

# World Customs Organization

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement  
Implementation Support

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**Borders divide, Customs connects**

- Dynamically leading modernization and connectivity in a rapidly changing world -





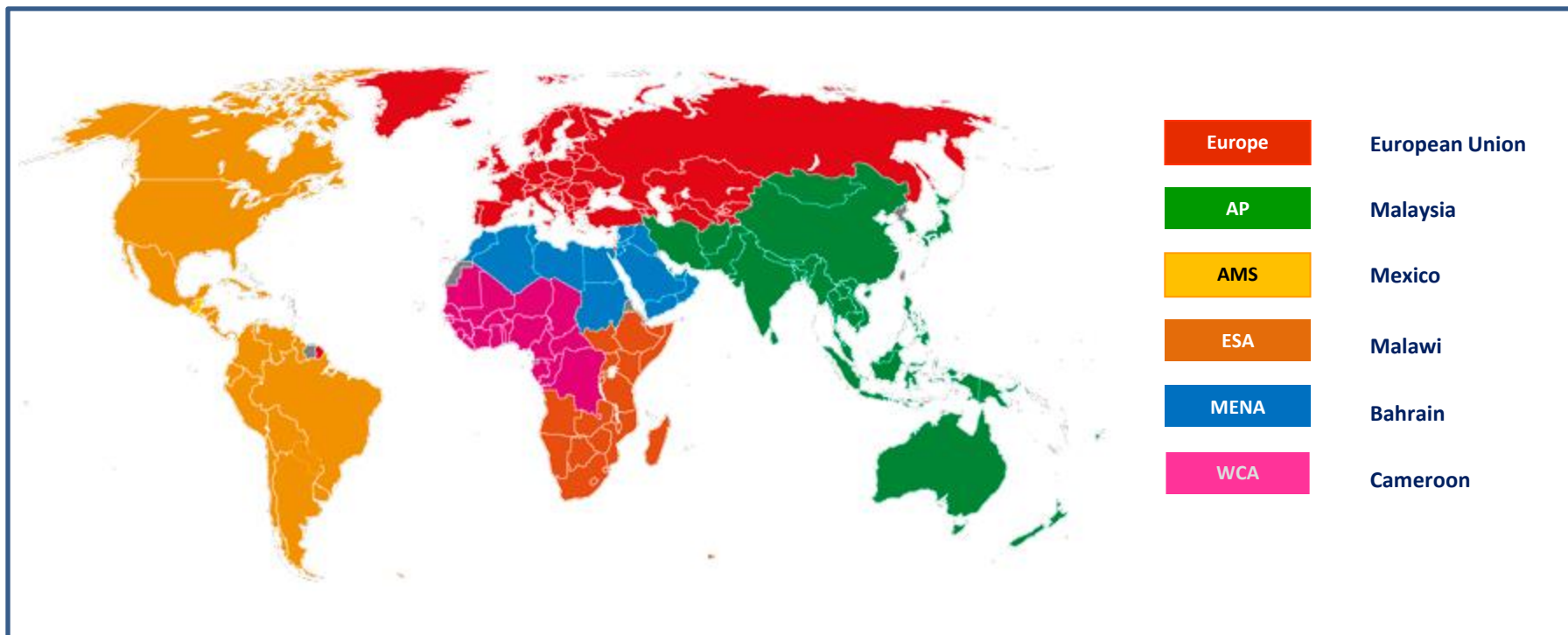
## COVERAGE

- ⇒ About the WCO
- ⇒ WCO's role in trade facilitation
- ⇒ The role of Customs in TFA implementation
- ⇒ WCO initiatives to support TFA implementation
  - ✓ Mercator Programme
  - ✓ WCO Tools & Instruments to support TFA implementation: some examples
  - ✓ Effective Coordination – TFAWG
  - ✓ Recent Initiatives to support TFA implementation
- ⇒ Conclusion

# About the World Customs Organisation (WCO)

.....an organization with global reach...

