



Role of the WCO in Implementation of the TFA

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MERCATOR PROGRAMME**

**IMPLEMENTING THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT**

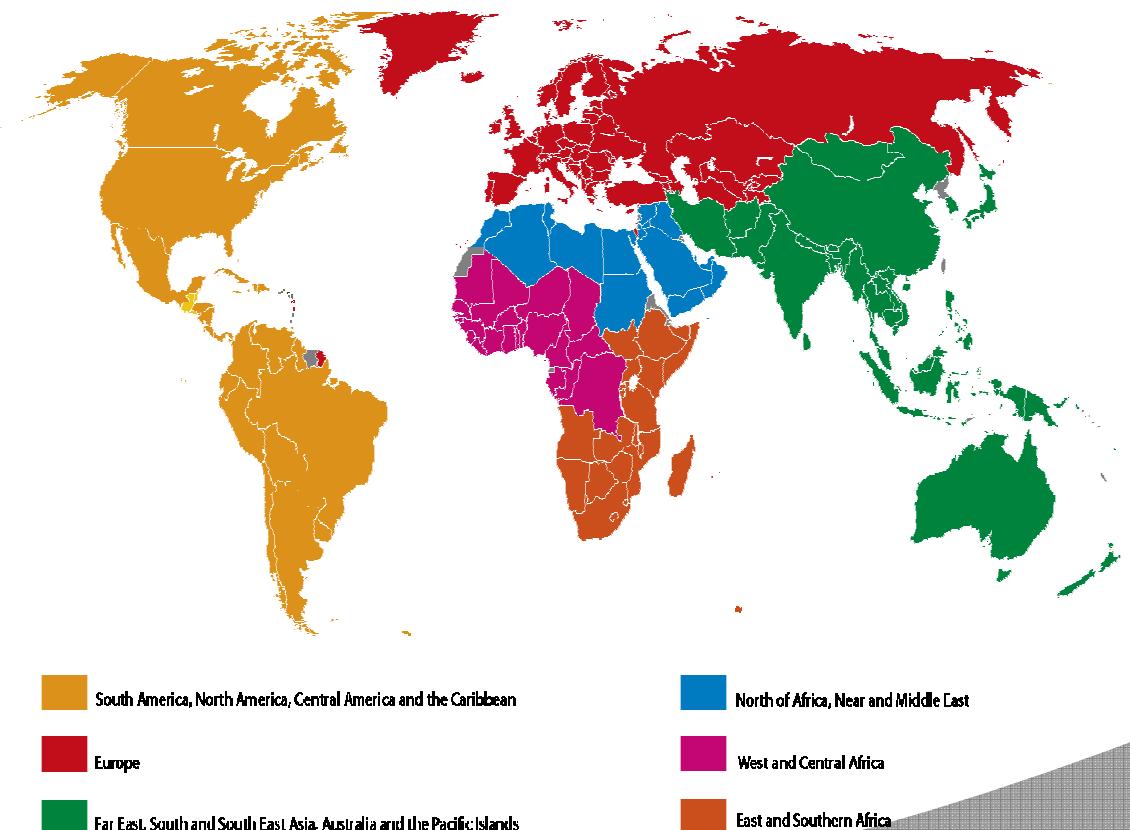
**29 MAY- 2 JUNE 2017**  
**LOMÉ, TOGO**

# Presentation Contents

- *Missions of the Organization*
- *Role to the implementation of TFA*
- *Mercator Programme*
- *Instruments and Tools (various)*
- *Activities, including TACB, meetings*
- *Coordination with WTO Annex D Organizations.*

