Multi-year Expert Meeting
on Transport, Trade Logistics and
Trade Facilitation
10th Session

Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated and climate-smart trade facilitation
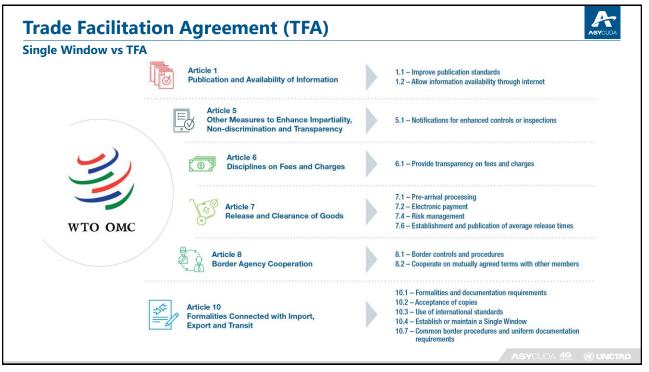
17–19 July 2023

A Platform to Build a Single Window

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Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

Single Window vs TFA

Article 1
Publication and Availability of Information
→ 1.1 – Improve publication standards
1.2 – Allow information availability through internet

Article 5
Other Measures to Enhance Impartiality, Non-discrimination and Transparency
→ 5.1 – Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections

Article 6
Disciplines on Fees and Charges
→ 6.1 – Provide transparency on fees and charges

Article 7
Release and Clearance of Goods
→ 7.1 – Pre-arrival processing
7.2 – Electronic payment
7.4 – Risk management
7.6 – Establishment and publication of average release times

Article 8
Border Agency Cooperation
→ 8.1 – Border controls and procedures
8.2 – Cooperate on mutually agreed terms with other members

Article 10
Formalities Connected with Import, Export and Transit
→ 10.1 – Formalities and documentation requirements
10.2 – Acceptance of copies
10.3 – Use of international standards
10.4 – Establish or maintain a Single Window
10.7 – Common border procedures and uniform documentation requirements

WTO OMC

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Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

Article 10.4 – Single Window

- 10.4.1 Members shall **endeavour to establish or maintain** a Single Window ... enabling... **to submit documentation and/or data requirements**... through **a single-entry point**.... After the examination by the participating authorities or agencies of the documentation ... **the results shall be notified** to the applicants

- 10.4.2 In cases where documentation ... have already been received ..., the same documentation and/or data requirements **shall not be requested** ... except in urgent circumstances and other limited exceptions

- 10.4.3 Members shall notify to the Committee the details of operation of the Single Window

- 10.4.4 Members shall, **to the extent possible** ..., use **information technology** to support the Single Window

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Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

Article 10.4 – Single Window

Measure Description	Nature of the Obligation
• Endeavour to establish or maintain a Single Window, enabling traders to submit documentation and/or data requirements for importation, exportation or transit of goods through a single-entry point to the participating authorities or agencies	• "Endeavour to" • Implementation of this measure is not mandatory, but it is mandatory to endeavour to implement it
• Participating authorities or agencies shall notify their results through the Single Window in a timely manner • Participating authorities or agencies cannot request documents or data that is already in the Single Window • Notify WTO's Committee, detailing how the SW works	• "..shall notify" • Required to implement as described
• Use information technology to support the Single Window	• "..to the extent possible and practical" • Undertake all feasible steps towards implementation

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Single Window Definitions

UN/CEFACT Recommendations

- The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) aims to simplify and harmonize information flows and the various processes and procedures related to international transactions, thereby contributing to global economic growth

- UNECE regulary publish recommendations including the following Single Window related ones:

Recommendations:

- **n° 33   Single Window**
- **n° 34   Data Simplification and Standardization for International Trade**
- **n° 35   Establishing a Legal Framework for an International Trade Single Window**
- **n° 36   Single Window Interoperability**

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Single Window Definitions

Objectives

- Render possible or facilitate the electronic transfer of data and documents for trade and transport operators
  (1 transaction)

