

ASYCUDA Newsletter

UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics



Seychelles Islands

June 2013



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Editorial

It has already been three years since the first electronic ASYCUDA newsletter was published on the web for the ASYCUDA user community and all those wishing to find about the evolution of the system and its different implementations around the world. The last three years have witnessed the end of the remaining ASYCUDA version 2 implementations and an increasing amount of migrations from ASYCUDA++ to ASYCUDAWorld.

In this issue, we first present the different partnerships that have been undertaken with regional or international organisations. These agreements are reinforcing the exposure of the programme worldwide. These partnerships aim to add new features to the system such as the development of an electronic tool for the measurement of performance indicators in conjunction with the World Customs Organisation (WCO), but also to put into place standard messages to facilitate exchange of data between airline companies and customs in conjunction with the International Air Transport Association (IATA). We will also present the cooperation activities that have been established with COMESA and EURASEC.

The first semester of 2013 was busy with various conferences. With the help of experts, who participated in the events, we summarise the reports from the Organisation (OIC) for Islamic Cooperation High Level Forum on Trade Facilitation and Single Window in Casablanca, workshops organised by AFRITAC in Lomé and the Shippers Council in Ouagadougou, the WCO conference on Information Technology in Dubai and the SACU-WCO IT connectivity meeting in Johannesburg.

We then introduce the new ASYCUDA Technical Forum which allows IT experts to actively share different technical issues such as bug reporting, documentation, release news and general questions. The information can be automatically shared with IT people around the world and support can be provided in a timely manner by any participant based on their daily experience.

We also review some of the ASYCUDA implementations starting with the kick-off of the ASYCUDAWorld project in Saint Helena, British territory in the Atlantic Ocean. Moving then into the Pacific Ocean to visit the Solomon Islands where the system is currently being installed and will serve to enhance trade facilitation and regional integration

Back to Africa, we provide an update on the migration projects in Burundi and Seychelles. Finally we report on the implementation of an electronic phyto-sanitary certificate in Ethiopia which links flower exporters, the Ministry of Agriculture (Plant Protection Service) and customs. There is little doubt that this application which up until now has been limited to flowers (HS code 0306) will soon be extended to other agricultural products and to other countries.

We hope you enjoy reading this 7th ASYCUDA newsletter and invite you to send your comments or/and suggestions by e-mail to asycuda@unctad.org.

Division on Technology and Logistics, ASYCUDA Programme, Geneva, June 2013.



Trois ans déjà que la lettre d'information semestrielle SYDONIA est proposée sur le net à la communauté des utilisateurs du SYDONIA et à tous ceux qui portent intérêt aux activités du Programme pour les informer sur l'évolution du système et sa mise en oeuvre dans les pays. Au cours de ces trois dernières années les ultimes systèmes SYDONIA version 2 encore en exploitation ont disparu et les migrations de SYDONIA++ vers SYDONIAWorld se sont multipliées.

Nous vous présentons tout d'abord des actions de coopération entreprises avec des organisations régionales ou internationales. Ces coopérations, qui renforcent la visibilité du programme au plan mondial ont pour objectif soit la mise en oeuvre de nouvelles fonctionnalités du système tels que les indicateurs de performances qui sont en cours de développement avec l'organisation mondiale des douanes (OMD), soit la mise en application de format de messages standards pour faciliter les échanges de données (protocole d'accord avec IATA pour des échanges entre les compagnies aériennes et la douane). Au niveau régional nous présenterons les activités de coopération qui ont été mises en place avec le COMESA et EURASEC.

Ce premier semestre 2013 a été riche en conférences diverses. Avec l'aide des experts qui y ont participé nous ferons ainsi successivement les comptes rendus du le Forum de la Conférence Internationale Islamique de Casablanca, des ateliers organisés par de l'AFRITAC à Lomé et le Conseil des Chargeurs à Ouagadougou, puis de la Conférence de l'OMD sur les Technologies de l'Information à Dubaï et de la conférence régionale SACU-OMD de Johannesburg.