# An Organization with Global Reach

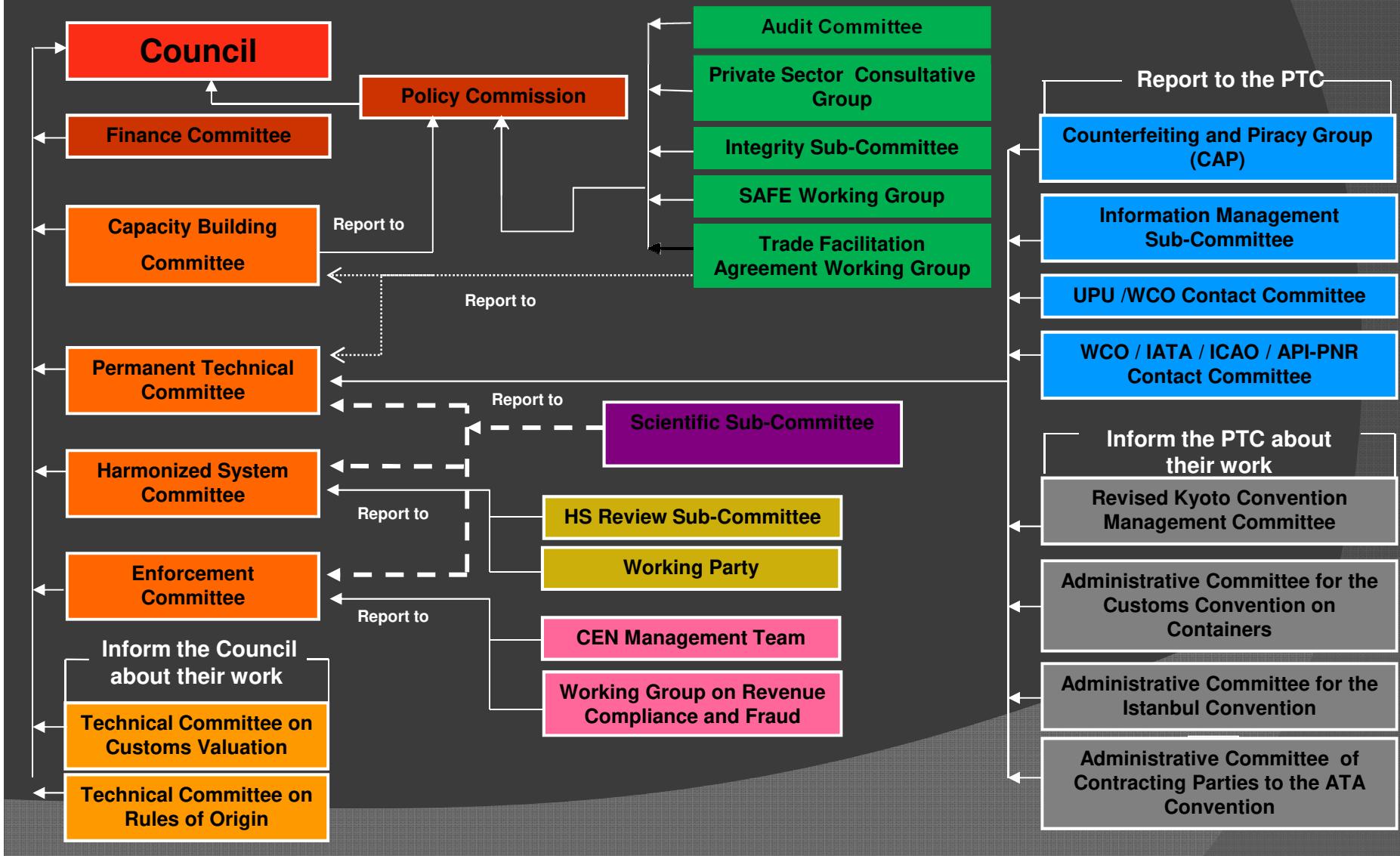
**180 Members in 6 regions, responsible for processing 98% of international trade** (\* plus the European Union which, since July 2007, has rights akin to those of a WCO Member for matters falling within its competences as an interim measure.)

