FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Boosting capacities and partnerships for implementation

PREMIER FORUM INTERNATIONAL SUR LES COMITÉS NATIONAUX DE FACILITATION DES ÉCHANGES

Renforcement des capacités et des partenariats pour la mise en œuvre

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WCO Mercator Programme

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With support of / Avec l’appui de
World Customs Organization (WCO)

- Only International Organization exclusively focused on Customs matters
- The international house of Customs...
1953

Customs Cooperation Council (CCC)

Inaugural Session CCC
2016

World Customs Organization (WCO)
The WCO, an organization with global reach...

180* Members  Divided into 6 regions  Responsible for processing 99% of international trade

* Since July 2007, the European Union has rights akin to those of a WCO Member for matters falling within its competences as an interim measure
Principles and Objectives

The Mercator Programme was launched at the WCO Council in June 2014 as a strategic initiative to support the sustainable and effective implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

- Harmonized implementation based on the WCO’s global standards
- Tailor-made technical assistance and capacity building
- Effective coordination among all stakeholders
Donors, Supporters and Partners

United Kingdom
- Leading supporter of Mercator implementation with activities in seven countries to date, leading source of Mercator Programme Advisors

Finland
- Upcoming support for Mercator implementation in Eastern and Southern Africa

Japan
- Support to TFA awareness-raising events for Customs officials

Rep. of Korea
- Support to TFA awareness-raising events for Customs officials

China
- Support to further development of Mercator Programme Advisor cadre

Germany
- Supporting TFA implementation in the Europe region, focusing on risk management, RKC, post-clearance audit
The overall track is designed to encompass the full suite of WCO instruments and tools, while building global awareness of the TFA in concert with donor and implementation partners.

**Implementation partnership**
Implementation partnerships with bilateral and multilateral actors (UNCTAD, World Bank, Asian Development Bank)

**Regional-level Awareness Raising**
Workshops in all WCO regions in 2015 - 2016

**WCO Instruments and Tools**
Ongoing development / refinement of WCO instruments and tools, WCO e-learning platform and content

**TFA Implementation Guidance**
TFA-specific implementation guidance for Customs
The Tailor-made track is designed to identify and support individual countries' needs, leveraging existing diagnostic and capacity building efforts, while coordinating with other development partners. It is premised on a Customs-to-Customs partnership model.

1. **Country-level engagements**
   - Needs assessments, planning and delivery

2. **Monitoring**
   - Time-release study and other indicators

3. **Donor engagement**
   - Growing suite of TFA-specific programmes (HMRC, Finland), partnerships with other development partners

4. **Accreditation of Experts**
   - Growing pool of MPA s from developed and developing countries
Mercator: Unique Features

Accredited Experts
WCO accredited experts are active Customs officers, contributed on an in-kind basis from WCO member administrations.

Implementation Guide
A navigational roadmap for implementing TFA provisions through the application of WCO instruments and tools.

Training Packages
WCO instruments and tools are supported by a wide range of in-person and electronic (e-learning) training packages.

Multi-Year Support
Multi-year commitments and iterative engagements.
SAFE Framework of Standards Articles 7.4, 7.7, 8.1, 8.2

Time Release Study Article 7.6

Transit Handbook Article 11

Nat’l’ Committees on Trade Facilitation Article 23.2

WCO Data Model Article 8.1, 10.4

Post-Clearance Audit Guidelines Article 7.5

Risk Management Compendium Article 7.4

Coordinated Border Management Article 8.1
Example – Risk Management

The TFA obliges Members, to the extent possible, to adopt or maintain a risk management system for Customs control.

The RKC sets out principles of Customs risk management and the RKC Guidelines cover technical aspects of risk management and Customs control.

The Risk Management Compendium introduces detailed and technical information on risk management, based on practices and experiences of WCO Members.
The Mercator Programme follows the WCO’s long-standing capacity building approach and recognizes the need for ongoing political will, partnership and people to successfully implement TFA-related reforms.
Mercator Implementation Plans

1. Individual missions / activities
   - Teams of MPAs and other technical / operational experts
   - Clearly defined deliverables

2. Organizational development results and results for specific TFA measures
   - Supporting incremental improvements and changes through successive engagements
   - Mutual accountability

3. Country-level results
   - Measured through Time Release Study and other WCO performance measurement tools

Needs-based delivery

Iterative support

Delivering results

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Implementation of Mercator Programme activities under the tailor-made track is designed to take the form of a structured multi-year programmatic approach with iterative implementation of technical assistance activities.
The Mercator Programme builds on previous Member and WCO efforts to implement international standards.

Customs plays both a leadership role, as well as that of a collaborative contributor to broader government objectives.

Mercator Programme establishes long-term project management partnership between Members and WCO.

Combines broad-based TFA expertise with specific technical/operational expertise to achieve results.
WCO Capacity Building Activities

2016 Total capacity building support provided as displayed here: 301

Special Cases Going Forward:
Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Ethiopia
Pakistan
Sierra Leone
Sudan
WCO Capacity Building Committee

Mercator Programme: Building Networks, Partnerships and Economies

8th Session Brussels, 7-9 March 2017
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