Nous vous présentons ensuite le nouveau Forum Technique SYDONIA qui permet aux experts informaticiens d'obtenir et de partager des

informations techniques concernant les versions, les rapports d'erreur ou la documentation dans tous les pays utilisateurs. Ces informations peuvent être partagées automatiquement et le soutien peut être fourni immédiatement par chacun des participants sur la base de son expérience quotidienne.

Nous passons ensuite en revue des implémentations du système dans les pays en commençant par le démarrage du projet SYDONIAWorld dans l'île de Sainte Hélène, territoire Britannique de l'Océan Atlantique. Nous nous dirigerons ensuite dans l'Océan Pacifique pour visiter les îles Salomon où le système est en cours d'installation avec le double objectif de la facilitation du commerce et de l'intégration régionale.

Nous reviendrons vers l'Afrique pour faire le point sur les projets de migration du système au Burundi et en Seychelles. Enfin en Ethiopie nous ferons le bilan de la situation du projet d'automatisation du certificat phytosanitaire électronique qui a été clos avec succès reliant les producteurs de fleurs, le Ministère de l'Agriculture (service de protection des végétaux) et la douane pour la production de certificats électroniques. Nul doute que cette application, jusqu'ici limitée aux fleurs coupées (code SH 0306), sera bientôt étendue à la totalité des produits agricoles et à l'ensemble des pays utilisateurs.

Nous souhaitons à nos lecteurs une bonne lecture de cette lettre d'information et les invitons à nous adresser leurs commentaires ou leurs propositions d'article par courriel sur asycuda@unctad.org.

Division de la Technologie et de la Logistique, Equipe du Programme SYDONIA, Genève, juin 2013.



Ya han pasado tres años desde la aparición de la primera edición del boletín informativo semestral SIDUNEA. Dirigido a toda la comunidad de usuarios SIDUNEA y todos aquellos interesados en las actividades del programa, su objetivo es informar sobre la evolución del sistema y su puesta en marcha en los diferentes países. En estos últimos tres años, hemos sido testigos del final de los últimos sistemas aduaneros que utilizaban la versión 2 de SIDUNEA y de la proliferación de proyectos de migración de SIDUNEA++ a SIDUNEAWorld.

En primer lugar, se presentan las actividades realizadas en cooperación con organizaciones regionales e internacionales. Estos acuerdos, que refuerzan la visibilidad del programa a nivel mundial, tienen por objetivo, no sólo añadir nuevas funciones al sistema, como los indicadores de rendimiento que se están desarrollando conjuntamente con la Organización Mundial de Aduanas (OMD), sino además implantar el formato de mensaje normalizado para facilitar el intercambio de datos (convenio de colaboración con la IATA para el intercambio de datos entre líneas aéreas y aduanas). A nivel regional, presentaremos las actividades de cooperación que se han concertado con el Mercado Común del África Meridional y Oriental (COMESA) y la Comunidad Económica de Eurasia (EURASEC).

El primer semestre de 2013 ha sido intenso en lo que se refiere a la participación en diversas conferencias. Con la ayuda de los expertos, que participaron en los eventos, efectuaremos un resumen sobre la Conferencia Islámica Foro Internacional de Casablanca, los talleres organizados por AFRITAC en Lomé y Uagadugu Shippers Council y de la Conferencia de la OMA sobre Tecnología de la Información en Dubai y la conferencia regional de la Unión Aduanera del África Meridional (SACU)-OMA, celebrada en Johannesburgo.

Seguidamente se presenta el nuevo Foro Técnico de SIDUNEA, que permitirá a los expertos informáticos obtener y compartir información técnica sobre las versiones, los reportes de errores o la documentación en todos los países usuarios. Esta información puede ser compartida de forma automática y cualquiera de los participantes podrá ofrecer inmediatamente su ayuda aprovechando el conocimiento adquirido en su uso cotidiano.

Después, se pasa revista a algunas de las implementaciones del sistema en algunos países, empezando por la puesta en marcha del proyecto SIDUNEAWorld en la isla de Santa Elena, territorio británico de ultramar situado en el Océano Atlántico. Luego pondremos rumbo al Océano Pacífico para visitar las Islas Salomón, donde se está procediendo a la instalación del sistema con el doble objetivo de facilitar el comercio y la integración regional.

