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Technology solutions for Trade Facilitation Implementation: ASYCUDA Programme

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**Mandate of UNCTAD**

UNCTAD fulfills its mandate by carrying out three main tasks:

- forum for intergovernmental discussions (meetings, exchange of experience, ...)
- research, economic analysis and information compilation activities
- technical assistance adapted to the specific needs of the countries

The mandate of the ASYCUDA Program:

- UNCTAD’s main technical assistance program
- Mandate confirmed at the 14th UNCTAD Conference in Nairobi in July 2016, in “The role of UNCTAD” section, paragraph 38 (p) of the minutes (“Nairobi Maafikiano”):

> "It (UNCTAD) should also continue to cooperate with Member States in implementing the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA).”

**ASYCUDA Programme**

- ASYCUDA Program (DTL / UNCTAD)
- Automated SYstem for CUstoms DAta (processing of full customs clearance procedure and integration of new functionalities related to trade facilitation)
- 30 years of experience in the modernization and simplification of customs procedures
- Around 90 user countries in 5 continents
- 6 regional centers
- 3 versions (v2.7, ASYCUDA +++, ASYCUDAWorld)
- 19 languages and 8 alphabets
- 18 experts in Geneva and 100 experts in the countries
- 70,000 trained users
- 15,000,000 customs operations per year
- Memoranda of understanding with organizations (WCO, OCHA, IATA, CITES, ...)

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UNCTAD - ASYCUDA Program &
WTO - Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

Articles relating to the publication of information

1 - Publication and availability of information

Access portal to ASYCUDAWorld: Standard portal ASYCUDAWorld can be modified easily. Some examples:

- ASYCUDA World Integrated Tariff
- Simulator of the calculation of taxes
- Direct integration of Electronic Manifest in XML format
- Follow-up of the status of the customs documents (Manifests, Declarations, ...)
- Notification of the arrival of means of transport
- Secure and Private Data Analysis Online (OLAP) and Publication of Public Statistics
- Electronic payment of taxes

7.6 - Establishment and publication of Average Release Times

ASYCUDA Program and WCO: Memorandum of Understanding for Performance Indicators (Timestamps)
### Articles relating to the simplification of controls

**ASYCUDAWorld allows:**

5.1 - Notification for improvement of controls
- **send messages** (email, SMS) to users (operators, customs or other administrations)
- entry of inspection acts from mobile phones, tablets, ...

7.4 - Risk Management
- **automation of risk management:**
  - Random selection and selection parameters
  - Selection Criteria and Selection List
  - Assignment of declarations to sections and inspectors
- **multi-agency selection:**
  - To simplify and mutualize controls with other agencies (phytosanitary control for instance)
- **value control:**
  - Selection in a control lane if the minimum and maximum values are not respected
- **Post-control:**
  - Selection and display of general data and articles
  - Ability to display diagrams or export data in Excel or PDF format

### Articles on improving trade

**ASYCUDAWorld allows**

7.1 – Pre-arrival Processing
- acceptance of anticipated manifests and declarations relating to ships and passengers (in accordance with international regulations)

7.2 – Electronic Payment
- **electronic payment** via banks, via a one-stop shop or via the ASYCUDAWorld portal (setting up a secure WebService)

7.3 – Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges
- **management of :**
  - deferred payment (credit)
  - guarantees (warehouses, temporary admission, transit)
  - security deposit for other transactions
Articles relating to clearance formalities

10 - Formalities connected with to importation, exportation and transit

- ASYCUDAWorld allows:
  - Electronic transmission (EDI) or direct entry (DTI) by operators of customs documents
  - The ability to attach scanned documents
  - Re-use of data (XML format)
  - The application of international standards
  - The electronic signature
  - User rights management
  - Historization of document versions...

II - Freedom of transit

- ASYCUDAWorld allows the management of transit:
  - National, Regional and International
  - All modes of transport
  - Relationship between statements and documents of Transit T1
  - Automatic calculation of the guarantee
  - Integration of scanned documents
  - Interface with scanners
  - Control en route (office of passage)
  - Management of incidents, breakage, differences
  - Tracking deadlines

Other articles

7.7 - Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators
7.8 - Expedited Shipments
7.9 - Perishable Goods

- ASYCUDAWorld allows:
  - Specific selection (lists)
  - Simplified procedures
  - Management of credits and guarantees...

Article 8 - Border Agency Cooperation
Article 12 - Customs Cooperation

- ASYCUDAWorld allows:
  - Exchange data with other information systems (other agencies, Single Window for transit, declarations, certificate of origin ...)
  - Multi-agency selection
  - Send messages (SMS, emails) to operators, other agencies and customs officers
Agreement on Trade Facilitation (AFE)
Article 10.4 - Single Window

What is a Single Window?

**Single Window**: Major Reform of Trade Facilitation

✓ **Article 10.4 de l'Accord de sur la Facilitation des Echanges**

  * 4.1 - to submit documentation and/or data requirements … through a single entry point …. After the examination by the participating authorities or agencies …, the results shall be notified to the applicants through the single window …

  * 4.2 In cases where documentation and/or data requirements have already been received …. the same documentation and/or data requirements shall not be requested …. except in urgent circumstances…

  * 4.4 Members shall …. use information technology to support the single window.

