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**Specialized Technical Committee on  
Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic  
Planning and Integration  
Experts Meeting  
23-25 October 2017  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Eco/STC/MAEPI/EXP/14**

**REPORT OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AFRICAN UNION  
(AU) SUB-COMMITTEE OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CUSTOMS.  
17-18 NOVEMBER 2016. HARARE. ZIMBABWE**

## INTRODUCTION

1. The 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the African Union Sub-Committee of Directors General of Customs (AUSCDGC) was held from 17 to 18 November 2016 at the Monomotapa Hotel, in Harare, Zimbabwe. The theme of the meeting was “***From Barriers to Bridges-Implementing One Stop Border Posts for Improved Trade Facilitation.***”

## PARTICIPATION

2. Participants from the following Member States attended the meeting: Algeria, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Comoros, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe. The Regional Economic Communities and International organizations present were COMESA, EAC, SADC, AfDB, UNECA and WCO. A representative of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) also attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

## AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

*Statement by Mr. Happias Kuzvinzwa Acting Commissioner General of Zimbabwe Revenue Authority*

3. In his opening remarks, Mr. Happias Kuzvinzwa, the Acting Commissioner General of the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), welcomed participants to Zimbabwe and to the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Sub-Committee of Directors General of Customs. He applauded the theme of the meeting noting how it relates to the subject of transforming trade barriers to bridges that facilitate smoother movement of goods and people and improved connectivity amongst African states.

4. Mr. Kuzvinzwa recalled how implementation of One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) is one of the ways in which trade facilitation can be improved, particularly at borders. He gave as an example the Chirundu OSBP between Zambia and Zimbabwe where independent studies have shown improvement in efficiency by increasing truck clearances per day from 260 to 600, reducing truck clearance times from 3 days to an average of 3 hours, increasing the number of declarations dealt with from 380 to 700 per day and reducing clearance times for private cars from several hours to between 30 and 40 minutes. The Commissioner General informed the meeting that Zimbabwe was continuing to engage its neighbours bilaterally to facilitate the establishment of OSBPs at the other borders. He also noted that Africa had embraced the OSBP concept as a progressive initiative.

5. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Kuzvinzwa reminded delegates that the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AUSCDGs Meeting would go down as a landmark event for Africa and urged participants to apply themselves diligently to make it a success. He appreciated the

good work that had been done by the various technical working groups that had been meeting so far.

*Statement by Mr. Deo Rugwiza Magera, Director General of Democratic Republic of Congo Customs and Excise*

6. In his remarks, Mr. Deo Rugwiza Magera, the Director General of Customs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the outgoing Chair of AUSCDGC, thanked the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to delegates since their arrival. He reminded the meeting of the importance of the AUSCDGC, which was established by the Executive Council of the African Union in 2005 as an advisory body. In his statement he observed that the AUSCDGC plays an important role in regional economic integration on the continent.

7. Mr Rugwiza recalled the various activities undertaken by the outgoing bureau since September 2015, when the last meeting was held in Kinshasa, DRC. He emphasized the need for Customs Administrations to modernize their systems and enhance cooperation in order for them to execute their mandate better and in a coordinated manner. He reminded the meeting of the need for Customs Administrations to play their role and ensure that they participate during the ongoing Continental Free Trade Area negotiations. Mr Rugwiza concluded his statement by thanking the Heads of Customs for having entrusted him with the leadership of the AUSCDGC during the previous year. He then handed over the chairmanship of AUSCDGC to Mr Happias Kuzvinzwa, the acting Commissioner General of ZIMRA, and wished his successor well.

