



**Caribbean Customs Law  
Enforcement Council**

**PTC Panel Discussion on Small Island  
Economies  
Challenges and Solutions for Customs  
Departments # 2**

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# Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council

## WCO Caribbean Members accession/implement/ratification of... WTO TFA, HS, SAFE FoS, RKC

WCO Member	WTO Member*	WTO TFA	HS	SAFE FoS	RKC
Antigua & Barbuda	Yes 1 January 1995	Yes 27 November 2017	No	No	No
Bahamas	Observer status only	NO	Yes	Yes	No
Barbados	Yes 1 January 1995	Yes 31 January 2018	NO	NO	NO
Belize	Yes 1 January 1995	Yes 2 September 2015	NO	NO	NO
Bermuda	NO (British Overseas Territory)	NO	NO	Yes	No
Curacao	NO constituent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands NO	NO	NO	NO**	NO
Guyana	Yes 1 January 1995	Yes 30 November 2015	NO	NO	NO
Jamaica	Yes 9 March 1995	Yes 19 January 2016	NO	Yes	NO
Saint Lucia	Yes 1 January 1995	Yes 8 December 2015	NO	Yes	NO
Trinidad & Tobago	Yes 1 March 1995	Yes 27 July 2015	NO	Yes	NO



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WCO Member	WTO Member	WTO TFA	HS	SAFE FoS	RKC
Cuba	Yes 20 April 1995	Yes 12 March 2018	Yes	Yes	Yes 24 September 2009
Dominican Republic	Yes 9 March 1995	Yes 28 February 2017	Yes	Yes	Yes 14 June 2012
Haiti	Yes 30 January 1996	NO	Yes	Yes	NO

- Compliments: WCO Secretariat



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What are the key issues with the accession to, and implementation of various international conventions and standards such as the WCO RKC, the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, the HS Convention, and the SAFE Framework of Standards?

- ❖ Apparent practice by some SIE's: Sign numerous International treaties and conventions ; ratify some, implement few.
1. Lack of Political will- including frequent changes of governments
    - Affects focus on ratification and financing of implementation
  2. Limited technical expertise to influence departmental strategy
    - Lack of Policy and strategic units in many Customs Departments
    - Non strategic deployment of technical staff able to drive accession and implementation of such conventions
  3. Customs often too dependent on line ministries for success of such processes



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Suggested solution: How can we present them as a package to these administrations for acceding and implementing them collectively, instead of going through resource intensive reiterative processes?

1. Sensitization of Customs administrations **and line ministries** of the benefits and responsibilities of accession and implementation through regional conferences (e.g. RKC St. Lucia, Nov. 2018)
2. WCO/WTO to visit governments to get commitment to accession, ratification and implementation of treaties, conventions and frameworks beneficial to their SIE's economies
3. Visit multilateral bodies as Caricom Secretariat, OECS Commission to get support
4. Partner with and leverage benefits to Non WCO/WTO members through existing MOUs with agencies as CCLEC/CCO
5. Facilitate holistic implementation, delivering tangibles on a regional basis through regional expertise developed under the program