ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
TRADE FACILITATION INITIATIVES

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ECO - An Overview

- HISTORIC BACKGROUND
- OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS
- ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
- POLICY / DECISIONS MAKING ORGANS
- GLOBAL / REGIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT
- MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS
- REGIONAL / INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION
REGIONAL COOPERATION IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- TRADE AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY
- MAJOR INITIATIVES
- INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS
- ONGOING PROJECTS
- PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES
- PROPOSED PLANS
ECO TRADE FACILITATION INITIATIVES

- ECO TRADE AGREEMENT (ECOTA)
- ECO TRANSIT TRANSPORT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT (TTFA)
- ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONS OF ECO SMUGGLING AND CUSTOMS OFFENCES DATA BANK
- AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE IN CUSTOMS MATTERS
- AGREEMENT ON SIMPLIFICATION OF VISA PROCEDURES FOR THE BUSINESSMEN AND TRANSIT DRIVERS OF ECO MEMBER STATES
- AGREEMENT ON PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENT
UPCOMING INITIATIVES

• AGREEMENT ON AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION

• AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING

• AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION

• AGREEMENT ON JOINT TRADE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

• AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF STANDARDS
NTBs IN THE ECO REGION

- Restricted Trade Regimes
- Inefficient and insufficient telecommunications, transportation, banking & insurance systems
- Time consuming, non transparent & discriminatory customs procedures
- Shortage of customs facilities
- High and discriminatory transit fees
- Unreliable and insecure transit routes
- Difficult visa procedures
- Quantitative restrictions on imports
- Licensing for certain imports
- Currency convertibility/exchange rate uncertainties
- Restrictions on financial/banking services
ECO TRADE AGREEMENT (ECOTA)

- Benefits for the Region
- Salient Features of ECOTA
- Annexes to the Agreement
- Trade Liberalization Programme
- Plan of Action
- Decisions of the ECOTA Cooperation Council
- PTA Leading to FTA
ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)

**Objectives**

- Harmonization and modernization of transit transport
- Facilitation of movement of goods and passengers
- Ensuring the safety of goods and passengers and avoiding unnecessary delays during the transit traffic
- Cooperation and coordination of the efforts to avoid the incidence of customs frauds and tax evasion
- Harmonizing necessary administrative affairs relating to transit traffic
### Annexes to the TTFA

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AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONS OF ECO SMUGGLING AND CUSTOMS OFFENCES DATA BANK

OVERALL OBJECTIVE:

- Establish strong cooperation and coordination to achieve best possible results in combating illicit trafficking and customs fraud
- Create facilities for smooth flow of goods and passenger traffic
- Initiate measures to combat smuggling of commercial goods, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and customs frauds
- Share information on customs enforcement issues
HARMONIZATION OF CUSTOMS LEGISLATION

- TRANSLATION OF CUSTOMS CODES AND TARIFF NOMENCLATURES OF THE MEMBER STATES INTO ENGLISH AND THEIR PUBLICATION ON CUSTOMS WEB SITES
- HARMONIZATION OF THE TRANSIT LEGISLATIONS OF ECO MEMBERS
- TRADE FACILITATION WITHIN WTO FRAMEWORK
AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE IN CUSTOMS MATTERS

- Motivated by commitment to promote regional cooperation
- Common desire to promote ECOTA
- Need for cooperation in application and enforcement of customs legislation
- Importance of proper enforcement of customs administrations of prohibitions – restrictions and measures to control specific goods
- Customs offences regarded as prejudicial to security of regional economic, commercial, fiscal, social, public health and cultural interest
- Concern over illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors (constitute danger to public health and security)
- Effective actions against customs offences by ensuring transparent legal provisions
- Exchange of data on customs facilitation
SCOPE

- Assistance for application of the Agreement
- Help in information exchange for prevention, investigation or combating customs offences

**EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON:**
- New enforcement techniques
- New trends, means or methods of committing customs offences
- Goods, transport and storage methods
- Persons or accomplices/suspects of customs offences
- Other data on risk assessment, control and facilitation purpose
ECO Programme on Trade Facilitation

- JWG to prepare Draft of ECO TFA
- Recommendations of the UNDP Consultant Report
- Study on ECO Transit Trade Procedures
- EGM on Electronic Documentation
- Workshop on Trade Facilitation
- Joint activities on e-commerce
- Training courses
Why ECO Needs Trade Facilitation Measures

- Economic growth/sustainable economic development
- Serve long-term needs of the region
- Encourage integration of the region with the global economic system
- Enhance capacities and strengthen institutions
- Elimination of NTB’s by increasing transparency
- Activating private sector