- Create or increase the cooperation between customs and Other Government Agencies (OGAs) for sharing electronic documentation and establishing common processing and control procedures
  (1 point of entry)

- Introduce common procedures and controls
  (1 common control)

- 0 movement / 0 paper documents
  (paperless)

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Single Window Definitions
Implementation Guidelines

1. Stakeholder engagement
▶ Explain the risks, rewards and everybody's roles
▶ Convince stakeholders to establish a strong consensus and appropriate ownership

2. Public authority engagement
▶ Commitment from high-level decision makers is a key factor for success (provision of human resources, remove reluctance to change, communicate)

3. Mobilization and securing of financial resource
▶ Importance of feasibility study: estimation of financial resource and definition outcomes

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Single Window Definitions
Implementation Guidelines

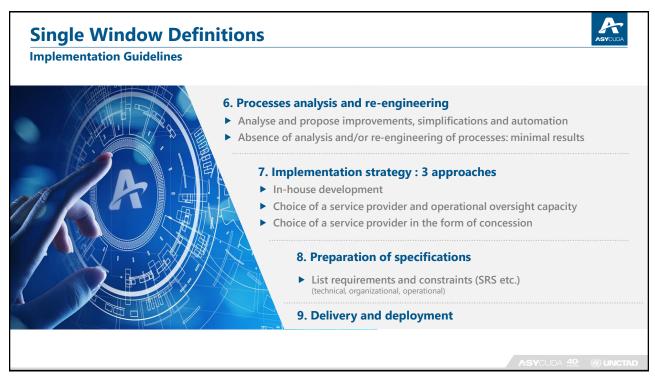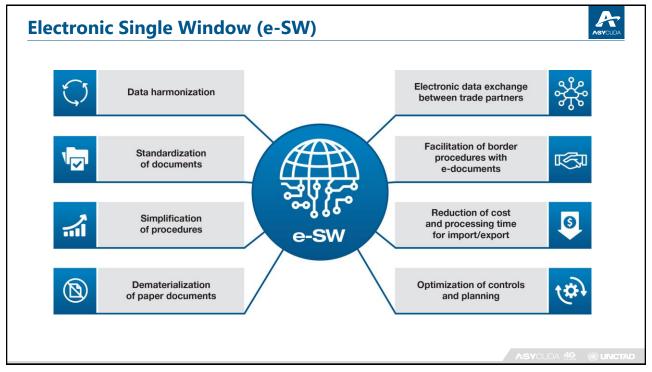### 4. Project team setup
▶ Skills, experience, full-time
▶ Hierarchy definition, decision-making, responsibilities and communication methods
▶ Must master subject matter, technical aspects, participate in writing functional specifications, testing, carry out training, identify focal points, follow implementation and keep deadlines

5. Steering committee setup
▶ Steering committee: Decision-making and arbitration
▶ In charge of executing project activities (project execution, action plan, etc.)
▶ Other committee: Technical committee, etc.

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Single Window Definitions

Implementation Guidelines

6. Processes analysis and re-engineering

- ▶ Analyse and propose improvements, simplifications and automation
- ▶ Absence of analysis and/or re-engineering of processes: minimal results

7. Implementation strategy : 3 approaches

- ▶ In-house development
- ▶ Choice of a service provider and operational oversight capacity
- ▶ Choice of a service provider in the form of concession

8. Preparation of specifications

- ▶ List requirements and constraints (SRS etc.)
  (technical, organizational, operational)

9. Delivery and deployment

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Electronic Single Window (e-SW)

Data harmonization

Standardization of documents

Simplification of procedures

Dematerialization of paper documents

e-SW

Electronic data exchange between trade partners

Facilitation of border procedures with e-documents

Reduction of cost and processing time for import/export

Optimization of controls and planning

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Customs Clearance to Single Window