*Statement by Mr. Kunio Mikuriya Secretary General of the World Customs Organization*

8. In his address, the Secretary General of the World Customs Organization Mr. Kunio Mikuriya thanked the African Union Commission as well as the outgoing Chairperson of the AUSCDGCs for inviting him to the meeting. He also thanked the Government and People of the Republic of Zimbabwe for the warm reception and hospitality extended to him. Mr. Mikuriya recalled the theme of the meeting and highlighted that it is in line with the WCO vision statement; “Borders Divide, Customs Connects”. He then reiterated WCOs support to the African Union programs aimed at Boosting Intra African Trade through the various tools that WCO has developed. He further urged Member States to implement best practices that aim at improving various border procedures which are crucial for improving the doing business environment and consequently economic competitiveness. Mr. Mikuriya emphasized the availability of the WCO in this regard and informed the meeting of the development of transit guidelines which he indicated will be important for Africa given the number of its landlocked countries and also assist in harmonizing the application of Transit procedures at the global level

9. Referring to the 2016 theme of the WCO on “Digital Customs: Progressive Engagement”, Mr. Mikuriya pointed to the role of technology in improving customs procedures, in this regard, he informed the meeting that the WCO will further this in 2017 with a theme on Data Analysis for effective border management. He indicated that

technology and data analysis are important in fulfilling the various functions of Customs as well as enable the sharing of information through partnership with the business communities and other government agencies as well as cross border cooperation. He concluded his remarks by pointing that the meeting was an important opportunity as it provides best practices to the rest of the world especially given Africa's growth trajectory. He expressed hope that the decisions of the meeting would go far to be incorporated into the WCO Capacity Building Programs to support Customs administrations in facilitating the AU agenda towards a CFTA.

*Statement by Ambassador Lazarus Kapambwe. Special Adviser on Economic Affairs to the African Union Commission Chairperson*

10. On behalf of Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl, Commissioner for Trade and Industry of the AU Commission who was unable to attend the Directors General Meeting due to other commitments, Ambassador Lazarous Kapambwe welcomed participants to the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AU Sub-Committee of Directors General of Customs and thanked the Government and People of Zimbabwe for their hospitality.

11. Referring to the theme of the meeting, Amb. Kapambwe highlighted the importance of removing barriers to trade as a trade facilitation measure that would speed up the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area. He then recalled the pertinence of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and urged AU WTO Member States that have not yet done so, to accelerate its ratification and implementation. It is estimated that implementation of the WTO TFA could reduce the costs of trade by between 12.5 and 17.5 % amongst both developed and developing countries respectively. In this regard, he urged Member States to implement the necessary trade facilitation measures that will ensure the tightening of loopholes in order to attain the AU's vision of doubling intra-African trade by 2022.

12. Ambassador Kapambwe stressed the important role of Customs Administrations in facilitating the movement of goods, services and people across national borders. In conclusion, he called on Customs Administrations to facilitate the implementation of the decision of Heads of State and Government to impose a 0.2% levy on eligible imports into AU Member States to finance the activities of the Union on a reliable and predictable basis.

*Statement by Eria Hamandishe, Director of Fiscal Policy in the Zimbabwe Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.*

13. On behalf of the Minister of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Mr. Eria Hamandishe, Director of Fiscal Policy in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development welcomed participants to the meeting. He thanked the Directors General for having chosen Zimbabwe as the venue of the meeting.

14. Mr. Hamandishe pointed that as a landlocked country, Zimbabwe fully embraces and supports the establishment and operationalization of OSBPs on the African

Continent. He further pointed that unnecessary delays and red tape at various entry points increase the cost of doing business in Africa. Mr. Hamandishe called upon the Directors General to address issues of unethical behavior in respective Customs Administrations as a challenge, which if not attended to, has the potential to stifle development on the continent. Thereafter, he declared the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the AU Sub-Committee of Directors General officially open.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU**

15. The Bureau of the meeting was constituted as follows:-

Chair	-	Zimbabwe
Vice Chair	-	Cameroon
Rapporteur	-	Comoros
Friends of the Chair		
	-	WCO West/Central Region Cote d'Ivoire
	-	WCO East/Southern Region South Africa
	-	WCO Northern Region Algeria

## **AGENDA ITEM 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

16. The agenda was adopted without amendment and is attached as Annex II.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