*180\* Members divided into 6 regions,  
responsible for processing 99% of international trade*



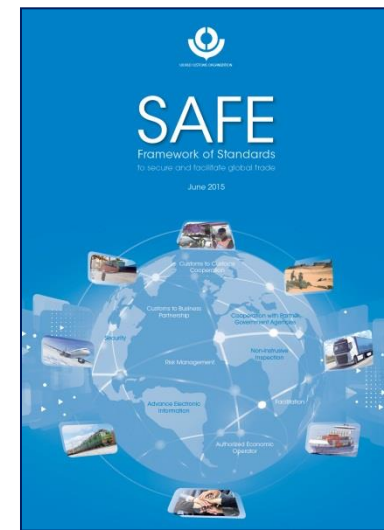
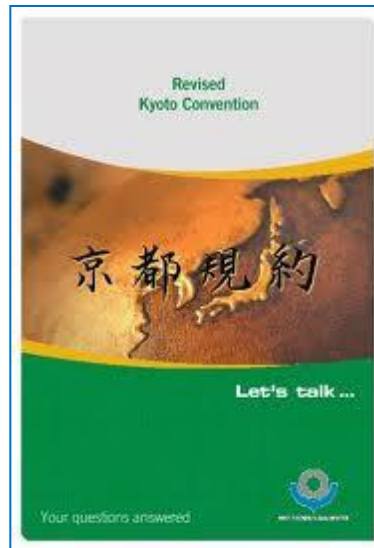
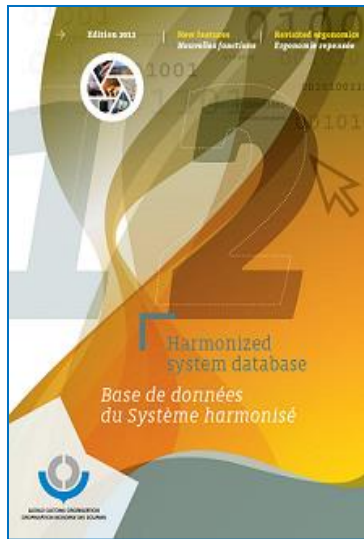
\* Plus the European Union which, since July 2007, has rights akin to those of a WCO Member for matters falling within its competences as an interim measure



# About the WCO

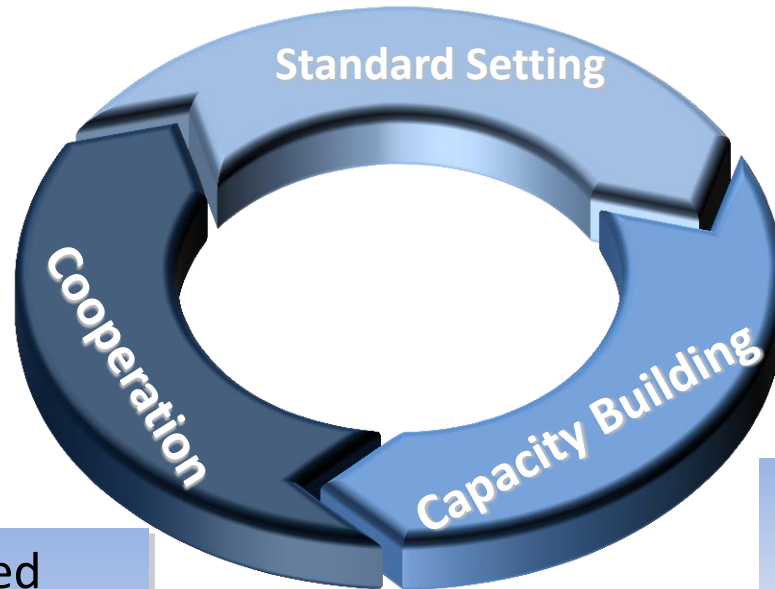
## Mission

...to provide leadership, guidance and support to Customs administrations to secure and facilitate legitimate trade, realize revenues, protect society and build capacity