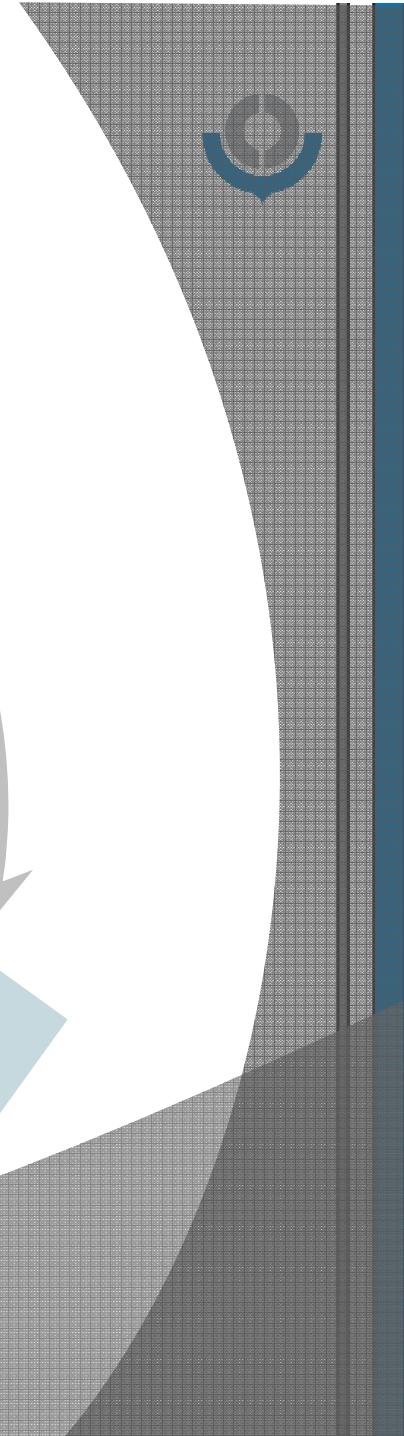
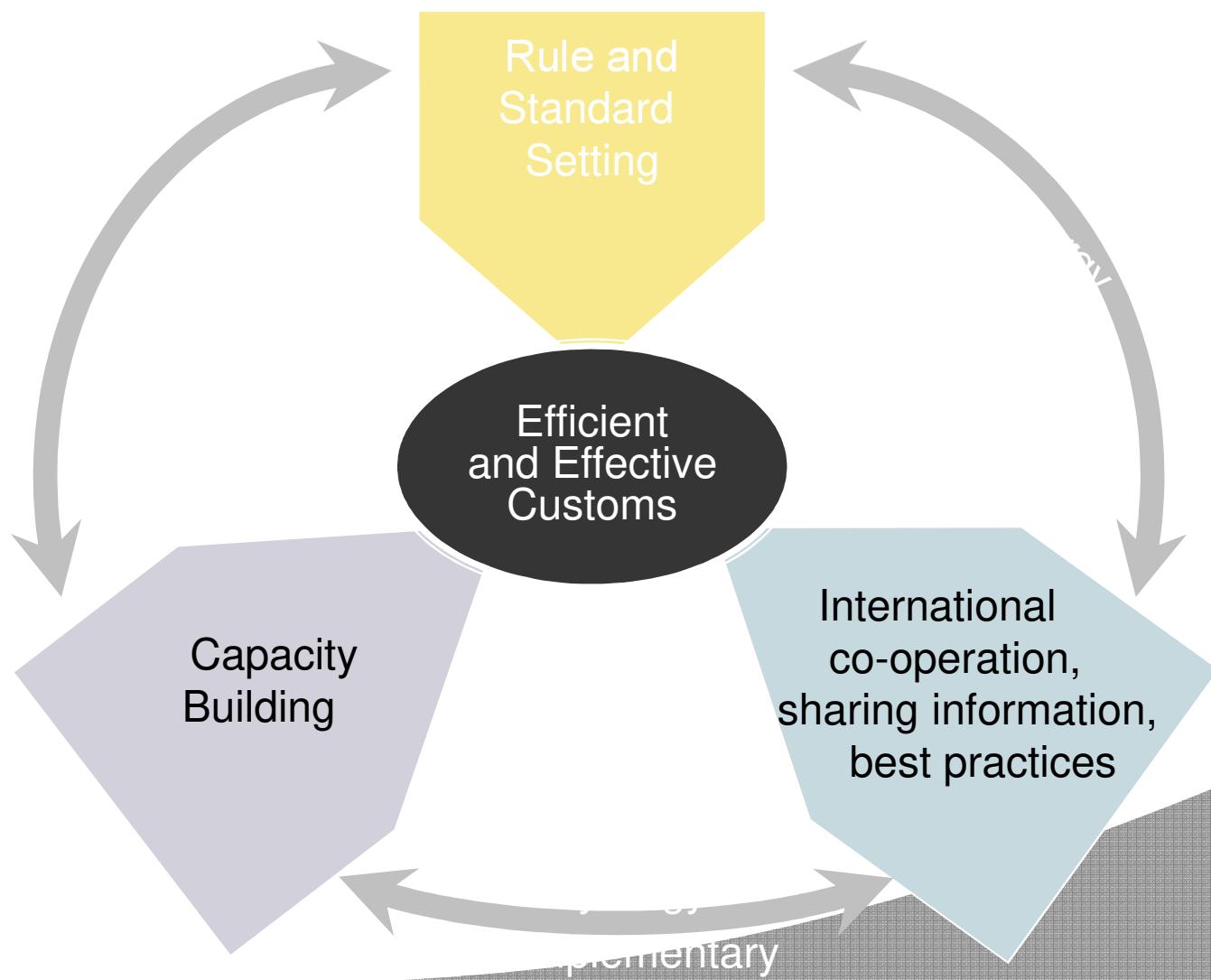


