



**CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAM
Subregional Workshop on Application of Customs Related Provisions of World Trade
Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement**

15-16 January 2019

Baku, Azerbaijan

AGENDA

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss the application of specific customs-related provisions of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA) for Azerbaijan (AZE), Georgia (GEO) and Kazakhstan (KAZ). • To draft terms of reference and a preliminary action plan for the AZE National Committee on Trade Facilitation; review TFA action plans of GEO and KAZ • To better understand options and opportunities for effective implementation of coordinated border management and transit regimes amongst participating Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) countries.
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegates of the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan; Customs Department, Georgia Revenue Service; and Kazakhstan State Revenue Committee • Delegates of other relevant government authorities of Azerbaijan; • Resource persons- General Administration of China Customs, Regional Transit Expert, WTO TFA Expert, UNCTAD, WCO • WCO Europe Regional Office for Capacity Building • Asian Development Bank • CAREC Institute
Date and Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-16 January 2019: Baku, Azerbaijan
Day 1: 15 January 2019	
0830 – 0900	Registration
0900 – 0945	<p>Session 1: Opening Session</p> <p>Welcome Mr. Safar Mehdiyev, Chairman of the State Customs Committee, Azerbaijan</p>

	<p>Remarks: Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General, World Customs Organization</p> <p>Mr. Rufat Mammadov, Deputy Minister of Economy, Azerbaijan</p> <p>Mr. Nariman Mannapbekov, Country Director for Azerbaijan, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p> <p>Mr. Yergali Dosmagambet, Deputy Director II, CAREC Institute</p>
0945 – 1000	Photo Session and Coffee/Tea Break
1000 – 1045	<p>Session 2: Introduction to TFA Customs-related Provisions</p> <p>The session will introduce specific features and provisions of the TFA related to customs procedures, and rules and regulations for implementation by customs administrations.</p> <p>Presenter: Ms. Kameswari Subramaniam, Trade Facilitation Agreement Expert</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ying Qian, Director, Public Management, Financial Sector and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank</p>
1045 – 1145	<p>Session 3: Advance Ruling</p> <p>TFA expert will introduce the concept of advance ruling, its definition and scope, and provide implementation guidance. The session will include a Q&A Open discussion will seek clarification or further guidance.</p> <p>Presenter: Ms. Kameswari Subramaniam, Trade Facilitation Agreement Expert</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Yergali Dosmagambet, Deputy Director II, CAREC Institute</p>
1145 – 1245	<p>Session 4: Introduction to National Committees on Trade Facilitation (NCTFs)</p> <p>This session will introduce TFA Article 23.2 and the role of NCTFs in leading the implementation of TFA provisions. The status of CAREC NCTFs will be shared.</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Poul Hansen, Officer-in-Charge, Trade Facilitation Section, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ying Qian, Director, ADB</p>
1245 – 1400	Lunch

1400 – 1430	<p>Session 5: Harmonizing AZE Legislative Framework with TFA Provisions</p> <p>Session 5 will present TFA provisions that are not reflected in or are not aligned with existing Azerbaijan legislative and regulatory framework, and discuss recommendations how to address the issues.</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Samad Garalov, Head of General Department of Management of Customs Control and Trade Facilitation, AZE State Customs Committee</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Kameswari Subramaniam, Trade Facilitation Agreement Expert</p>
1430 – 1730	<p>Session 6: Group Work -- Formulating Preliminary NCTF Terms of Reference and Action Plan</p> <p>This session will draft terms of reference (TOR) for the Azerbaijan NCTF, to include objectives, scope of work, and possible membership structures. AZE will also develop a draft preliminary action plan for the NCTF based on the draft plan submitted at the WTO TFA Workshop on Roadmaps for CAREC Countries held on 29 October 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. GEO and KAZ will review and refine their respective TFA implementation action plans. The workplan may include major activities, person/groups responsible, and indicative target dates.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Poul Hansen, UNCTAD</p>
Coffee/Tea Break (will be served during the group work)	
1730 – 1800	<p>Session 7: Road Map on Implementation of Trade Facilitation Principles</p> <p>A representative from Azerbaijan will make a short presentation of the draft terms of reference and action plan for the NCTF; Georgia and Kazakhstan representatives will present summary of their action plans. UNCTAD and other resource persons will be requested to provide comments/guidance</p> <p>Presenter: Representatives from AZE, GEO and KAZ</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Poul Hansen, UNCTAD</p>
1800 – 1815	<p>Wrap-up for Day 1</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ying Qian, Director, ADB</p>
1900 – 2100	Welcome dinner hosted by Azerbaijan State Customs Committee
Day 2: 16 January 2019	
0830 – 0900	Registration
0900 – 1030	<p>Session 8: -- Authorized Economic Operators</p> <p>TFA expert will present the provisions for implementing an Authorized</p>

	<p>Economic Operator (AEO) program (TFA Article 7.7). Country representatives will provide updates on their respective AEO or equivalent program.</p> <p>Presenters: Mr. Matthew Bannon, Senior Technical Officer, Capacity Building Directorate, World Customs Organization</p> <p>Mr. Nariman Uatkanov, Deputy Head, Customs Operations Division, Ministry of National Economy, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Mr. Jeyhun Najafli, Head of Trade Facilitation Department of General Department of Management of Customs Control and Trade Facilitation, State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan</p> <p>Mr. Avtandil Chelidze, Customs Department, Georgia Revenue Service</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Samed Garalov, Head of General Department of Management of Customs Control and Trade Facilitation</p> <p>Open Forum / Question time</p>
1030 – 1100	Coffee/Tea Break
1100 – 1215	<p>Session 9: Coordinated Border Management/Joint Customs Control</p> <p>TFA expert will discuss the need and importance of interagency cooperation (TFA Article 8.2) at border crossing points (BCPs) and the benefits for both government and private sector. General Administration of China Customs will present factors contributing to the successful operation of a Joint Customs Control agreement between People's Republic of China (PRC) and Mongolia piloted at the Erlian (PRC)-Zamyn Uud (Mongolia) BCPs.</p> <p>Presenters: Mr. Matthew Bannon, WCO</p> <p>Ms. Pan Wanwen, Section Chief from General Administration of PRC Customs, Guangdong Customs</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Nigel Moore, ADB Consultant</p> <p>Open Forum / Question time</p>
12:15 – 1400	Lunch
1400 – 1445	<p>Session 10: CAREC Regional Transit</p> <p>TFA expert will present the elements of efficient transit regimes (TFA Article 11), which can facilitate both intra and extra-regional trade and are particularly important for the landlocked Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) member countries. An update on the proposed CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS)/Information Common Exchange (ICE) pilot will also be presented and discussed.</p> <p>Presenters: Mr. Matthew Bannon, WCO</p>

	<p>Mr. Nigel Moore, ADB Consultant on Transit</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ying Qian, Director, ADB</p> <p>Open Forum / Question time</p>
1445 – 1500	Coffee/Tea Break
1500 – 1600	<p>Session 11: Discussion on CATS Trilateral Agreement</p> <p>Session 11 will discuss revisions made to the draft CATS Trilateral Agreement in response to comments from the three participating countries, to include clarification on pending issues and a proposed schedule for the CATS/ICE pilot.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ying Qian, Director, EAPF, East Asia Department, ADB</p>
1600 – 1615	<p>Closing Session</p> <p>State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan</p> <p>Mr. Ying Qian, Director, EAPF, East Asia Department, ADB</p>