



Permanent Technical Committee

PC0747Ea

-  
243<sup>rd</sup>/244<sup>th</sup> Sessions

-  
23 – 26 April 2024

Brussels, 04 March 2024

## **SINGLE WINDOW**

### **Updating of the Single Window Compendium**

**(Item XI. b on the Agenda)**

#### **SUMMARY**

##### **Purpose of document**

The purpose of this document is to foster a collaborative and informed discussion that will support the continuous improvement of the Single Window (SW) Compendium. Through the examination of the UN/CEFACT White Paper, the UNCTAD roadmap document and the insights gained from Members, the PTC is invited to examine the latest version of the SW Compendium, focusing on identifying any potential updates, additions or modifications within the Compendium that are pertinent to the WCO's SW initiative, and provide guidance on the way forward, as appropriate.

##### **Action required of the Permanent Technical Committee**

The Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) is invited to:

- take note of the recent work done by other international organizations in the area of Single Window;
- share and discuss Members' national and/or regional practices in their recent SW implementation experiences;
- discuss and provide guidance on the areas that require potential updates within the SW Compendium; and
- consider establishing a mini group focused on the update of the SW Compendium.

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## **I. Background**

1. The World Customs Organization (WCO) Council, in July 2017, officially endorsed the updated WCO Compendium titled "[Building a Single Window Environment](#)." This document is structured into two distinct volumes. Volume 1, serving as an executive guide, delves into the numerous considerations essential for SW implementation from a strategic business viewpoint, outlining the crucial preparatory steps before examining Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solutions or architectural frameworks. On the other hand, Volume 2, tailored for practitioners, provides an in-depth exploration of the technical elements, standards, and practices pivotal for the development and maintenance of SW systems, ensuring a robust foundation for these complex initiatives.
2. Recognized as a dynamic resource, the Compendium had been designed to evolve in response to the changing landscape of global trade facilitation. This approach underscores the necessity for periodic updates to maintain its status as a highly valued reference within the WCO Members' toolkit.

## **II. Potential way forward**

3. In response to the above-mentioned, and taking into consideration the significance of the SW Compendium as one of the key trade facilitation tools, it is recommended to kick-off the discussion concerning the potential possibility of refining and expanding the utility and applicability of the current editions of the WCO SW Compendium.
4. In this light, the PTC is invited to note the following:
  - The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) "White Paper on Single Window Assessment Methodology"<sup>1</sup>. The goal is to unravel the potential impacts and applicability of these insights on the WCO SW Compendium. The discussion is intended to harness practical insights that could refine and enhance the WCO's strategic approach towards SW implementation.
  - The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the "Roadmap for Building a Trade Single Window"<sup>2</sup>. The roadmap emphasizes the importance of an automated Customs system, as a foundational step towards developing a comprehensive electronic SW. This presentation outlines a pragmatic pathway for Members, utilizing standards-based automated Customs systems, to embark on creating an electronic SW.
  - The Pakistan Single Window (PSW) initiative. This presentation is anticipated to offer a perspective on the practical aspects of SW implementation, sharing Pakistan's firsthand experiences with the key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. Such a case study intends to offer PTC delegates practical insights and examples of SW operations, further enriching the discussions and considerations surrounding the SW Compendium and its future direction.

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<sup>1</sup> [WhitePaper\\_SWAM\\_August2023.pdf \(unece.org\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [TRANSPORT AND TRADE FACILITATION Series No. 21 - Roadmap for Building a Trade Single Window \(unctad.org\)](#)

5. Furthermore, the PTC will be invited to discuss the existing SW Compendium probing for areas that may benefit from updates, additions, or modifications. To effectively gather and integrate insights, experiences, and advancements from Members, this could be done by the establishment of a dedicated mini group of interested Members and Observers. This group would be tasked with the specific objective of collecting and synthesizing Member proposals for the comprehensive update of the Compendium.
6. The mini group objectives could potentially include the collection of proposals, best practices, and case studies from Members, reflecting the latest developments in SW systems. This exercise would aim to gather diverse experiences and challenges faced by Members across different regions, ensuring the updated Compendium is globally relevant and inclusive.
7. The mini group would potentially consist of representatives from a balance of regional Members, including those with advanced SW systems and those in the early stages of implementation. Participation from international trade and technology experts, as well as private sector stakeholders, would be encouraged to provide a wide range of perspectives.
8. As part of the methodology after the potential formation of the mini group, an open call would be issued to all Members inviting the submission of proposals, best practices, and case studies relevant to the SW Compendium update. The working group would review submissions, categorize them according to the relevant sections of the Compendium, and perform a gap analysis to identify areas requiring updates. Where needed, the group would engage in consultations with submitting Members, technology experts, and international organizations to deepen the understanding of proposed updates and gather additional insights.
9. The Members are invited to volunteer to lead the mini group in order to assist in managing the mini group activities.

### **III. Action required of the PTC**

10. The Permanent Technical Committee is invited to:
    - take note of the recent work done by other international organizations in the area of Single Window;
    - share and discuss Members' national and/or regional practices in their recent SW implementation experiences;
    - discuss and provide guidance on the areas that require potential updates within the SW Compendium; and
    - consider establishing a mini group focused on the update of the SW Compendium.
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