Para terminar, volvemos a África para hacer balance de los proyectos de migración del sistema en Burundi y en Seychelles. Por último, en Etiopía se hará un balance de la situación del proyecto de automatización de la expedición del certificado fitosanitario electrónico, que ha logrado conectar a los exportadores de flores, el Ministerio de Agricultura (Servicio de Protección Vegetal) y la Aduana. Esta aplicación, que hasta ahora se ha circunscrito a las flores cortadas (NCP 0306), pronto se extenderá a todos los productos agrícolas y a todos los países usuarios.

Le deseamos a nuestros lectores disfruten de la lectura de este boletín y los invitamos a que nos hagan llegar sus comentarios o sugerencias a través del correo electrónico asycuda@unctad.org.

División de Tecnología y Logística, equipo del programa SIDUNEA, Ginebra, junio 2013.



UNCTAD and the WCO sign an MoU on performance measurement



On 19 March 2013, UNCTAD and the WCO signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to extend the long-standing co-operation between the two organizations into one more important area – the performance measurement.

The MoU creates the framework for the development of a performance indicators software application based on the ASYCUDA technology. The new application is intended to be integrated into national Customs IT systems for measuring the indicators of performance of the Customs services, promoting the proper use of Customs procedures and identifying bad practices.

The new software application will be piloted in Liberia with the assistance of UNCTAD and the

WCO experts. At a later stage, other developing countries will be able to benefit as well.

On June 2013, a WCO mission visited UNCTAD and had a constructive working meeting with the ASYCUDA Programme to decide on the practical steps of the future collaboration.

This new cooperation initiative was reflected in the WCO Annual Report 2012-2013, the WCO Integrity Newsletter N 8 of June 2013, and the UNCTAD’s Progress Report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars related to transport and trade facilitation and cross-divisional capacity building of June 2013.



MoU UNCTAD and the Eurasian Economic Commission open new opportunities for collaboration in the trade facilitation area



The Secretary General of UNCTAD Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi and the President of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Mr. Viktor Khristenko signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on 24 May 2013, during the Astana Economic Forum. The document covers the wide range of areas of mutual collaboration, including the Customs sector. Due to the forthcoming accession of Kazakhstan to the WTO the facilitation of trade and Customs procedures is becoming a topical task for the entire EURASEC region (Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are already the WTO Members)

Through the Memorandum parties agreed to cooperate in “promoting the trade and Customs procedures facilitation, reduction of the administrative barriers including the use of modern information and communication technologies”. Earlier this year the Eurasian Commissioner-Minister for Customs Cooperation Mr. Goshin and his experts visited Geneva to explore opportunities for applying the ASYCUDA solutions at a regional level, particularly as regards regional Customs transit, risk management, etc.



Photo provided by the Eurasian Economic Commission

Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) High Level Forum on Trade Facilitation and Single Window in Casablanca

On 25th and 26th February 2013 the ASYCUDA Programme participated in the "2nd OIC (Organisation for Islamic Cooperation) High level Forum on Trade Facilitation and Single Window for Enhanced Regional Economic Cooperation" in Casablanca hosted by the government of Morocco. The forum featured different institutions of the OIC, several International Organisations, the private sector and representatives from the Ministry of Trade and Customs from different member states of the OIC. The UNCTAD-ASYCUDA delegation made a presentation of ASYCUDAWorld during Working Session 1 of the forum entitled "Policies, Procedures and Mechanism for the Implementation

of Single Window", the presentation covered the general aspects of ASYCUDA and ASYCUDAWorld as the basis for a customs-centric electronic single window environment. ASYCUDA user countries were heavily represented by Djibouti, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Niger, Mali, Yemen, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Mauritania and Guinea. Presentations were made by Djibouti and Cameroon regarding their efforts to build an electronic single window around ASYCUDA. In the final report, UNCTAD appears included as taking part to a steering committee for the implementation of a regional single window in the OIC.