17. The meeting adopted the following as its working schedule as suggested by the Commission:-

Morning: 09.00 – 13.00  
Afternoon: 14.30 – 18.00

## **AGENDA ITEM 5. PRESENTATION BY THE OUTGOING CHAIR**

18. In his presentation, Mr. Deo Rugwiza Magera, the outgoing Chair of the AU Sub-Committee of the Directors General of Customs gave a summary of the activities held during his Chairmanship, from September 2015 to November 2016. He informed the meeting that the Bureau met in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo in February 2016 to, amongst others; develop strategies on the implementation of the recommendations from the 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Sub-Committee of Directors General. Mr. Magera further informed the meeting that the Bureau took the opportunity to undertake a mid-term evaluation of its activities, as well as consider future activities and

reflect on ways and means to improve the work of the Sub-Committee of Directors General of Customs.

19. At the end of the deliberations, the Bureau made the following recommendations;

- (i) Authorise the Chair of the Bureau of AUSCDGC to send letters to Member States, to the Commission of the African Union, to the Regional Economic Communities and to International Organisations to recall the recommendations of the 7th meeting and encourage them to implement them;**
- (ii) Encourage the participation of Customs Administrations in the Negotiating Forum for the implementation of the CFTA;**
- (iii) Encourage the speeding up of reforms pertaining to computerisation of customs administrations with a view to facilitating exchange of data;**
- (iv) Adopt a regional approach to interconnectivity of computerised systems as a stepping stone towards the continental level ;**
- (v) Encourage Member States to conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements with a view to promoting exchange of information ;**
- (vi) Popularise the recommendations of the 7th meeting of the AUSCDGC within the meetings of the Directors General of Customs of WCO Sub-Regions as well as in all other customs and trade facilitation meetings;**
- (vii) Undertake the review of the Rules of Procedure of the Sub-Committee of Directors General of Customs of the African Union in consultation with Member States;**
- (viii) Authorise the Chair to explore alternative means of financing the implementation of recommendations issuing from meetings of the Sub-Committee of Directors General of Customs of the African Union in consultation with Member States.**

## **AGENDA ITEM 6. PRESENTATION BY ZIMBABWE REVENUE AUTHORITY**

20. A representative of the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority made a presentation on the organization's Customs modernization program. The presenter outlined the achievements, challenges and plans for future projects. She informed the meeting that in recognition of the extensive use of ICT in its operations, ZIMRA was awarded a prize for

the modernization of the e-banking platform by the Ministry of ICT. ZIMRA has also rolled out ASYCUDA World for the online submission of Customs declarations that has modern processes including Bonded Warehouse Management. This has resulted in improvements in the declaration processing turnaround times. Seven companies have also been registered under the Authorised Economic Operators program, and an additional nine are under consideration.

21. In an effort to mitigate the low rankings in the Ease of Doing Business index a Single Window project has been escalated for implementation under the Office of the President and Cabinet. This has seen all levies and fees due to other government agencies being collected by ZIMRA. In an effort to expedite inspections and detection of illicit goods, ZIMRA has procured Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) equipment to conduct inspections. A Canine Unit and Transit Cargo tracking system have been established as well. Fuel marking is being envisaged as well to reduce transit fraud.

22. With regards to Capacity Building initiatives, ZIMRA is host of one of the four WCO Regional Training Centres (RTC). It has also collaborated with a local University to sponsor a Bachelor's and Master's program in Fiscal Studies as a means to strengthen officers and other supply chain players' capabilities in the Customs and Revenue Management aspects.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IMPORT LEVY FOR FINANCING THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

23. A representative of the African Union Commission made a presentation on the decision of the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government taken during their 27th Ordinary Session in Kigali Rwanda on the implementation of a 0.2% levy to finance the programs and operations of the African Union. In his presentation the presenter recalled the various initiatives at the African Union level to identify alternative sources of funding. He informed the meeting that after consideration of the various alternatives, the AU settled on instituting the 0.2% Levy on eligible goods, with 2017 as a transition period.