Concept

- ▶ Phased approach
- ▶ Customs at the heart of the process
- ▶ An efficient customs IT system
- ▶ Institutional reform is as important as the IT component:
  - Simplification of procedures
  - Data and document standardization
  - Automation of processes and dematerialization
- ▶ Based on more than 30 years of practical experience
- ▶ **ASYCUDA technology** (web portal, single sign on), interoperable systems, JMS, web services, e-signature, certification, scanned document)
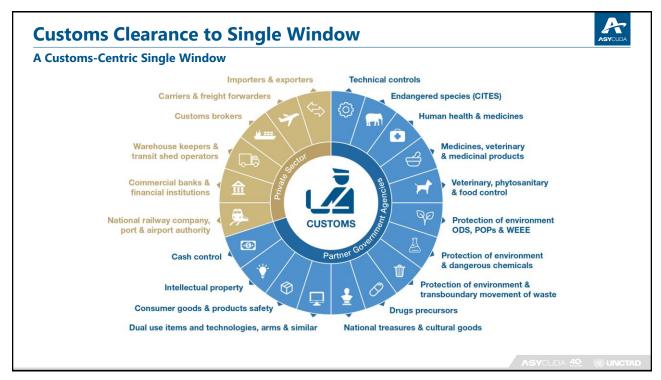- ▶ **Availability of application source code and transfer of know-how**

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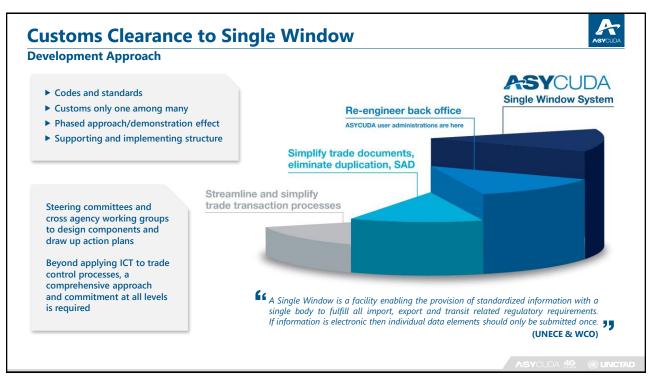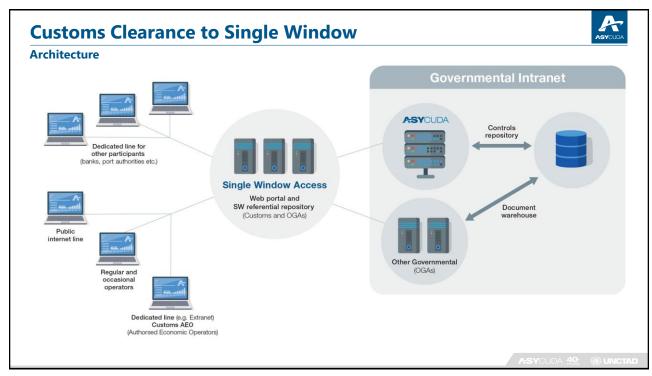# Customs Clearance to Single Window

A Customs-Centric Single Window

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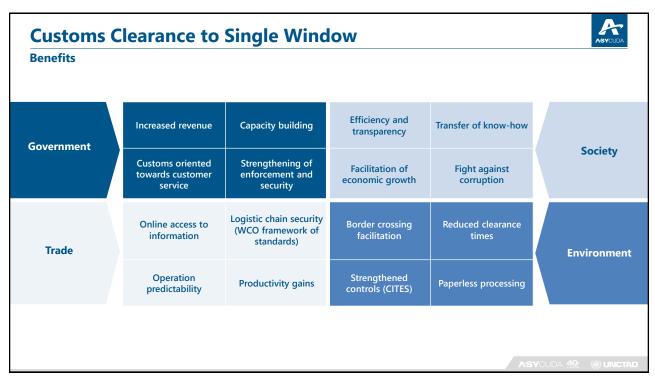# Customs Clearance to Single Window

A Customs-Centric Single Window

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Customs Clearance to Single Window

Development Approach

- ▶ Codes and standards
- ▶ Customs only one among many
- ▶ Phased approach/demonstration effect
- ▶ Supporting and implementing structure

Steering committees and cross agency working groups to design components and draw up action plans

