. Other multilateral exchanges are being considered.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further enhancement of guidance documentation to assist Members in developing and submitting Utility Blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on PC guidance, further work on GNC Governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2017Ongoing 	The GNC Handbook currently already caters for the requirements of Members wishing to develop their UBs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a GNC UB Repository for the sharing of completed Utility Blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the GNC UB Repository on Members' web site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2017Ongoing 	During the reporting period, there has been no UB developed and shared by Member(s). The

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
						development of new UBs will be raised at the Autumn PTC 2018.

7. Tasks to support Strategic Activity 5.3: Use of IT in support of Coordinated Border Management

“The WCO will continue to promote and enhance the use of IT related to Coordinated Border Management, including Single Window environments.”

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
Single Window	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the Compendium on 'How to Build a Single Window Environment' by including the successful Single Window implementations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW Compendium updated and approved by the PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2017 and Spring 2019 	<p>Completed in April 2017. The Updated Compendium is now composed of 18 separate parts.</p> <p>Further updates will include Innovation for Business Processes Reengineering +Case Studies in the Volume 2 of the Compendium.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other international 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<p>UNECE presented on</p>

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	International Organizations concerning Single Window			organizations presented their projects on Single Window		Single Window at the IMSC. WCO and UNCEFACT collaborate on a number of Single Window projects and the WCO Data Model
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop SW E-Learning module (7-10 hours) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PTC informed about the development of a SW E-Learning module 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 2018 	Volume 1 Finalized Volume 2 to be completed by June 2018
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW E-Learning course reviewed and translated into three languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2017 	Donor needed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enlarge the pool of global experts through the accreditation process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Global/Regional Workshops conducted and PTC informed about the number of experts accredited (at least 15 by March 2018) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March October 2018 	First regional workshop (in the AMS) has been completed in September 2017. Another 3 workshops are planned for A/P, MENA and ESA regions

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and Update the WCO Single Window Interactive Map (SWIM) database on Single Window procedures and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCO SWIM database updated and presented to the PTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2017 May 2018 	<p>Will be presented to the next IMSC in May 2018</p>
Product identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine product identification systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC, WGEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to continue reporting their initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2017 PTC (and subsequent PTCs as appropriate) 	<p>Product identification has not been discussed during the reporting period. The May 2018 IMSC will discuss this topic that will be reported to the autumn PTC in 2018.</p>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat to advise PTC of related discussion in other groups (WGEC, for example) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2018 PTC (and subsequent PTCs as appropriate) 	<p>The May 2018 IMSC will discuss this topic that will be reported to the autumn PTC in 2018.</p>

8. Tasks to support Strategic Activity 5.4: Develop, promote and manage WCO instruments and tools that provide the legal basis for technologically enabled reforms

“The WCO will continue to develop, promote and manage WCO instruments and tools that provide for a firm legal basis for interconnectivity.”

Topic	Tasks	Type of task	Responsible body	Performance Indicators	Timeline	Progress
ICT Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce an update of the WCO ICT Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC, IMSC, RKC/MC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An update of the ICT Guidelines approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2018 	Draft guidance on electronic services is under development. It will potentially be incorporated in the ICT Guidelines as part of the update process.