24. He further informed the meeting that in order to implement this decision, the Summit established a committee of ten Finance Ministers (F10) drawn from the five AU regions. Among others, the committee was tasked to work on the modalities of the implementation. He then shared with the meeting the guidelines as developed by the Committee of Ten (F10). Thereafter, he concluded by calling upon the meeting to provide recommendations on how best the modalities can be implemented, especially by Customs Administrations.

25. In the discussions that ensued after the presentation, the Meeting made the following observations:-

- (i) That it will be important to clearly define "eligible imports into Africa" upon which the levy will apply, especially given that some AU member States already have trade arrangements with countries outside Africa

- (ii) That there is need to for member states to enact a legislative framework that will enable them to collect this levy
- (iii) That collection of the levy will entail some costs and hence there is need to carefully consider how this cost should be internalized

**After the discussions, the meeting recommended that;**

- (i) A roadmap for implementation of the levy be developed, taking into account the 2017 transitional period**
- (ii) A Technical Working Group be established to consider this matter further from a Customs perspective.**

26. The terms of reference of the Technical Working Group are attached as Annex III

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE CUSTOMS EXPERTS MEETING**

27. The Directors General took note of the report after its presentation by the Chair of the meeting of Experts. They commended the Experts for the work done so far and adopted the recommendations which are contained in Annex IV to this Report.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE MEETING THEME: “FROM BARRIERS TO BRIDGES- IMPLEMENTING ONE STOP BORDER POSTS FOR IMPROVED TRADE FACILITATION”.**

28. A representative of Zimbabwe Revenue Authority made a presentation on the importance of OSBPs in promoting Trade Facilitation so as to stimulate discussions on the theme of the meeting and provide an opportunity for the Directors General to get acquainted to the background of the meeting theme. The presentation outlined the journey, achievements and challenges that ZIMRA went through in establishing the Chirundu OSBP, a border post between Zimbabwe and Zambia.

29. The presenter shared with participants the processes that the two countries went through in order to operationalize the Chirundu OSBP. This also involved enacting relevant legislation amongst others. To date, the OSBP is fully functional and benefits to trade include improved traffic turnaround time; reduced clearance time; reduced inspection costs as well as smooth flow of traffic. Both Customs Administrations do share resources available so as to achieve optimum use.

30. The establishment of the Chirundu OSBP provided a learning opportunity to the Governments of the two Customs Administrations. There was a realization on the need to involve all the border agencies and other stakeholders so as to have their buy-in and cooperation. Equally important was the need for computerization and use of ICT by the various border agencies to enable faster exchange of information. Further it was noted

that cultural differences had to be addressed to inculcate a common sense of belonging in the common controlled area.

31. Panelists to the meeting theme included representatives from the African Development Bank; the Pan African Parliament, the World Customs Organization; Cote d'Ivoire Customs Administration and ZIMRA. The panelists raised the following issues;

- (i) From the conceptualization stage, there is need to involve other Government Agencies and other stakeholders who have interests at the border
- (ii) Ensure that adequate funding for infrastructural development(both hard & soft) is readily available
- (iii) There is need for Change Management among all players so as to converge a variety of natural differences including cultural dispositions.
- (iv) Proper designs for traffic circulation have to be synchronized across the border.
- (v) Political support is vital, especially from the highest level
- (vi) Need to implement effective national level interventions to remove NTBs, especially those relating to multiple controls at the borders.
- (vii) Border procedures in both countries supported by the automated systems need to be harmonized
- (viii) Road infrastructure should be in a state to be able to support operational requirements of the OSBP

32. From the discussions that took place after interventions by the panelists, the meeting made the following observations;