Séminaire AFRITAC

Du 18 au 22 mars 2013 s'est tenu à Lomé, au Togo, un séminaire régional sur le thème « contrôle après dédouanement ».

Ce séminaire est organisé à l'attention des pays couverts par le Centre Régional d'Assistance Technique du Fonds Monétaire International (FMI) pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest (AFRITAC de l'Ouest) en vue de les aider à mettre en œuvre leur système de contrôle après dédouanement. Le séminaire s'est fixé comme objectifs essentiels :

- de renforcer les capacités des administrations des douanes dans la maîtrise des techniques et méthodes de contrôle après dédouanement (CAD),
- de sensibiliser et de former les cadres des administrations des pays participants sur les méthodes et procédures du CAD (contrôle différé, contrôle en entreprise),

- de développer une culture de partage d'expériences entre les administrations douanières d'une part, et les organisations internationales d'autre part.



Séminaire UCCA

Dans le cadre du programme d'activité 2013 de l'Union des Conseils des Chargeurs Africains (UCCA), le Conseil Burkinabé des Chargeurs (CBC) et l'UCCA ont organisé avec l'appui technique de la Conférence des Nations Unies pour le Commerce et le Développement (CNUCED) un séminaire de formation sur le thème « Facilitation des échanges : Obligations, Opportunités et Solutions pratiques » qui s'est tenu du 27 au 29 mars 2013 à Ouagadougou dans la salle de Conférence du CBC.

Le séminaire avait pour objectifs de renforcer les capacités des acteurs sur les questions liées à la facilitation des échanges d'une part et d'autre part de permettre aux différents délégués de procéder à

des échanges d'expériences dans la mise en œuvre d'actions de facilitation et sur les difficultés rencontrées dans leur pays.

Ce séminaire a enregistré la participation de plus de quatre-vingt-dix représentants de Conseils des Chargeurs, de Chambre de Commerce, d'Entreprises privés d'Imports –Exports, de Transporteurs Maritimes, de l'administration publique des Syndicats des transporteurs, des Transitaires, des Commissionnaires en Douanes, des pays suivants : Bénin, Cameroun, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinée, Guinée Bissau, Mali, Niger, République Démocratique du Congo, Sénégal, Togo, et Burkina Faso.

WCO IT conference - "Effective Solutions for Coordinated Border Management" - 14-16 May 2013, Dubai

DTL/ASYCUDA responded to the invitation of the WCO Secretary General to attend the WCO IT 2013 Conference on Effective Solutions for Coordinated Border Management (<http://www.etches.com/ehome/it2013>). The annual WCO IT meeting and the main theme of the 2013 Conference on Coordinated Border Management are central for the ASYCUDA Programme and field projects implementation.

DTL/ASYCUDA representatives held bilateral meetings with several delegations e.g. Haiti, Jordan, Malawi, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, etc. They also shared with WCO SG on the newly signed MoU with UNCTAD/DTL/ASYCUDA on performance indicators. It was acknowledged that such cooperation between WCO and UNCTAD should greatly benefit ASYCUDA users and shall be closely monitored. These consultations confirmed the great interest and well established and respected brand name for ASYCUDA unique worldwide installation base and constant technological progress.

As a more general, and certainly highly concerning observation, DTL/ASYCUDA representatives noticed that hazardous times that haunt the global economy could slow technical innovation in Customs in the near future.



SACU (Southern African Customs Union) Customs IT Connectivity Workshop, Johannesburg, 28-31 May 2013

From 28th to 31st May 2013 the ASYCUDA Programme participated in the SACU (Southern African Customs Union) CUSTOMS IT CONNECTIVITY WORKSHOP in Johannesburg, South Africa chaired by the WCO and funded by SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency). This workshop followed on from the first meeting in Pretoria in February 2012 also chaired by the WCO. The workshop included WCO, SACU, UNCTAD-ASYCUDA, representatives from Lesotho Revenue Authority, Swaziland Revenue Authority, South African Revenue Service (SARS), Botswana Unified Revenue Service and Namibia Customs. The workshop focused on the current piloting of import/export data exchanges between SARS &