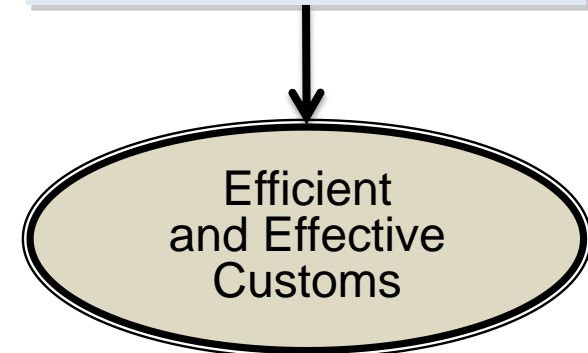
# WCO's Role in Trade Facilitation

✓ Capability and responsibility for global standard setting for Customs

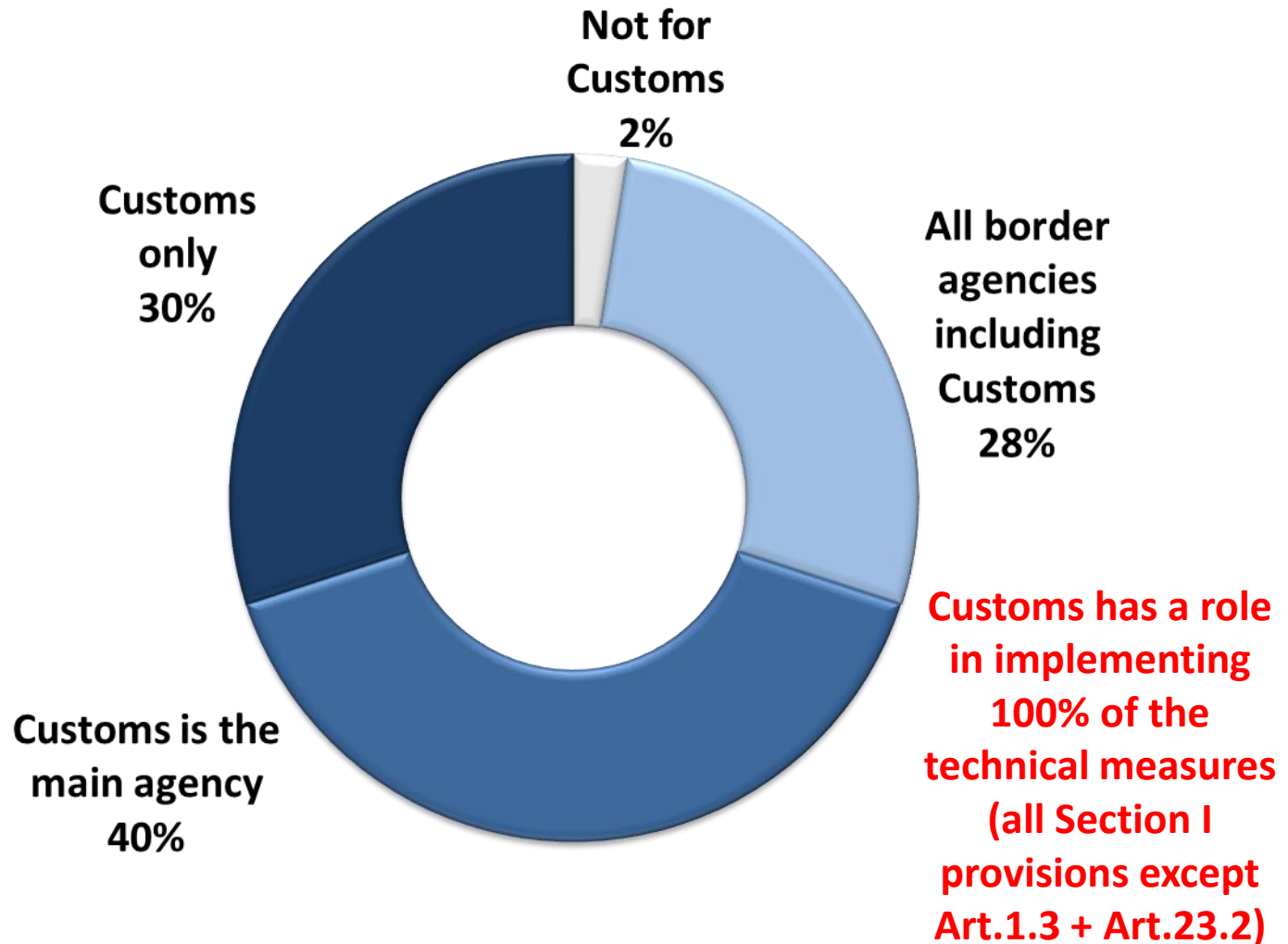


✓ Network of accredited experts from Customs Administrations  
✓ Cooperation with other international organizations and other agencies

✓ Capacity Building / Technical Assistance delivery



# The role of Customs in TFA implementation



# WCO INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT TFA IMPLEMENTATION

December  
2013



The WTO concluded the **Trade Facilitation Agreement** at the Ministerial Conference.



December  
2013



The WCO adopted the **Dublin Resolution** to emphasize the WCO's commitment to the efficient implementation of TFA at the Policy Commission.