# WCO Mission

- To study all questions relating to co-operation in Customs matters
- To examine the technical aspects of Customs systems with a view to attaining the highest possible degree of harmony and uniformity
- To prepare Conventions and amendments to Conventions
- To make recommendations to ensure the uniform interpretation and application of the Conventions
- To furnish information or advice
- To help its Members to respond to modern challenges
- To co-operate with other inter-governmental organizations

# Working bodies





# WCO Mercator Programme

- ◎ Launched at the 123/124 WCO Council

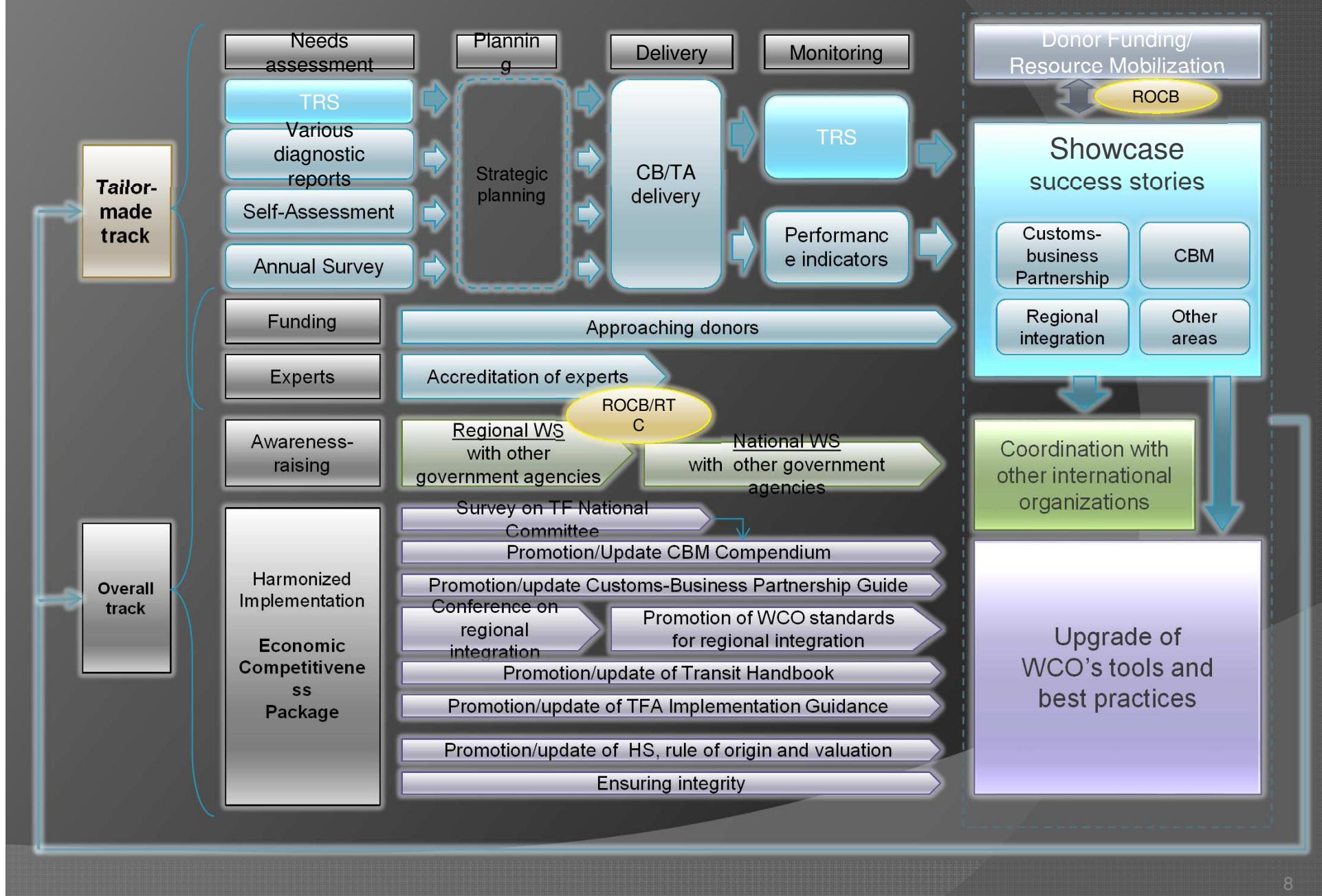
- ◎ **Key objectives:**

- support implementation of TFA;
- ensure connectivity by adoption of global standards;
- enhance TF and revenue collection;
- promote TF whilst ensuring compliance

- ◎ **Benefits:**

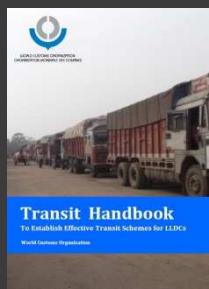
- costs reduced;
- improved trade environment and expanded trade volumes; growth of national economies through economic competitiveness;
- increased customs revenue

# Mercator Programme



# WCO tools to support TFA

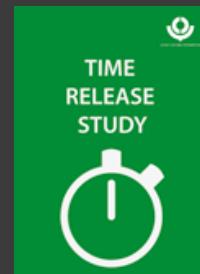
The WCO has developed a number of instruments and tools, which respond to Members' needs as regards TFA implementation. The WCO is continuing to develop and fine-tune an inter-active guidance tool designed to help Customs implement the TFA.



