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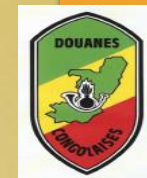
WORLD
CUSTOMS
ORGANIZATION

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WCO-WCA VICE-PRESIDENCY

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Office of the Vice-President of the World Customs Organization
for the West and Central Africa Region



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**REGIONAL STRUCTURES SUMMARY REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES OF WORLD CUSTOMS
ORGANIZATION FOR WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION
WCO/WCAR**

By M. Etienne SAMA II
Technical Advisor Vice-chair WCO/WCAR

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1. Review of activities carried out by the ROCB-WCA (2019 - 2020)

- ✓ The survey on the priorities of customs administrations in the WCO-WCA Region in terms of Technical and Financial Assistance to respond to the crisis linked to COVID-19;
- ✓ The Self-Assessment of the 2019 Roadmap;
- ✓ Preparation of reports, publication of the Regional Information Bulletin ;
- ✓ The workshop to validate the study on the training of executives of tax and customs administrations of ECOWAS member states, the development of the Regional Action Plan, the 3rd Conference of Customs and development partners in the WCO-WAR, the virtual meeting of DGs: Election of the new Vice-President of the WCO-WCA region, etc.

2. The results achieved

- The popularization of the skills approach in the region and the development of the Ouagadougou declaration at the 9th workshop for human resources and training managers helped to boost the professionalism and modernization of the region's customs HRM WCA;
- Acquisition of funding for the regional workshop on data analysis and the regional workshop on electronic commerce (projects initiated by the ROCB).

3. Perspectives and recommendations

❖ **Outlook:**

- The implementation of the ZLECAF as well as the AFE by the customs administrations of the WCO / WCA Region;
- Updating the Regional Strategic Plan 2018-2022 and the general strategy document on the role of the Contact Points;
- The implementation of the HR strategy based on the competence of the ROCB-WCA.

❖ **Recommendations:**

- Drive the professionalization and HR modernization of customs administrations in the region by setting up an HR strategy based on skills;
- Invite customs administrations to carry out the roadmap self-assessment exercise in order to assess their performance and guide capacity building needs;
- Invite customs administrations to participate in regional workshops organized in the region in collaboration with partners as part of capacity building;
- Solicit the support of the Vice-Chair of WCO-WCAR and customs administrations to appoint Technical Attache to work at ROCB, principally anglophone and lusophone countries ;
- Develop initiatives to ensure the motivation of ROCB staff (financial, material and promotional).

II. REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS (RTC) ACTIVITY REPORTS

A. Activity report

1. Brazzaville RTC (2020 - 2021)

☐ At the national level:

- meetings of the Directorate General of Customs and the Permanent Secretariat of the Committee in charge of modernization;
- the mission to France led by the DGs of Congo for the signing of a customs cooperation memorandum of understanding with France;
- the organization of the International Customs Day (ICD), January 26, 2020, etc.

☐ At the regional and international level:

- the 24th Conference of Directors General of Customs of the WCO West and Central Africa region, from March 13 to 15, 2019 in Bangui, Central African Republic;
- the 10th meeting of contact points for capacity building of customs administrations in the WCO West and Central Africa region, from September 24 to 26, 2019 in Kinshasa, DR Congo;
- at the 15th world meeting of Regional Offices for Capacity Building (ROCB), Regional Training Centers (CRF) and Offices of Vice Presidents at its headquarters, rue du Marché, 30, B-1210 Brussels, from 2 to 3 March 2020;
- the WCO PICARD Conference online, from 23 to 26 November 2020;
- the 83rd session of the CPG which took place from Monday December 7 to Wednesday December 9, 2020, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Brussels time);
- the 137th session of the Council in virtual mode, which took place from Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 December 2020;
- the Extraordinary Virtual Meeting of Directors General of Customs for West and Central Africa (WCO-WCA), held on Tuesday, December 29, 2020;

Despite the pandemic linked to the corona virus which disrupted the organization of certain activities, the Brazzaville RTC attended 2/3 of these activities.

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2. Ouagadougou RTC

- ✓The 2020 activity report of the RTC Ouaga was executed in a small difficult context;
- ✓Certain activities, initially planned in its program of activities, have not been carried out following the COVID 19 pandemic (case of activities to be carried out within this structure);
- ✓The RTC Ouaga has revised its strategic plan and a consultancy firm is currently supporting it in order to develop training curricula for the administrations of the Region;
- ✓In terms of the region's statutory activities:
 - ✓The 22nd World Meeting of Regional Structures of the WCO;
 - ✓The 11th session of the capacity building committee, from 02 to 06 March 2020 in Brussels;
 - ✓The virtual meeting of the Directors General of Customs of the World Customs Organization Region for West and Central Africa (WCO-WCA), held on September 24, 2020 etc.

3. Abuja RTC

- ✓Under the jurisdiction of the Nigeria Customs Command and Staff College;
- ✓Inactive position since the departure of the former Director.

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B. Outlook

- ✓ In terms of outlook, we can note:
- ✓ The start of studies related to the construction of the National Customs School which will house the WCO-RTC of Brazzaville;
- ✓ The finalization of the terms of reference relating to the rotation of activities in the three RTCs to be presented to the meeting of the committee of experts;
- ✓ Development of a training plan;
- ✓ The implementation of training modules intended for all customs administrations in the Region.