Swaziland and Namibia & Botswana within the WCO Globally Networked Customs (GNC) framework. As three out of four of these administrations are using ASYCUDA, WCO and ASYCUDA cooperate closely in advising and cooperating with SACU member states on all issues regarding data exchange including the data clusters, security, exchange mechanisms and queries on specific data elements. The ASYCUDA Programme will continue to work with SACU, WCO and the member states involved in data exchange during the coming year during the live implementation of the exchange systems and in the follow-up activities.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

Economic development in the Mediterranean region will require increased regional integration and the implementation of international best practices in legislation and regulations. On 30 and 31 May 2013 parliamentarians from the region gathered in Geneva to discuss how the UNECE and the UN Inter-Agency Cluster and in particular UNCTAD could work with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) and the PAM Panel on Trade and Investment in the Mediterranean as well as its Standing Committee

on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation to support regional trade development priorities. A commitment from all parties to concrete cooperation in support of economic development in the Mediterranean was one of the conclusions of this Joint Trade Conference organized by PAM and the UN Inter-Agency Cluster.

The ASYCUDA Programme delivered a presentation on Risk Management.

ASYCUDAWorld Technical Forum

In January 2013, the ASYCUDA Programme launched an on-line ASYCUDAWorld technical forum for the sharing of technical issues including latest news, questions, documentation and problem solving. After a successful trial period with a limited amount of users, the forum is slowly growing into a highly used tool by international IT experts, consultants and national IT staff. The forum now counts 62 members who have contributed over 600 posts on over 160 different topics.

The forum allows IT experts all over the world to share their technical issues and to get timely solutions from any other country who might have experienced a similar problem. Notably, they can

find system enhancements that have been previously posted. Geneva IT staff are responsible for technical support and moderation of the forum. Among the many advantages that this forum provides is its constant availability regardless of where you are located or what time of day or night it is.

We strongly encourage all registered users to continue using this technical forum which is an effective means of communication and can benefit the whole ASYCUDAWorld community. If you are interested in registering an IT expert of your administration, please contact your Regional Coordinator.

Implementation of ASYCUDA World on St Helena Island

DFID Department for International Development



Saint Helena, one of Britain's most remote and oldest Overseas Territory is introducing UNCTAD ASYCUDA system with the support of DFID (Department for International Development)

Saint Helena is considered one of the most remote places in the world, and has no commercial airports; travel to the island is by ship only. The nearest country on the continent is Namibia, the nearest international airport the Quatro de Fevereiro Airport of Angola's capital Luanda. The island is associated with two other remote islands in the Southern Atlantic, which are also British territories: Ascension Island about 1,300 kilometers due northwest in more equatorial waters and Tristan da Cunha, which is well outside the tropics 2,430 kilometers to the south.



The automated Customs System will improve efficiency and speed in the acceptance and clearance of cargo, tax and other paper transactions. It also provides for the clearance of goods and for payment online. The system allows for a one-stop gateway for HM Customs and Revenue business, providing Government with trade figures and statistics in real time which is invaluable for budgeting and planning.

The implementation of the ASYCUDA World on St Helena, signals the continuing improvement of HM Customs and Revenue's service to the trade, public and Government, all of which will assist the Island in its future development.

The ASYCUDA system will allow for simplified procedures that are clearly understood and transparent, while providing the level of service the

community requires and deserves in the modern world. ASYCUDA will continue to develop in the future and we can look forward to further innovations.



Peter Henderson, Director General of HM Customs and Revenue comments: "While accepting electronic systems can improve our lives, we should never forget that there is an important human element in operating them and we are fortunate to have dedicated and professional staff, plus assistance from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)".

Reaching this point has taken a lot of hard work and dedication but now that the planning and procurement phases have been completed, St Helena Customs and IT Staff are now attending a specialist training programme, which is being hosted by UNCTAD Geneva division.

Saint Helena's ASYCUDA World implementation is being done in an unprecedented way. The local team that are now being trained in Geneva is expected to build a virtualized version of the prototype during their training mission in Geneva. The team is expected to implement the virtualized platform upon return to Saint Helena from which they will be training other staff members and sensitizing the trading community and other government agencies on the change that will be brought about with ASYCUDA World. One such change is the use of the Harmonized System for classification of goods that will bring the country in-line with international trade goods classification nomenclatures.