Transit Handbook



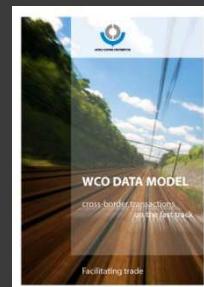
SAFE Framework of Standards



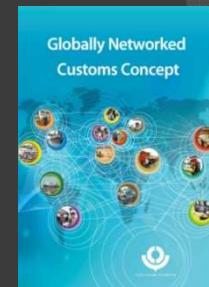
Time Release Study Guide



Single Window Compendium



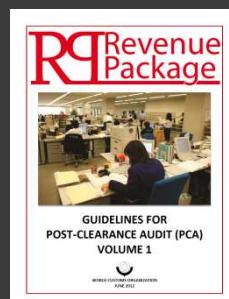
Data Model



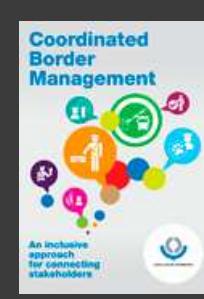
Globally Networked Customs



Risk Management Compendium



Post Clearance Audit Guidelines



CBM Compendium



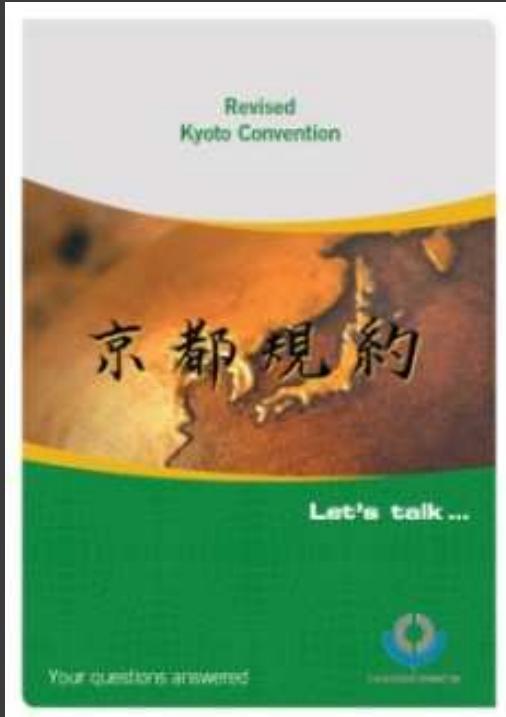
Project Map Database



Capacity Building Development Compendium



# WCO Main Instrument to support TFA

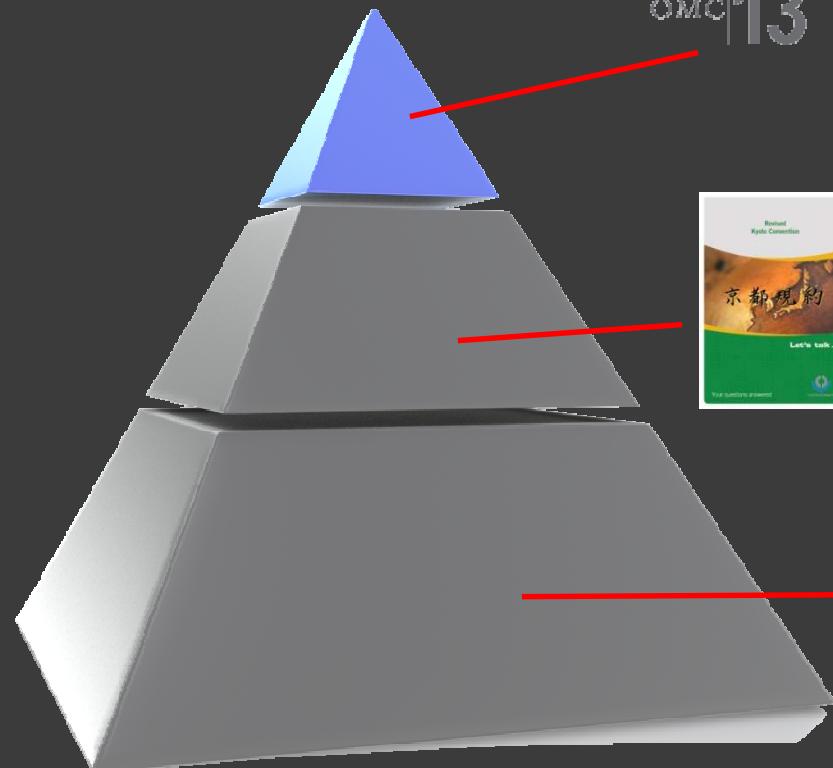


- The WCO Council adopted the revised Kyoto Convention in June 1999 as the blueprint for modern and efficient Customs procedures in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Currently 105 Contracting Parties
- Often referred during the WTO negotiation on trade facilitation



# How the WCO Tool Supporting the TFA

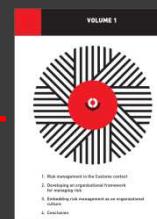
## Example – Risk Management



Article 7.4: Each Member shall, to the extent possible, 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 Implementation Guidance to the WTO TFA

## Implementation Guidance

### **The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the WCO Mercator Programme Approach to Implementation**

The “**WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the WCO Mercator Programme Approach to Implementation**” provides an overview of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), the history behind it, the key steps required for accession to and compliance with the TFA, including sequencing of implementation, provision of technical assistance/capacity building (TA/CB) and monitoring, bringing forth the lessons learnt under the WCO’s TA/CB activities and national best practices shared by Members, as well as TFA-related recommendations stemming from WCO working bodies. It also pulls together relevant open-source information. The INTRODUCTION may serve as support and a potential capacity building tool for both Members and experts in providing support in TFA implementation.”