C. Difficulties encountered

❑ Major difficulties:

- ✓ The impact of the health crisis linked to COVID-19;
- ✓ Insufficient financial and material resources;
- ✓ The absence of a normative text relating to the status of the structure.

❑ Recommendation:

- ✓ The RTCs invite the CG of Nigeria Customs services to formally appoint a Director at the Head of the Abuja RTC in order to relaunch the activities of the said structure;
- ✓ The RTCs invite the Conference of DGs to adopt the draft statutes, missions and functioning of regional structures.

III. ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE REGIONAL INFORMATION LIAISON OFFICES FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA (RILO-WCA)

Review of the activities of the RILOs in the OMD / WCA Region

1. RILO-WA (2020-2021)

☐ Participation in activities:

- Statutory meetings of the WCA Region (11th joint (virtual) meeting of the national correspondents of the RILO-WAC, from March 16 to 18, 2021...);
- The statutory meetings of the WCO (the 27th global meeting of the RLOs, from 21 to 22 January 2020 in Brussels followed by the meeting of CENMat, from 23 to 24 January 2020; the 40th meeting of the Enforcement Committee, from 24 to February 28, 2020 in Brussels, Belgium);
- Activities specific to the RILO-WCA (intelligence seminar, technical assistance missions, operation CRIPHARM 5);
- Other activities initiated by the WCO and its partners.

☐ CEN data in the context of COVID-19 (2020 - March 2021):

- The member countries of the BRLR-AO carried out 700 cases of seizures;
- These are weapons, quotes, drugs, chemicals and dual-use goods, drugs and narcotics, etc.

2. RILO-CA (March 2019 - March 2021)

❑The activities initiated:

- ✓Capacity building seminars, technical assistance missions on intelligence;
- ✓The issuance of alert messages;
- ✓The development and dissemination of newsletter and analysis.

❑Participation in meetings:

- ✓The statutory meetings of the WCO / WCA region (11th joint (virtual) meeting of the National Correspondents of the RILO-WCA, from 16 to 18 March 2021 etc.);
- ✓WCO statutory meetings (The WCO Virtual Conference on Risk Management, September 19, 2020 etc.);
- ✓Activities organized by other institutions and Administrations (Webinar on the use of the Africa-Twix platform organized by the NGO TRAFFIC, on October 15, 2020, the 11th virtual meeting of the protected areas and wildlife sub-working group organized by COMIFAC, from 02 to 04 November 2020 etc.)

❑Results obtained:

- ✓ improvement of collaboration and cooperation between the BRLR-AC with other structures (RILO, COMIFAC, INTERPOL, NGO TRAFFIC, member countries, etc.), the creation of intelligence services by certain Administrations, the increase and improvement of the quality of the data entered in the CEN.

❑CEN data (January 2019 to March 2021): 162 seizures.

B. Prospects (next steps) for RILO-WCA

As a perspective, the two (02) plan to:

- ✓Organize Operations CRIPHARM 6 & ALAMBA;
- ✓Periodically produce newsletters and analysis to identify fraud trends at the regional level;
- ✓Continue to improve the number and quality of alerts issued and Store alerts, publications and anti-fraud activities in the CENcomm library (RILO-WCA forum;
- ✓Produce the monthly hit parade of the best NCs from the Administrations of the member countries;
- ✓Continue the process of popularizing the WCO tools dedicated to the fight against fraud (CEN, nCEN, CENcomm, etc.);
- ✓Continue the Technical Assistance missions on intelligence;
- ✓Monitoring and evaluation of the achievements of seminars and anti-fraud operations;
- ✓Draft the Terms of Reference for Operation Senghor on cultural property.

C. DIFFICULTIES & RECOMMENDATIONS OF RILOs-WCA

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❖ **Some difficulties encountered:**

- ✓ A deficit in terms of qualified personnel (Technical Attachés);
- ✓ A weak supply of the CEN by the National Correspondents (NCP) because of either a lack of training or an instability at the NCP post in some Administrations;
- ✓ Low solicitation of the RILO by certain Administrations;
- ✓ A lack of financial, human and material resources.

❖ **Recommendations:**

▪ **To the WCO Secretariat & Vice-Presidency of:**

- ✓ Support the RILOs in the organization of regional operations (Operations CRIPHARM 6, ALAMBA and SENGHOR);
- ✓ Organize a regional training of trainers workshop on Intelligence and Risk Analysis;
- ✓ Organize a regional training of trainers workshop on Intelligence and Security;
- ✓ Facilitate the process of more enhanced cooperation between the RILO-CA and other regional structures (AU, ECCAS, CEMAC, GABAC, EIA,) in matters of intelligence, the fight against fraud and capacity building;
- ✓ Support from the Vice-Presidency to member administrations so that colleagues are seconded as Technical Attachés to the RILO-WA

▪ **At the location of the Customs Administrations of:**

- ✓ Formally appoint a National Correspondent and inform the RILO-CA with a copy to the WCO and the WCO-WCAR Vice-Chair, particularly with regard to Chad;
- ✓ Speed up the procedure for signing the framework instruction on intelligence with a view to its implementation at the national level;
- ✓ Assign the Technical Attachés at the RILO-WCA headquarters;
- ✓ Support NCPs in the performance of their missions, particularly with regard to information gathering and the transmission of intelligence.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENNTION!