



**World Customs
Organization**

An Introductory to the Exploratory Study on the Possible Strategic Review of the HS

Contents



What is this Exploratory Study?



- The *Exploratory Study on the Possible Strategic Review of the Harmonized System (HS)* is a two year study into the “health” of the Harmonized System.
- It is intended to provide insight into whether there are improvements or enhancements that could improve the functioning of HS or its usability and sustainability.

Why is it being conducted?



- The HS is over 30 years old, having come into force in 1988. It is derived from an even older nomenclature, the CCCN, which was developed in the 1950s. In this time, many changes have occurred in the trade system, customs and in products over the decades.
- The HS can be challenging in a trade environment that is characterized by more diverse user, faster pace of trade, rapidly changing products and more complex policy requirements than at any time in its history.

Why is it being conducted? (Cont'd)



- It was decided that it was time to identify and review potential improvements to the HS system (beyond changes to content already being covered by the existing review cycles) and to make resulting recommendations on concrete strategies that could be pursued to bring the HS into line with today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities.

Goal, Outputs and Scope



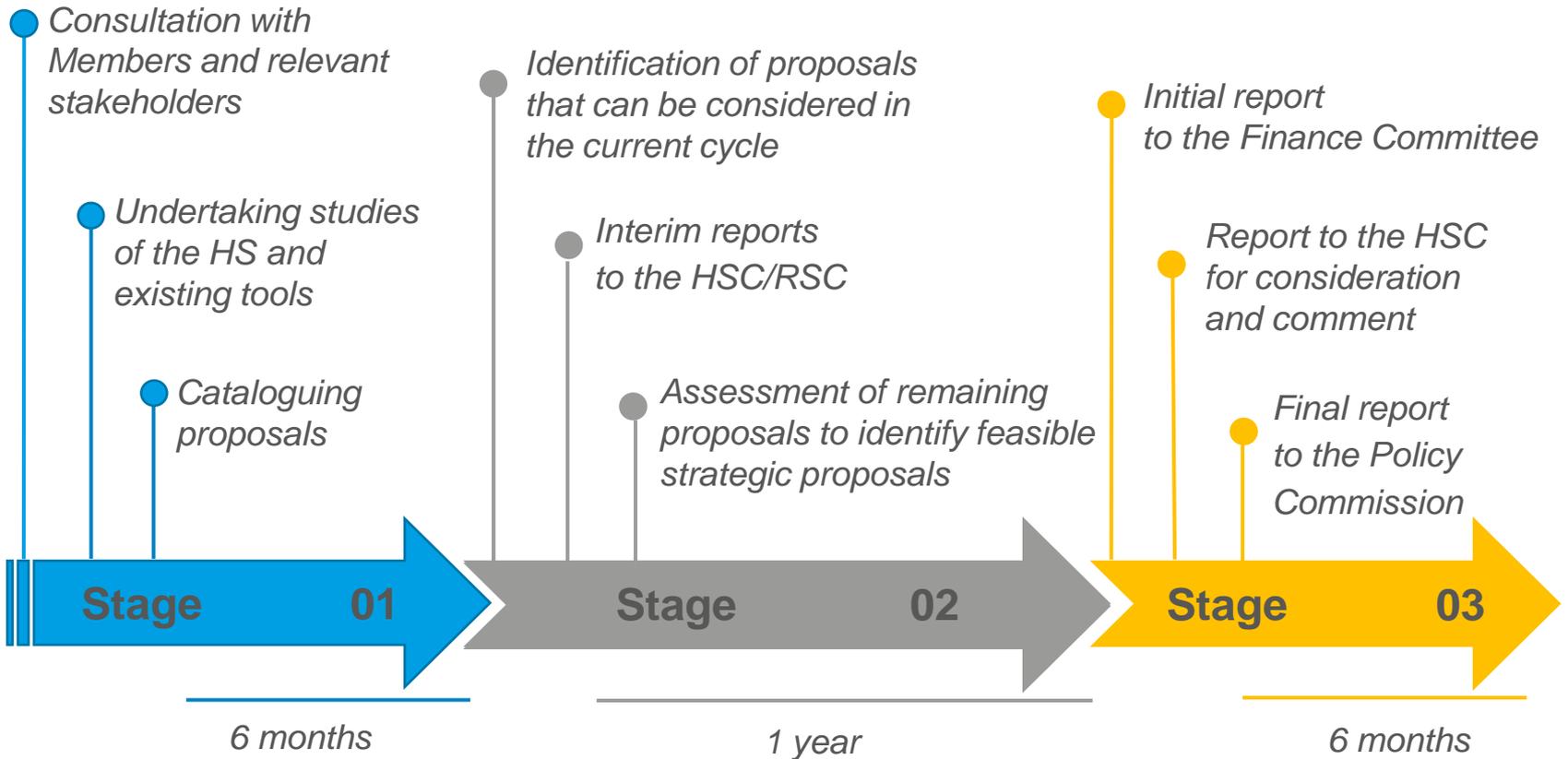
Goal: To provide the Members with a report on the health of the current HS, and an assessment of feasible strategies and options available to ensure its long-term viability.

Outputs: Interim reports to the WCO HS Committee on proposals that fall within the scope of review cycle.

Final report of the articulated options for strategic changes to the HS for consideration by the Members.

Scope: The HS (the Annex to the HS Convention) and its tools (Explanatory Notes, Compendium of Classification Opinions, Alphabetical Index and WCO Trade Tools).

Timeline



Relationship of the HS Study to the HS Review Cycle



- The Exploratory Study does ***not replace*** the HS Review Cycles, which are intended to keep the contents of the HS up-to-date, and result in a new edition of the HS. The Review Cycle for HS 2027 continues.
- The Study is a chance to undertake a more holistic consideration of the HS (including its tools) for any potentially actionable ideas for consideration by the Harmonized System Committee (HSC) and the WCO Council.
- The WCO Council will make the final decisions on whether to take-up any Recommendations resulting from the Study and to refer them to the HSC for further development, drafting and implementation.

How to get involved?



- An online survey link will be available on the dedicated webpage for the [HS Study](#). The survey will be open from 15th November to 31th December.
- For WCO Member administrations, a CLiKC! Forum will be launched on the 16th of November.
- For the private sector, academia, members and other stakeholders, there will be other meetings, sessions or new on-line fora advertised via the website and through social media updates – please keep an eye out for these!
- Those who want to provide a more detailed individual contribution are welcome to contact the HS Study team by email at project.HSStudy@wcoomd.org

Who do we want to hear from?



Anyone who uses the HS!

Including:

- Customs administrations
- Importers or exporters
- Trade professionals
- Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)
- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Academia
- And anyone else who has an interest ...

Why is the WCO doing this?



The WCO is the guardian of the HS and has the obligation to ensure its on-going relevance and continued fitness for purpose in the 21st century.



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Thank You!

The HS Study Project Team

For any contribution or query please contact us on: project.HSStudy@wcoomd.org