ASYCUDA World in the Solomon Islands

The implementation of the ASYCUDA system is one component of the wider government modernization action plan for trade facilitation in the Solomon Islands, and regional integration. Six Customs administrations in the Pacific, including those of all other Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) member countries, are currently relying on ASYCUDA to support their respective Customs clearance processes.



Nathan KAMA, Comptroller of Customs & Excise

The ASYCUDA World project is aimed at identifying impediments to international trade and preparing distinct proposals to facilitate imports

and exports through streamlining and simplification of trade procedures, information flows and documentation, so as to maximising the benefits of customs processes automation with ASYCUDAWorld.

This project is complementary to other international and/or regional initiatives in the field of International Trade and effective Government Revenue management. Through effective co-ordination and co-operation, the project facilitates those initiatives, including MSG FTA and PICTA to which the Solomon Islands is signatory. This project also complements and reinforces national initiatives such as the Public Service Improvement Program.

UNCTAD is providing assistance to the Government within its technical assistance framework. This project shall act as a catalyst for Customs reform and simplification, and contribute towards balancing the need for both efficient/effective control and trade facilitation. Direct technical assistance is provided by both experienced Customs experts and ASYCUDA experts. A comprehensive capacity building component is delivered as part of the programme.

Burundi

L'Administration Douanière du Burundi a commencé à utiliser le système Douanier Automatisé depuis janvier 1993.

La première version utilisée fut SYDONIA 2.5 en 1993, 2.7 en 1999 et SYDONIA++ en juillet 2005.

En 2010, à travers son vaste programme de modernisation des procédures douanières, l'Office Burundais des Recettes a opté pour la migration de SYDONIA++ vers SYDONIAWorld.

La mise en place du système SYDONIAWorld a été réalisée à travers les étapes suivantes :

- Adaptation du système aux besoins nationaux et stabilisation de la version ;
- Formation des opérateurs économiques et des agents des douanes afin de maîtriser les fonctionnalités du nouveau système ;

- Exploitation en parallèle des systèmes SYDONIA++ et SYDONIAWorld du 6 au 10 mai 2013 afin de s'assurer du bon fonctionnement du système ;
- Mise en exploitation effective du système SYDONIAWorld en date du 11 mai 2013 dans tous les bureaux et postes frontaliers automatisés.

Certes, il y a quelques erreurs mineures qui ont été constatées au cours du démarrage de ce nouveau système, mais ces dernières ont été corrigées au fur et à mesure avec succès.

D'une façon générale, la situation a été bien maîtrisée et il y a lieu de conclure que la migration de SYDONIA++ vers SYDONIAWorld s'est effectuée avec succès.

SEYCHELLES, A new era in Customs



The Republic of Seychelles, an island-state in the western Indian Ocean is considered a middle-income country with an estimated population of 88,500 habitants. Its per capita income (around US\$9,710) situates Seychelles among the highest of the middle income countries.



Seychelles comprises 115 tropical islands (habitation is limited to only 10) spread over 1.374 million square kilometers, covering 455.3 square kilometers in land area. Most of the population lives in Mahe Island, where the International Airport and the main Seaport are also located.

The size of its economy is around US\$900 million GDP and is predominantly service-based. Seychelles relies on imports for almost all raw materials, products, and specialized services. Fisheries and its processing are important activities, both for industrial and artisanal ends.

Seychelles has embarked in a series of reforms making significant progress in public sector governance and showing important commitment to introduce recommendations such as the Value Added Tax, recently implemented in January 2013 and international best practices in support to trade facilitation.

The World Bank's Doing Business 2013 classification situates Seychelles in a very commendable position (74), behind Mauritius (19) and South Africa (39) and above the median of sub-Saharan countries (140). The same document

shows that between 2005 and 2013, Seychelles has maintained the same levels in areas such as: Dealing with construction permits, Getting credit, and Protecting investors, while it has improved in areas such as: Starting business, Registering property, Paying taxes, Trading across borders, and Enforcing contracts.