March  
2014



1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the **TFA Working Group**



June  
2014



The WCO adopted the **Mercator Programme** to ensure its strategic initiative to support Trade Facilitation.



# Mercator Programme – Key Objectives



**Awareness raising and Tailor-made technical assistance and capacity building**



**Aimed at assisting Government worldwide to implement WTO TFA in Harmonized manner based on WCO's global standards**



**Effective coordination among all stakeholders**



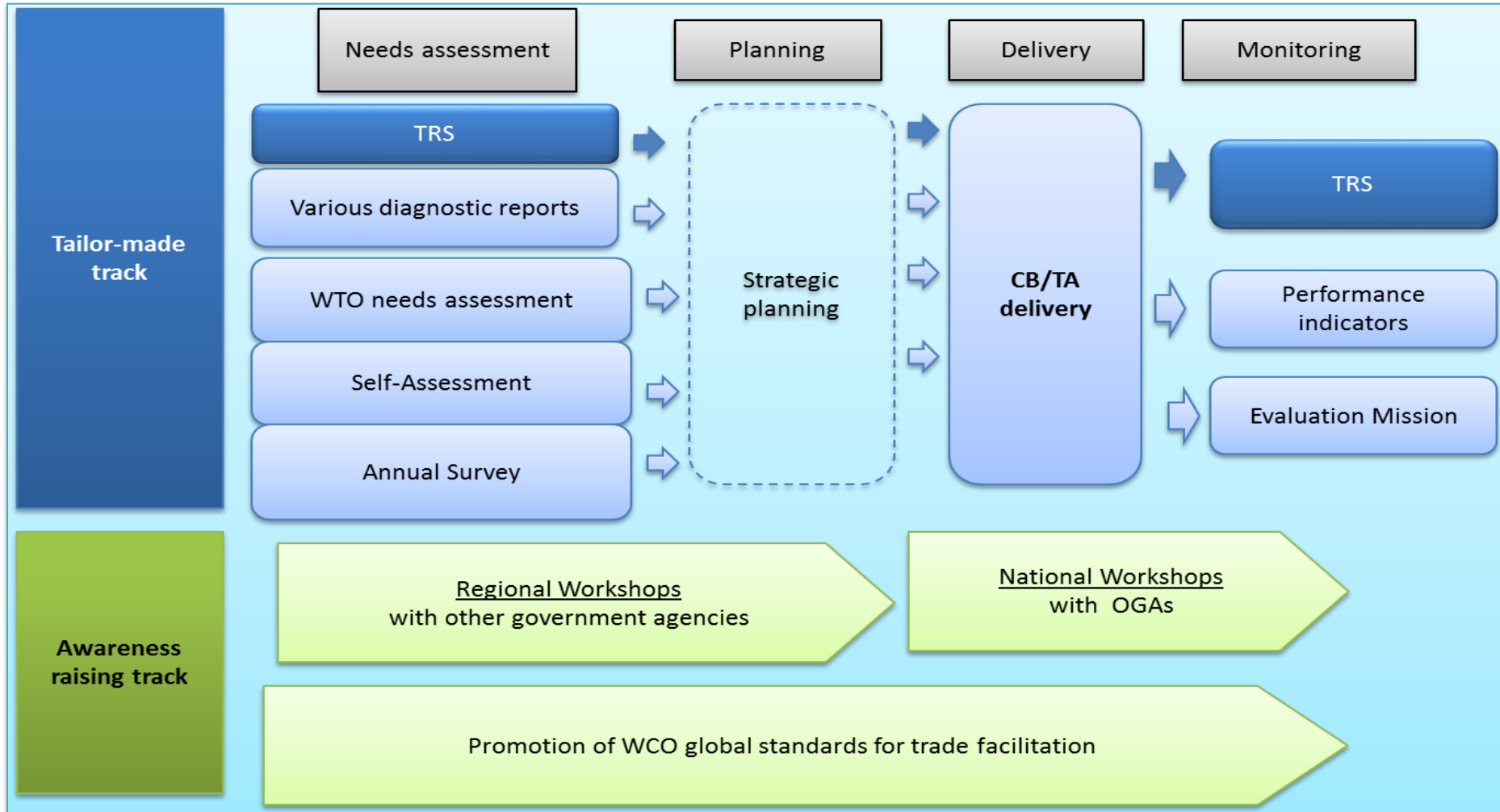
**Beneficial for developing and least developed countries, all government agencies, donor institutions and private sector**