✓ **Selon CEFACT/ONU (recommandation n°33)**

  * System allowing operators (trade / transport) to communicate standardized information and documents to a single point of entry in order to meet all the formalities required for import, export and transit.

  * If the information is on an electronic support, the individual data should only be submitted once.
Single Windows - Objectives

- Facilitate the transmission of data and documents electronically for trade and transport operator (1 transmission only)
- Institute or increase cooperation between Customs and other government agencies to share electronic documentation (1 point of entry)
- Mutualize control procedures (1 common control only)
- 0 displacement / 0 paper documents (dematerialization)

Reduce costs and time release of goods

Electronic Single Windows (e-GU)

- Harmonization of data
- Standardisation of documents
- Simplification of procedures
- Dematerialization of documents

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF DATA BETWEEN BUSINESS PARTNERS
FACILITATION OF BORDER PROCEDURES WITH ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS
REDUCTION IN COSTS AND DURATION OF OPERATIONS IMPORT EXPORT
OPTIMIZATION OF CONTROLS AND PLANNING
ASYCUDAWorld – Customs system in the center of the Single Window

Management and supervision of cross-border business operations

Financial institutions

Carriers

Trade operators (AEO)

Customs Brokers

Insurance

Precious metal guarantee

Technical control of vehicles

Defense (weapons)

Agriculture (food)

Chemicals (precursors)

Protection of species (CITES)

Airport / Port Authority

Statistical Agency

Public treasure

Health (drugs)

Technical Norms

Nuclear

Single Window – Initial situation

Economics operators

CUSTOMS & PORT
Ports, Commercial
Banks

Other Government
Agencies (Treasury,
Commerce, ...)

Documents submitted to several different administrations which each have a system (manual or automated) and their own paper forms
Single Window – Architecture

**Economics operators**

**e-GU**: allows the economic operators to submit documents electronically to a single point of entry. Public authorities transmit the authorizations electronically to the operator's computer.

**EXTRANET** - Other partners (Ports, Banks, ..)

**Other Government Agencies**

**Exchange platform**

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Single Window - keys of success

**Human factors:**
- Political will *(to mobilize administrations and other agencies)*
- Accession, involvement and cooperation of all public authorities and administrations
- Communication strategy

**Organization:**
- Legal framework *(model, security, confidentiality)* and clearly defined objectives
- Human Resources *(Steering Committee, Project Team)*
- Financial resources *(before, during and after)*

**Reforms**
- Analysis and re-engineering of "business" procedures *(specifications, simplification, Harmonization of documents and data)*

**Technological means**
- Dematerialization, Exchange of data
- Data security
Single Window in ASYCUDA
Example of Rwanda

E-SW in Rwanda – Witnessing of success

Rwanda
Rwanda (also accessible to other Customs Authorities and customs brokers within the East African Community)

- Reduced the time taken to clear goods from 34 hours in 2010 to 23 hours in 2014 – a 32% improvement.
- Reduced costs to importers from $350 per declaration to $243 – a 30% drop worth an estimated $2 million annually.
- Generates net savings of some $18 million per year.

(Supported by TradeMark East Africa.)
E-SW in Rwanda - Results

Since 2012

Objective: facilitate international trade by speeding up and simplifying the flow of information between operators and government institutions.

Web page connects customs, other government agencies and economics operators with ASYCUDAWorld
E-SW in Rwanda - Type of transactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Processus</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment incentives</td>
<td>Registration companies / Exemptions for investors</td>
<td>RDB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-Exoneration</td>
<td>Application and Authorization to exempt Ministries</td>
<td>Ministries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-Payment</td>
<td>Interface with commercial banks</td>
<td>Banks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Management</td>
<td>Integrated Risk Management for Other Governmental Agencies</td>
<td>OGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Warehouses</td>
<td>Transmit Manifest Data to Generate Arrival Notification</td>
<td>MAGERWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-manifest</td>
<td>Reception of manifests in advance (pre arrival)</td>
<td>Shipping companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notifications</td>
<td>Sending notifications with SMS &amp; email for transactions</td>
<td>MTN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-Phytosanitary</td>
<td>Online application and processing of phytosanitary certificate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxpayer registration</td>
<td>Receipt of information on taxpayers when registering</td>
<td>RDB / Tax Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agencies Licences</td>
<td>Agencies Licenses Application for License or Online Renewal</td>
<td>Customs Agencies and Carriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles with search notification</td>
<td>Comparison of the declaration data with the database of vehicles that have a search notice</td>
<td>Interpol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Registration</td>
<td>Issuing registration number and registration certificate from Tax Department</td>
<td>Tax Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit guaranty</td>
<td>Transmission of transit to COMESA and electronic issuance of COMESA carnets</td>
<td>COMESA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Single Windows with ASYCUDA

- **Jordania**
  - 7 Agencies (Ministries of Health, Commerce, etc.)
  - Multi-agency selection

- **Gibraltar**
  - Pre-arrival of boats, Port Authorities
  - Banks, Police, Fraud Control

- **Albania**
  - E-Taxes, Excise Management

- **Zimbabwe**
  - Banks, E-Taxes

- Other projects in progress: Ouganda, Kazakhstan, Jamaica, Burundi, Comoros
Thank you for your attention

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