- (i) There is need for consolidation of OSBP concept in the REC Policy and Legal Framework given that as the regional integration intensifies, such as at Customs Union level, there will be a Common Customs Act.
- (ii) The RECs have to include all government agencies in the OSBP Regional Laws and to ensure that there is capacity building across the region to improve efficiency.
- (iii) Customs Administrations need to engage respective Parliaments for the ratification and domestication of all Protocols and other legal instruments for the effective integration in Africa. Parliaments should also help expedite the laws that will remove legal impediments to the trade facilitation measures.
- (iv) Member States are encouraged to take advantage of the WCO instruments to support the OSBP operations such as the Transit Guidelines. Also available is the OSBP Source Book developed by the WCO in collaboration with the AUC, soon to be published by NEPAD.
- (v) Member States may approach the AfDB for funding assistance through loans and grants

33. Thereafter, the meeting made the following recommendations:

- (i) That Member States considering establishment of OSBPs to ensure involvement of other border agencies and all other relevant stakeholders**

**(ii) Implementation of OSBPs should be accompanied by other trade facilitation measures and reforms and also change management strategies**

**(iii) That Member States should consider regional approach in the implementation of OSBPs**

**(iv) In the establishment of OSBPs, Member States should endeavor to incorporate international best practices**

**(v) There is need for involvement of national parliaments so as to develop legislation required for establishment of OSBPs**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

34. The meeting noted with concern the low participation of Directors General in the meeting considering its importance as a platform for positioning African Customs Administrations to formulate strategies to respond appropriately to global developments.

35. In this regard, Directors General agreed to hold one of their meetings prior to the WCO Council Sessions. Nigeria offered to host the inaugural mid - year session.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11. DATE AND VENUE OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AUSCDGC**

36. The delegates were informed that the 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Directors General of Customs will be held in September 2017 in the Republic of Cameroon. The dates and venue of the meeting will be communicated in due course.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12. APPROVAL OF THE RECORD AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING**

37. The meeting adopted the report with amendments. The Recommendations were adopted and are annexed to this report. See Annex IV.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13. VOTE OF THANKS**

38. On behalf of the participants, the Comptroller General of Nigerian Customs Service, Col Hameed Ibrahim (Rtd) thanked the Government and people of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority for hosting the meeting and the hospitality extended to all delegates. He also thanked the African Union Commission for organizing the meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 14. CLOSING CEREMONY**

39. In his closing remarks, the Secretary General of the WCO, Mr. Kunio Mikuriya expressed his appreciation to ZIMRA, the Government and People of Zimbabwe for

hosting the 8th Ordinary Session of the African Union Sub-Committee of Directors General of Customs, and the hospitality extend to him and his delegation. He also thanked the African Union Commission for the collaboration between the two organizations. Mr. Mikuriya concluded by urging WCO Member countries to continue using the various WCO tools and instruments at their disposal.

40. On behalf of the Commissioner for Trade and Industry, Ambassador Lazarus Kapambwe thanked the hosts for the excellent facilities availed during the meeting. He also thanked the Directors General of Customs for the constructive contributions, demonstrating professionalism and engagement in moving forward Africa's agenda on Trade Facilitation. He seized the opportunity to also thank the panelists for the enlightening ideas which he encouraged all to implement. Ambassador Kapambwe ended his remarks by reminding the Bureau on the need to follow up on the recommendations made, whose implementation will be reviewed during the 9th Directors General Meeting scheduled for Yaounde, Cameroon.

41. Mr. Happias Kuzvinzwa, the Acting Commissioner General for Zimbabwe Revenue Authority thanked his fellow Directors General for supporting him as he chaired the meeting, and especially in the manner in which discussions were held. He thanked the WCO Secretary General for having been able to attend the 8th meeting of the DGs, and that it symbolizes the commitment he attaches to the Customs work in the Continent.

42. Mr. Kuzvinzwa also thanked representatives of the RECs, the building blocks of the African Common Market for the work they are doing on the continent, and recalled that Customs plays an important role and can change the fortune of Africa, through implementing various Trade Facilitation measures.

43. On behalf of the Minister of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Mr. Kuzvinzwa wished participants safe travel to respective destinations, and declared the meeting officially closed.