# Support for WTO TFA Implementation

## Mercator Programme

- Focusses on assisting members to implement the WTO TFA
- Two track approach



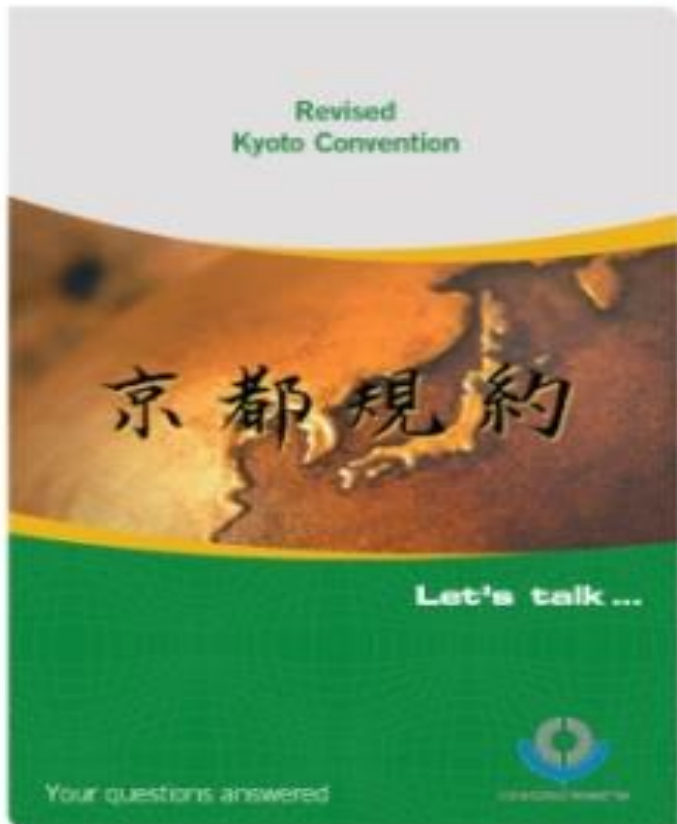
# WCO Tools & Instrument to support TFA

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 update the guidance tools designed to help Customs implement the TFA.