Beyond applying ICT to trade control processes, a comprehensive approach and commitment at all levels is required

Re-engineer back office
ASYCUDA user administrations are here

Simplify trade documents, eliminate duplication, SAD

Streamline and simplify trade transaction processes

ASYCUDA Single Window System

A Single Window is a facility enabling the provision of standardized information with a single body to fulfill all import, export and transit related regulatory requirements. If information is electronic then individual data elements should only be submitted once.
(UNECE & WCO)

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Customs Clearance to Single Window — Architecture

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Customs Clearance to Single Window — Benefits

Government	Increased revenue	Capacity building	Efficiency and transparency	Transfer of know-how	Society
	Customs oriented towards customer service	Strengthening of enforcement and security	Facilitation of economic growth	Fight against corruption	
Trade	Online access to information	Logistic chain security (WCO framework of standards)	Border crossing facilitation	Reduced clearance times	Environment
	Operation predictability	Productivity gains	Strengthened controls (CITES)	Paperless processing	

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Customs Clearance to Single Window (Partnerships)

AGENCY		SIGNED	SCOPE
IOM - International Organization for Migration		July 2019	Development of interface between ASYCUDA and MIDAS - Migration information and data analysis system
UPU - Universal Postal Union		December 2015	Development of interface between ASYCUDA and UPU's electronic system for real time data exchange
ITC - International Trade Centre		November 2015	Cooperation in improving transparency of data on trade and market access
WTO - World Trade Organization		November 2014	Development of ASYCUDA toll for capturing and sending national data to the WTO Integrated Trade Database
CITES - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora		July 2014	Development and piloting of ASYCUDA module for monitoring trade in endangered species (eCITES)
OCHA - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs		February 2014	Development and piloting of ASYCUDA module for humanitarian relief consignments (ASYREC)
IATA - International Air Transport Association		November 2013	Development of interface between ASYCUDA and IATA system for real time data exchange
EAEC - Eurasian Economic Commission		May 2013	Collaboration in the areas of trade facilitation, customs IT technology and Single Window
WCO - World Customs Organization		March 2013	Development and piloting of ASYCUDA module for performance measurement (ASYPM)
Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands		April 2010	Development and piloting of electronic phytosanitary certification system (ASYCER)
IRU - International Road Transport Union		April 2010 Extension tbc.	Development and piloting of ASYCUDA-TIR module

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Single Window Examples

Examples

- **Rwanda (over 20 OGAs):** Health Ministry, Rwanda Development Comitee, Bureaux of standards, Magasin générale du Rwanda etc.
- **Uganda (over 20 OGAs):** Foreign Affairs Ministry, Atomic Agency, Bureaux of Standards, Coffee Export Board etc.
- **Kazakhstan (12 OGA):** Ministry of Agriculture, Central Bank, Justice Ministry, Energy Ministry etc.
- **Jordan (7 OGAs):** Ministry of Health etc.
- **Jamaica (6 OGA):** TBL Trade Board Ltd, PQPI Plant Quarantine Produce Inspection, JACRA Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (March), PCA Pesticides Control Authority, VSD Veterinary Services Division (April), JCA Jamaica customs agency
- **Vanuatu (8 OGAs):** Biosecurity, Department of Energy, Department of Environment, Department of Industry (2022), Immigration Department; Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR), Vanuatu **Post** (AW-CDS interface), NDMO (**ASYREC**)

- **Comoros (4 OGAs):** INRAPE (Agriculture), ANAMEV (Medecines), Direction des mines (Vehicles), ANPI (Investments)
- **Timor-Leste (10 OGAs):** TradeInvest, Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, National Ozone Unit, Direction National Quarantine and Biosecurity, Ministry of Heath, Ministry of Finance, Direction National des Transports Terrestres, Immigration, Tibar Port
- **Grenada (2 OGA)**: Ministry of Trade and Bureau of Standards
- **Burundi (1 OGA + 2 planned):** Medicine agency, Agriculture and Development
- **Zimbabwe:** Inception phase
- **Turkmenistan:** Inception phase
- **Barbados:** Inception phase

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