WCO instruments, tools and initiatives aimed at transit facilitation

Midterm review of the VPoA for LLDCs
UNOHRLLS – WCO – UNECE - IRU Side event,
6 December 2019, New York
Introduction to the WCO

- Independent intergovernmental organization exclusively focused on Customs matters
- Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council
- 183 Members
- Mission - The WCO develops international standards, fosters cooperation and builds capacity to facilitate legitimate trade, to secure a fair revenue collection and to protect society, providing leadership, guidance and support to Customs administrations
WCO instruments, tools and initiatives on transit

Revised Kyoto Convention – 120 Contracting Parties

Key elements:
- application of simplified Customs procedures in a predictable and transparent environment;
- optimal use of information technology;
- utilization of risk management for efficient Customs control;
- a strong partnership with trade and other stakeholders, and
- a readily accessible system of appeals.

Specific Annex E1 on Customs Transit
WCO instruments, tools and initiatives on transit

WCO Transit Guidelines

- Developed in cooperation with a wide range of partners
- Launched at the Global Transit Conference, 10-11 July 2017, WCO Headquarters in Brussels
- The Transit Guidelines contain 150 guiding principles, organized in 13 sections and supported by examples and Members’ practices
Members’ best practices collected through a series of six regional workshops, November 2017 – April 2019

Compendium organised in 6 sections per WCO region

The first draft contains 29 practices, 9 of which from LLDCs

Best practices to showcase:

- The Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) implemented by Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda (+DRC)
- Interconnectivity of Customs IT systems in West Africa
- eTIR

Planned to be launched in June 2020
WCO instruments, tools and initiatives on transit

Capacity Building portfolio

- WCO instruments and tools on transit
- Pool of accredited experts from Member Customs administrations – Technical and Operational Advisors on Transit
- E-learning courses