## Some Examples – RKC

### Main Instrument

- 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.
- Was the basis for the TFA negotiations
- **Currently 103 Contracting Parties**



# WCO Tools to Support TFA Implementation

## TFA Implementation Guidance

Launched in May 2014 on WCO website to support WCO Members in their efforts to implement the TFA

TRADE  
FACILITATION

WCO IMPLEMENTING  
WTO TFA



- Presents the relevance and links with WCO instruments and tools such as the Revised Kyoto Convention for TFA implementation
- Links with other WTO agreements (SPS, TBT and Valuation), where applicable
- ICT considerations, where applicable

Available in:

**English**

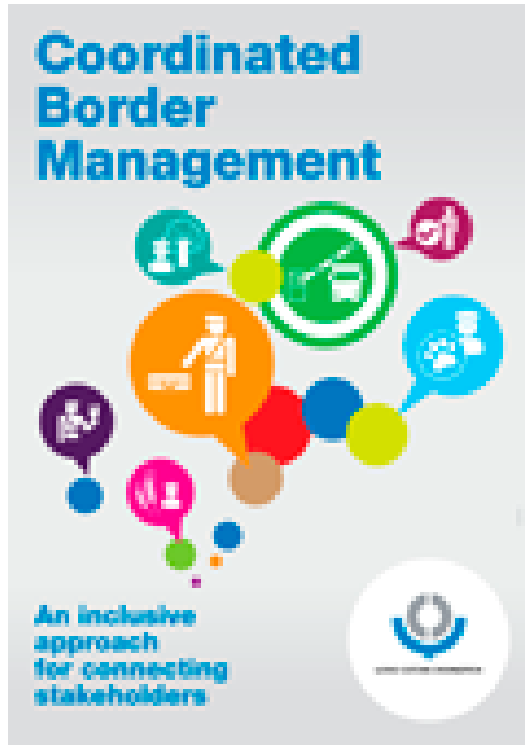
**French**

**Spanish**

- **RECENTLY UPDATED**
- **COMPREHENSIVE INTRODUCTION ADDED**

# WCO Tools to Support TFA Implementation

## Some Examples – Coordinated Border Management- Art.8

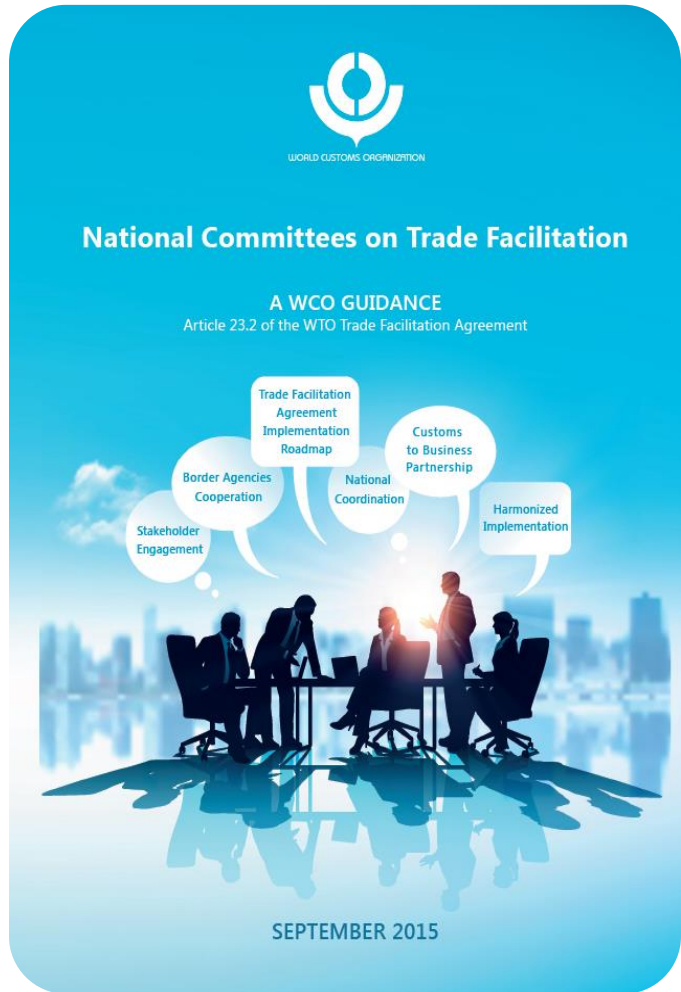


2015 was the WCO Year of Coordinated Border Management (CBM), a year in which Customs administrations were encouraged to actively promote the partnerships they have built to improve and expedite border processing.

