



SECRETARIAT OF THE ACP GROUP OF STATES

**WCO High-Level Panel discussion on Small Island Economies (SIEs) on
6 November 2018**

THROUGH THE [ACP-EU TRADECOM II FACILITY](#), THE [SECRETARIAT OF THE ACP GROUP OF STATES](#) HAS OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS ENGAGED CONSISTENTLY WITH THE SMALL ISLAND ECONOMIES WITHIN THE ACP GROUP OF STATES IN:

- IDENTIFYING THEIR TRADE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS INCLUDING THOSE SPECIFIC TO CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION**
- TRANSLATING THE IDENTIFIED TRADE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS INTO IMPLEMENTABLE SUPPORT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS**
- DELIVERING THE TARGETED SUPPORT MAINLY THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
- SUPPORTING THE BENEFICIARY CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS AND OTHER TRADE DEPARTMENTS TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THE PROVIDED TARGETED SUPPORT AND GENERATE SUSTAINABILITIES**
- DEVELOP AND EXPLOIT REPLICABILITIES OF THE GAINED CAPACITIES THROUGH REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS**



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QTN 1: PECULIARITIES & CHALLENGES OF THE SIEs

- **MANY ACP SIEs HAVE DEVELOPED THE ASYCUDA COMPUTERISED CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS BUT NOT ALL SIEs ARE ON BOARD**
- **THERE IS A GROWING EFFORT TO ESTABLISH ELECTRONIC SINGLE WINDOWS**
- **CUSTOMS LEGISLATIVE REVIEWS ARE UNDERWAY**
- **GROWING RATIFICATION OF THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT**
- **CHALLENGES REMAIN, *INTER ALIA*:**
 - CUSTOMS EFFICIENCY IN CLEARING AND INSPECTION
 - BIOSECURITY—SPS ISSUES REMAIN A SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO TRADE
 - CERTIFICATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK
 - DIGITALIZATION OF TRADE
 - INFRASTRUCTURE



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QTN 2: ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SIEs RESPONDING TO THEIR CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS

❑ IMPLEMENTED TARGETED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CARIBBEAN SIEs

- TRANSPOSITION OF HS CODES TO HS2017—ENHANCE TRADE DATA ACCURACY AND REPORTING—**CARICOM + DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**
- SINGLE ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENT—**CARICOM + DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

❖ FUTURE SUPPORT

- QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE—**CARICOM REGIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDS AND QUALITY (CROSQ)**
- RATIFICATION OF THE WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement—**HAITI**
- DEVELOPMENT OF CERTIFICATION SCHEMES TO IMPROVE PRODUCT COMPETITIVENESS—**GUYANA**

❑ IMPLEMENTED TARGETED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE AFRICAN SIEs

- PRODUCT CERTIFICATION, CUSTOMS INSPECTIONS AND LEGAL DRAFTING—**MADAGASCAR**
- CAPACITIES OF QUALITY AND STANDARDS FOR SMEs, AND RULES OF ORIGIN—**MAURITIUS**

❖ FUTURE SUPPORT

- STANDARDS & REGULATIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR FISHERIES EXPORTS—**SEYCHELLES**



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QTN 2: ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SIEs RESPONDING TO THEIR CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS

❑ IMPLEMENTED TARGETED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PACIFIC SIEs

- EFFICIENCY OF THE REGION'S TRADE FACILITATION FACILITIES—**MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP (MSG)**
- TRADE FACILITATION, CUSTOMS LEGISLATION—**REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS, NIUE**
- ELECTRONIC SINGLE WINDOW & SINGLE WINDOW ACT—**KIRIBATI**
- SPS REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORTS—**FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (FSM) AND SAMOA**
- CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND TRANSPOSITION OF HS CODES TO 2017—**SAMOA & SOLOMON ISLANDS**
- TRADE FACILITATION—**VANUATU**

❖ FUTURE SUPPORT

- QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE REGION BUILDING ON THE CARIBBEAN EXPERIENCE—**PIFS & MEMBER STATES**
- TRADE COMPETITIVENESS & INVESTMENT WITH EU BUSINESS COMMUNITY—**PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) + 5 EPA COUNTRIES**
- CUSTOMS PROCEDURES & HS2017 TRANSPOSITION—**TONGA**
- AGRO-PROCESSED EXPORTS AND RELATED TRADE FACILITATION—**TUVALU**