## **ANNEX I**

### **PARTICIPANTS LIST**



**8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the  
AU Sub-Committee of Directors General of Customs  
Harare, Republic of Zimbabwe  
17 – 18 November 2016**

Theme: **“From Barriers to Bridges- Implementing One Stop Border Posts for Improved Trade Facilitation”**

### AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Adoption of the Agenda **CCD/8.AUSC.Dg/A1**
4. Organization of Work **CCD/8.AUSC.Dg/A3**
5. Presentation by the outgoing Chair ***For information only***
6. Presentation by Zimbabwe Revenue Authority ***For Information only***
7. Implementation of the import levy for financing the African Union ***Assembly/AU/Dec.605(XXVII)***
8. Consideration of the Report of the Customs Experts Meeting ***CCD/8.AUSC.Ex/R1***
9. Exchange of views on the meeting theme: **“From Barriers to Bridges-Implementing One Stop Border Posts for Improved Trade Facilitation”**
10. Any Other Business
11. Date and Venue of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the AU Sub-Committee of Directors General of Customs
12. Approval of the Record and the Recommendations of the Directors General Meeting **CCD/8.AUSC.DG/R1**
13. Vote of Thanks
14. Closing Ceremony

**ANNEX III**  
**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TWG ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPORT  
LEVY**

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**Rev1**

**DRAFT Terms of reference for the Ad-hoc Technical Committee of AU Sub  
Committee of Directors General of Customs**

**1. Background**

- I. The Twenty-Seventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government, took the following decision on financing the Union: “To institute and implement a 0.2 percent Levy on all eligible imported goods into the Continent to finance the African Union Operational, Program and Peace Support Operations Budgets starting from the year 2017” and requested the Commission to ‘put in place strong oversight and accountability mechanisms for ensuring the effective and prudent use of the resources’.
- II. As part of the implementation of this decision the AU sub Committee of Director Generals of Customs at its 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary session considered a report from the Commission and decided to constitute an ad-hoc technical committee to consider all technical matters relating to this decision and to make recommendations to State parties and the commission for its effective implementation

**2. Composition of the Committee**

- I. The Committee shall comprise 15 experts representing five African regions (3 per region): East, Southern, West, North and Central.

**3. Chair of the Committee**

- I. The country chairing the sub -committee of Director Generals of Customs shall also chair the ad-hoc Committee.
- II. In the absence of the chair the committee shall appoint one of the other members to Chair its deliberations.

**5. Duties**

The Committee shall perform the following duties:

- I. Carefully Review and evaluate all aspects of implementation of the decision that has direct relevance and impact on customs.
- II. Make recommendations for the practical introduction of the decision in member states
- III. Propose clear assessment and valuation criteria and modalities
- IV. Propose eligibility criteria for consideration by member states and the Commission.
- V. Propose measures for collection and payment into designated AU Accounts.
- VI. Propose a roadmap for the implementation of the Decision;
- VII. Review periodically the Status of the implementation and compliance and adopt policies for enhancement;
- VIII. The committee may redefine its scope from time to time
- IX. The committee will define its rules of procedure.
- X. Make proposals for recovery of administrative cost of collection at member states where necessary
- XI. Make other such recommendations, as they deem appropriate to the success of the decision.
- XII. Perform any other functions that the sub Committee of Directors General of Customs may assign with regards to the implementation the decisions that has implications for customs

## **6. Meetings and quorum**

- I. The Committee shall meet as it deems necessary
- II. A quorum for the ad-hoc TC meeting will be reached if each region is represented and at least 10 member States present
- III. The Secretariat of the ad-hoc TC will be the Customs Division with the AUC DTI and the Program Budgeting Finance and Accounting Department of the African Union Commission.
- IV. Expenses related to the organization of meetings and other activities of the ad-hoc TC relating to the implementation of the decision on financing the Union shall be borne by the AUC and should be included under the PBFA;
- V. The Chair of the ad-hoc TC or any other member in consultations with at least 6 members of the committee may request an extraordinary meeting to discuss specific concerns when such is deemed necessary

## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE AU SUB-COMMITTEE OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CUSTOMS**

**WE**, the Directors General of Customs of the African Union assembled in Harare, Republic of Zimbabwe, on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016, on the occasion of our 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session

### **RECOMMEND AS FOLLOWS:**

#### **A. ON ACCREDITATION OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS FROM AU MEMBER STATES**

- (i) That The AUC and the WCO should:-
  - a. Elaborate a joint program for supporting African Customs Administrations in their priority reform initiatives and
  - b. Continue to work together in increasing the pool of WCO accredited Experts
- (ii) That African Customs Administrations should make their WCO pre-accredited and accredited Experts available to assist other Members in their reform and modernization initiatives.
- (iii) That the WCO should endeavor to fully accredit the pre accredited experts in the shortest period possible so that they are made available for use in the African region by the WCO, the African union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities.
- (iv) That The AUC should continue to look for resources for holding similar accreditation Workshops for experts from African Customs Administrations

#### **B. ON THE GAP ANALYSIS STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT IN AFRICA**

That the African Union Trade Facilitation Strategy should take into account recommendations from the Gap Analysis Studies

#### **C. ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION TRADE FACILITATION STRATEGY**

##### **To African Union Member States**

- (i) That Customs Administrations collaborate with the private sector and are consulted on issues of Trade Facilitation.

- (ii) That African Union Member States explore the Introduction of Trade Facilitation Courses in the education curriculum especially at the University level in collaboration with such institutions as the Trade Law and Policy Center for Africa (TRAPCA)
- (iii) That African Union Member States should endeavor to encourage each other to implement Trade Facilitation measures under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- (iv) Member States are urged to strengthen National Committees on Trade Facilitation through inter-alia, the inclusion of other border agencies and private sector representative organizations for the sustainable adoption and implementation of trade facilitation reforms.

#### **To the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities**

- (i) The African Union Commission continues to provide a Platform for exchange of Information and experiences on the implementation of Trade Facilitation measures in Africa.
- (ii) That the AUC should take steps to collaborate with the WCO to exploit synergies with Development Partners so as to leverage TFA implementation support for Member States Customs Administration and RECs.
- (iii) The African Union Commission and the RECs should continue to encourage the African Union Member States to adopt where necessary regional approaches in the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreements
- (iv) The AUC and the RECs are urged to develop training, capacity building and sensitization programs on substantive TFA provisions for all stakeholders.

#### **To International Organizations**

- (i) The WTO and other International Organizations should continue to assist African Union Member states in building their Capacity for the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- (ii) That the WCO shares with the RECs the available pool of accredited experts on Trade facilitation so that they can also be utilized in regional capacity building programs.

#### **D. ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IMPORT LEVY FOR FINANCING THE AFRICAN UNION**

- (i) A roadmap for implementation of the levy be developed, taking into account the 2017 transitional period
- (ii) A Technical Working Group be established to consider this matter further from a Customs perspective.

**E. ON THE THEME OF THE MEETING: FROM BARRIERS TO BRIDGES-IMPLEMENTING ONE STOP BORDER POSTS FOR IMPROVED TRADE FACILITATION**

- (i) That Member States considering establishment of OSBPs to ensure involvement of border agencies and all other relevant stakeholders
- (ii) Implementation of OSBPs should be accompanied by other trade facilitation measures and reforms and also change management strategies
- (iii) That Member States should consider regional approach in the implementation of OSBPs
- (iv) In the establishment of OSBPs, Member States should endeavor to incorporate international best practices
- (v) There is need for involvement of national parliaments so as to develop legislation required for establishment of OSBPs

**F. ON ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- (i) That there be a meeting of the Sub-Committee of Directors General to enable them prepare common positions prior to the WCO Council Sessions