Under the slogan “Coordinated Border Management - An inclusive approach for connecting stakeholders”, the WCO signaled the international Customs community’s aspiration to further enhance its collaboration, cooperation and working relationships with its many partners.

# WCO Tools to Support TFA Implementation

## Some Examples – National Committees on Trade Facilitation: Art.23.2



- WCO also actively supporting Members in the establishment and maintenance of NCTFs
- Initiated Survey on TFA NCTFs in Dec 2014
- NCTF guidance tool informed by results of the Survey

### NCTF Guidance Tool

- Endorsed by the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the TFAWG as a living document to be regularly updated based on best practice and Member experiences with NCTFs
- Recently updated to include:
  - ✓ current data from WCO Survey results on role of Customs in NCTFs
  - ✓ Single Window and data Harmonisation as a subject to be addressed by NCTFs
  - ✓ New Annex 7 introduces sample action plan on how to build a SW environment and conduct data harmonisation
  - ✓ Updated annex on number of established NCTFs globally



# Effective Coordination - Working Group

The TFAWG is the platform for Members to share experiences regarding the implementation of the TFA among the WCO's 180 Members, coordinate with the donor community, engage with other international organizations and bodies, as well as with the private sector.

-Formed for the purpose of taking up the practical aspects of meeting expectations arising out of the TFA;

-Reports to the **Policy Commission** on policy matters and to the **Permanent Technical Committee** and **Capacity Building Committee** on technical matters.

**5<sup>th</sup> Session held  
29 February – 1 March 2016**



# Recent WCO Activities to support TFA Implementation

## Progress with Mercator Programme Implementation

- **TFA regional awareness workshops:** it was held in all 6 WCO regions. Detailed feedback was given to the TFA working group under doc PT0039E1 of the TFAWG meeting on 29 February 2016.
- **Accreditation workshops for Mercator Programme Advisors:** 4 workshops were held in Europe, America's ESA and WCA planned the near future. A refresher workshop was held in China.
- **Two new e-learning tools:** TFA e-learning course that is based on the implementation guidance and an Article 11- Transit e-learning course that is based on the WCO Transit handbook
- **Partnership Agreements**
  - **HMRC-WCO-UNCTAD:** TFA Capacity Building Program
  - **WCO-FINLAND:** Phase 2 of the WCO-ESA *Building Trade Capacity through Customs Modernisation Project*

### MC10 Side Event

- WCO SG delivered communication from the international customs community to the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference on the implementation of the WTO TFA and Customs central role in trade facilitation

# Recent WCO Activities to support TFA Implementation under the Mercator Programme (Cont'd)

Region	Type of Support	Beneficiary	No. of Missions 2015-2016	
			Delivered	Planned
AMS	NCTF	Regional	1	
	RKC	National	2	
AP	TFA(related)	Regional	1	6
		National	2	
	RKC	National	1	3
Europe	RKC	National	1	4
ESA	NCTF	National		1
	TFA(related)	Regional	1	2
		National	2	2
	RKC	National		3
MENA	NCTF	Regional		1
	TFA(related)	Regional	1	
		National	3	2
	RKC	National		2
WCA	NCTF	National	2	1
	TFA(related)	Regional		1
		National	3	5
	RKC	National		1
Total Regional Support			4	10
Total National support			16	24
Total Support activities (54)			20	34

**ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN WITH SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

# WCO TFA Implementation Support

## CONCLUSION

The WCO has been supporting Members with Capacity building and technical assistance since inception in 1953.

With decades of experience and expertise in supporting implementation of global Customs standards ;

a network of accredited experts at its disposal; and

comprehensive donor engagement mechanisms,



**the WCO remains fully equipped to continue to support its 180 Members with global uniform Implementation Of the WTO TFA**



# Thank you for your attention

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