



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
ON RULES OF ORIGIN

OC0223E1a

-  
38<sup>th</sup> Session  
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O. Eng.

Brussels, 17 December 2019.

TWENTY FIRST PERIODIC REPORT ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS  
OF THE OPERATION AND STATUS OF THE AGREEMENT  
FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2019

(Item IV (a) on the Agenda)

I. DRAFT TWENTIETH FIRST PERIODIC REPORT

Technical aspects of the operation and status of the Agreement

1. There has been no change in the texts of the Agreement.

Parts I, II and III and Annexes I and II of the Agreement

**Notification by Members**

2. One hundred and ten Members have notified their status on non-preferential rules of origin to the WTO: fifty Members currently implement some type of non-preferential rules of origin (i.e. 30 % of the WTO membership, counting the EU as one) while sixty Members do not implement rules of origin for non-preferential purposes. See WTO Doc. G/RO/W/189. Twenty-seven Members have not yet submitted any notification to the WTO.

**Technical assistance activities**

3. During 2019 the following technical assistance activities relating to the harmonization of non-preferential rules of origin were conducted at the request of Members :

Type of activity	Date	Venue	Participants
National Revenue Package Workshop on the development of Advance Ruling system for Classification and Origin	18-22 February 2019	Nassau, Bahamas	Officials from Bahamas Customs
WCO Regional Accreditation Workshop for French speaking Revenue Package / TTA diagnostic experts	4-8 March 2019	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Pre-accreditation of 6 experts, including 2 with focus on origin
National Workshop on Rules	25-29 March	Luanda,	Officials from Angola

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<b>Type of activity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Participants</b>
of Origin	2019	Angola	Customs and partner government agencies and other stakeholders
National Revenue Package Workshop on the development of Advance Ruling system for Classification, Valuation and Origin	8-12 April 2019	Ezulwini, Eswatini	Officials from Eswatini Customs
National Revenue Package Workshop on the development of Advance Ruling system for Classification and Origin	20-24 May 2019	Baku, Azerbaijan	Officials from the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan
National Revenue Package Workshop on the development of Advance Ruling system for Classification and Origin	10-14 June 2019	Maseru, Lesotho	Officials from Lesotho Revenue Authority
Executive Workshop on Future on Rules of Origin and Utilization Rates	26-28 June 2019	Florence, Italy	Origin experts, researchers, government officials and private sector
High level meeting on the future of Arab Economic Integration in a changing global trade landscape	1-2 July 2019	Tunis, Tunisia	Government representatives from Arab countries, ESCWA, OECD, ITC
National Revenue Package Workshop on the development of Advance Ruling system for Classification, Valuation and Origin	26-30 August 2019	Nairobi, Kenya	Officials from Kenya Revenue Authority
Sub-regional Workshop on Rules of Origin	17-20 September 2019	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Customs and Trade officials from UEMOA member countries
Advanced Workshop on electronic certification of origin	28-29 October 2019	Tunis, Tunisia	Customs and Trade officials from ATU member countries
Regional Workshop on Preferential Rules of Origin for English speaking Least Developed Countries	3-6 December 2019	Mombasa, Kenya	Customs officials from English speaking WCA and ESA Members

#### Part IV of the Agreement – Harmonization of Rules of Origin (Article 9)

##### **Status of the Harmonization Work Programme**

4. With regard to the Harmonization Work Programme carried out by the Committee on Rules of Origin, the number of outstanding issues, namely 137, has remained unchanged.

##### **Meetings of the Technical Committee**

- 2.

5. During the period under review, one formal session of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (TCRO) (37<sup>th</sup> Session) was held on 4 February 2019. The questions which were examined are contained in the Report (Doc. OC0215E1b).

Election of Chairperson and vice-Chairpersons

6. The Technical Committee re-elected Mr. Aseem NANDA (India) as Chairperson and Mr. Yankui SONG (China) as Vice-Chairperson.

II. CONCLUSION

7. The Technical Committee is requested to approve the twenty first Periodic Report as set out above.

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