### **Implementation Guidance for Section I**

To support the harmonized implementation of the TFA by using core WCO instruments and tools, the WCO released an Implementation Guidance for Section I. For each TFA Article, it contains the following categories of information: Overview; Text of the TFA Article; relevant RKC Standards and RKC Guidelines; other relevant WCO tools; Member practices; and performance indicators. Select an article below to view more information

### **National Committees on Trade Facilitation (NCTF)**

This NCTF Guidance aims to advise Members on the requirements of Article 23.2 of the TFA, and to provide basic guidance on an efficient structure of an NCTF based on Members' good practices and experiences. [Click here](#) for Guidance. This guidance on the establishment and maintenance of NCTFs supplements many WCO tools that already support the implementation of the TFA and related cooperation of all stakeholders - including (but not limited to) the TFA Implementation Guidance



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in the WCO Capacity Building Development Compendium, the CBM and Single window Compendiums; the WCO Data Model (offering standardized data for Customs, border agencies and the private sector); and the Time Release Study approach (as a means to identify bottlenecks of cooperation of Customs, other border agencies and the private sector in border procedures).

Search articles:  

<b>Article 1</b> Publication and availability of information 	<b>Article 2</b> Opportunity to comment, information before entry into force and consultations 	<b>Article 3</b> Advance rulings 
<b>Article 4</b> Procedures for appeal or review 	<b>Article 5</b> Other measures to enhance impartiality, non discrimination and transparency 	<b>Article 6</b> Disciplines on fees and charges imposed on or in connection with importation and exportation and penalties 
<b>Article 7</b> Release and clearance of goods 	<b>Article 8</b> Border agency cooperation 	<b>Article 9</b> Movement of Goods Intended for Import Under Customs Control 
<b>Article 10</b> Formalities connected with importation and exportation and transit 	<b>Article 11</b> Freedom of transit 	<b>Article 12</b> Customs cooperation 

[Download - Offline Implementation Guidance](#)

You are here: [World Customs Organization](#) • [Topics](#) • [WCO IMPLEMENTING THE WTO TFA](#) • [Implementation Guidance](#)

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/wco-implementing-the-wto-atf/atf.aspx>

# WCO tool to assist active involvement



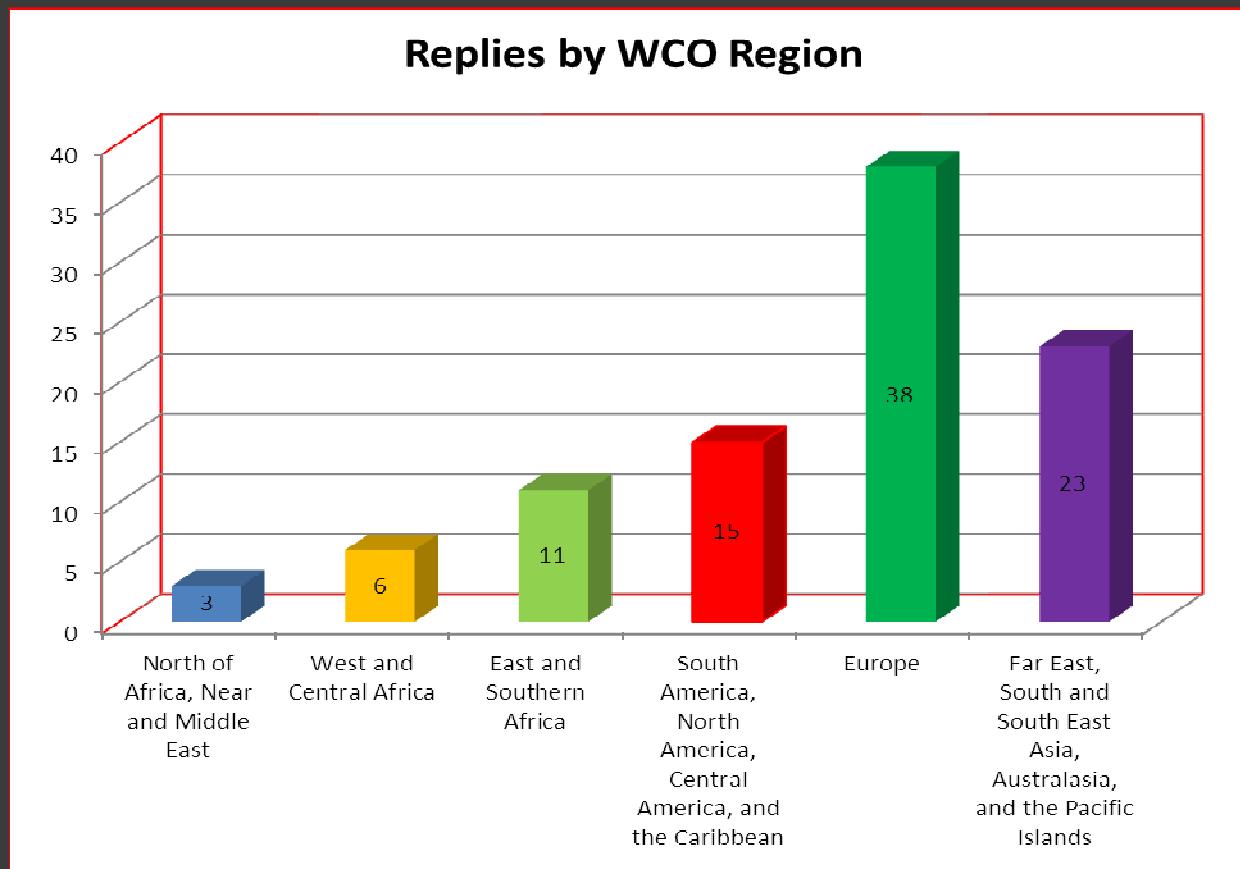
Article 23.2  
of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement  
**A WCO Guidance to NCTF**  
A WCO Guidance  
September 2015