“Trading across borders” is basically the measurement of trade facilitation provided by countries, and in this aspect, the document shows that while it takes 16 days to complete an exportation, it takes 17 days to complete an importation. The document also emphasizes the importance of Seychelles' adoption of electronic documents, which is one of the outcomes of the recent implementation of UNCTAD's ASYCUDAWorld.



ASYCUDAWorld is already exhibiting this new vision of Customs in Seychelles, with international best practices fully observed, complete documentation of standard procedures, electronic documents, risk management approach and enforcement through Post Clearance Audit.

The implementation of ASYCUDAWorld in Seychelles, funded by COMESA, is part of the Seychelles Revenue Commission (SRC) Strategic Plan 2012-2014. In the foreword of the Strategic Plan, SRC's Commissioner, Ms. Jennifer Morel, confirms that: “Significant steps have been taken to modernize the Seychelles Revenue Commission and strengthen its operations to include the effective implementation of compliance programs

to administer a tax system based on self-assessment. Our focus, therefore, will be on increasing self-compliance achieved through using new technological solutions, developing our professionalism and by working closer with the community. It is our ultimate aim that increased self-compliance and administering the revenue laws in an accountable, transparent and fair manner will instill the necessary confidence in the Seychelles' revenue system." The Customs Division, headed by the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Selwyn Knowles, effectively guided Customs in making ASYCUDAWorld a successful implementation, also counting on the vital support of the Ministry of Finance, Trade & Investment, which firmly believes that it will ultimately increase the collection of revenue and will also create conditions to improve the Seychelles' current ranking on WB's sub-index "Trading across borders".

The success of Seychelles is also measured at the technical aspect. A United Nations survey, available at <http://unpan3.un.org>, has ranked Seychelles first for e-government development in the Africa region. With an e-government development index value of 0.5192, Seychelles is ranked first in Africa, ahead of Mauritius (0.5066), South Africa (0.4869), Tunisia, Egypt, Cape Verde, Kenya, Morocco, Botswana and Namibia. The Principal Secretary of the Department of ICT, Mr.

Benjamin Choppy, commented that the ranking serves as an encouragement to the work being undertaken by his staff and also serves as an indicator that the strategy being followed in this area is in the right direction.



Seychelles will be the first country in the region implementing the Electronic Signature for Customs (ASYCUDAWorld). This procedure, aimed at increasing security and applying ownership features to processed documents, will also have a great impact on the reduction of forms and other non-Customs documents. Systems have already been tested and the implementation is planned for September this year.



Ethiopia successfully pilots the E-Phyto-Sanitary Certification system supported by UNCTAD and the Kingdom of the Netherlands



The Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture has successfully piloted the national Electronic Phyto-Sanitary Certification system – ETHIOePCS, developed by UNCTAD ASYCUDA experts with the support of the Dutch Government. The project was greatly supported by the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority (ERCA) and the Ethiopian Horticulture Producers and Exporter's Association (EPHEA). Through the pilot phase over 20 officials from the Ministry of Agriculture/Plant Protection Service and 10 ERCA officers as well as representatives of 14 exporting companies have been trained. The ETHIOePCS system was installed in the Ministry of Agriculture and in the Plant Protection Service Office at Addis Ababa Bole Airport, through the ERCA's secure network, and in the exporters' premises. About 100 e-

applications were submitted and processed via the ETHIOePCS in the first 5 days of piloting, covering the cut flowers exported to the EU destinations. The new system will operate in the new cargo facility of the Addis Ababa Bole Airport, constructed with the Dutch Government funding.



Both the Ministry of Agriculture's inspectors and the exporters appreciated the ETHIOePCS piloting and expressed their high interest in the system's roll-out nationwide as well as its functional expansion to cover all types of horticulture products and all importing countries. These tasks can be implemented in future phases of the project, to be approved accordingly. UNCTAD ASYCUDA team also established the constructive dialogue with the UNDP office in Addis Ababa on issues of trade facilitation.



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