- A WCO Guidance is under developed aiming to help its Members to be actively involved and play key role in the trade facilitation body
- Survey on the current situation of WCO Member administrations
- Coordination with other parties both from government and private.

***Active involvement in NCTF has been encouraged***

# Study Report on Customs Brokers

- 96 Members



# Survey feedbacks

Customs brokers who act on behalf of traders to handle Customs clearance and related activities?

92

4

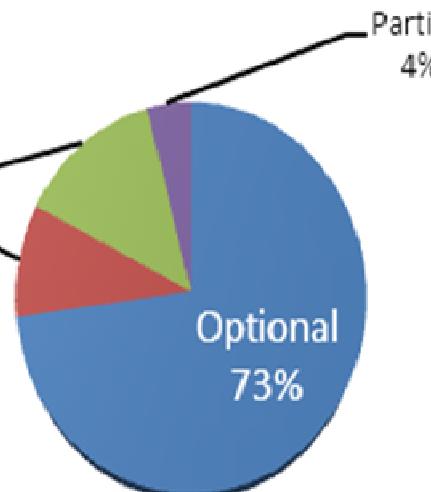
Yes

No

## Usage of Customs brokers

Mandatory  
, except in  
certain  
cases 14%

Mandatory  
9%



# WCO Cooperation on Customs Brokers

- 46<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ASAPRA held in Panama City, Panama, November 2015.
- WCO's leadership recognized in fostering a positive environment that promotes Customs modernization and economic competitiveness.
- further explore areas where Customs and Customs brokers can cooperate more effectively to enhance trade facilitation and improve compliance, in particular with a view of strengthening capacity and professionalism.

# WCO Activities

- Working Group on TFA
- TACB
- E-learning courses
- Network of accredited experts
- WCO CCF

## ACTIVITIES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ASSISTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TFA

- Updated Implementation Guidance for TFA
- 6 Regional Workshops 2015, and follow-up 2016;
- Study Report on Customs Brokers and Revision of RKC;
- WTO Public Forum;
- Regional level activities: Statement between WCO and China Customs at Xi'an Forum, supporting “one belt, one road” Initiative, 2015
- Accreditation of Mercator Programme Advisors (MPA), two phases Project; more than 120 Tailor-made TACB activities conducted;



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**Thank You for Your Attention**