



Cabinet du Vice-Président de l'Organisation Mondiale des Douanes
pour la Région de l'Afrique Occidentale et Centrale



ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DES DOUANES

WORLD CUSTOMS
ORGANIZATION

VICE-PRESIDENCE OMD-AOC

REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Unity*Labour*Progress

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

**MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL HANDING OVER OF
RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN THE OFFICES OF THE
OUTGOING VICE-CHAIR (CONGO) AND THE
INCOMING VICE-CHAIR (NIGERIA)**

The ceremony of the technical handing over of responsibility between the Offices of the outgoing Vice-Chair (Congo) and the incoming Vice-Chair (Nigeria) took place in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) on July 29, 2022 from 10 am to 12 noon at the office of the Vice-Chair (Congo).

Chaired by **Mr. Gomez TSEKET**, Director of the Office of the outgoing Vice-Chairman, this meeting was attended by the staff of the Office of the Vice-Chair, the Nigerian Customs delegation led by **Mr. Bede ANYANWU**, representing the Office of the incoming Vice-Chairman of the WCO-WCA Region, and the WCO Secretariat, represented by the Regional Coordinator, **Mr. Vincent NJEBI KWALAR**.

The overall list of participants is attached hereto.

The meeting was held in accordance with the attached agenda.

I. COURTESY EXCHANGES

The Regional Coordinator, **Mr. Vincent NJEBI KWALAR**, extended his thanks to the outgoing Vice-Chair for inviting him to this ceremony of the technical handing over of responsibility.

He then thanked and commended the staff of the Office of the outgoing Vice-Chair for the achieved work at both the regional and the WCO levels.

He eventually congratulated the incoming Vice-Chair and assured them of his availability and support in the carrying out of the reforms undertaken within the customs administrations of the WCA Region.

Taking the floor after the first speaker, **Mr. Bede ANYANWU**, representing the incoming Vice-Chair, first expressed his gratitude to the Republic of Congo for the warm welcome extended to the Nigerian delegation. He then conveyed the



greetings and congratulations of the Nigerian authorities to the Director General of the Congolese Customs for skilfully leading the modernization process of the customs administrations of the Region all along the past two terms.

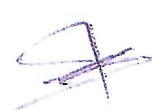
He furthermore extended his cordial thanks to the WCO Secretariat for its involvement in the reforms undertaken within the Region, and invited the Regional Coordinator to support the capacity-building actions intended to the customs administrations of the Region.

He expressed his gratitude to the outgoing Vice-Chair for his support which contributed to the election by consensus of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as Vice-Chair of the WCO-WCA Region at the 28th Conference of the Directors General of Customs of the WCO-WCA Region held in Brazzaville from May 26 to May 27, 2022.

He closed his speech by requesting the support of the Congolese Customs in the carrying on of the reforms.

The following speaker, **Mr. Gomez TSEKET**, Director of the Office of the outgoing Vice-Chair, extended, on behalf of **Dr Guénolé MBONGO KOUMOU**, Director General of Customs and Excise of Congo, a cordial welcome to the Nigerian delegation and reiterated his congratulations to the General Comptroller for his election as Vice-Chairman of the WCO-WCA Region.

He also expressed and shared the pride and satisfaction of the Congolese Customs for presiding over the Region business all along the previous two terms. He then extended his cordial thanks to the WCO Secretariat, mainly to **Dr Kumio MIKURYA** and **Mr. Bernard ZBINDEN**, former Regional Coordinator, replaced by **Mr. Vincent NJEBI KWALAR**, for their constant support to the efforts of the reforms undertaken by the customs administrations of the WCA Region.



Finally, before opening the proceedings, he reiterated the commitment and availability of the Congolese Customs to support the Nigerian Customs in their new assignments.

II. TECHNICAL PROCEEDINGS

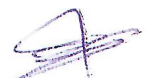
Following the preliminary remarks by the representative of the outgoing Vice-Chairman based mainly on the role and responsibility of the Vice-Chair, the following issues were considered:

- General information on the operations of the Office of the outgoing Vice-Chair;
- Organization and participation in the statutory and non-statutory meetings of the Region ;
- Budget implementation (disbursement process and contribution status) ;
- Main reforms undertaken and outlook ;
- Handing over of technical documents (Hard and soft documents - USB drive) following the attached list, and Any Other Business.

In respect to all these issues, the different parties unanimously acknowledged that they are addressed within the WCO and the Region orientation documents, mainly the Regional Guide. Furthermore, other practical aspects of these issues were discussed, with a focus on the following:

- **General information on the operations of the Office of the outgoing Vice-Chair ;**

Mr. Gomez TSEKET, Director of the Office, indicated that the Office of the outgoing Vice-Chair included the following positions in addition to the Director of the Office:



1- Executive Secretariat

- Ten (10) members acting as technical attachés;
- Two (02) bilingual assistants (English - French) ;
- One (01) bilingual assistant (Spanish -French) ;
- One (01) bilingual assistant (Portuguese - French) ;
- Four (04) secretaries-typists ;
- Two (02) press attachés in charge for communication.

2- Advisers to the Vice-Chairman

- One (01) adviser in reforms ;
- One (01) adviser in international relations ;
- One (01) adviser in public relations;
- One (01) adviser in human resources ;
- One (01) adviser in logistics;
- Six (06) technical advisers, experts from the WCO-WCA Region countries.

He then provided further information on the operations of the Office.

- Organization and participation in the statutory and non-statutory meetings of the Region

The Office of the outgoing Vice-Chair mainly focussed on the organization of the statutory meetings, the drafting of the activity reports, the evaluation of the recommendations from the statutory meetings, and the monitoring of the implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan.

He also mentioned the participation of the Vice-Chair in the non-statutory meetings, namely: the Framework Policy Commission, the Council sessions, the meetings of the Offices of Vice-Chairs, the *Francophonie* and the meetings organized by the African Union, ...).



- **Budget Implementation (disbursement process and contribution status)**

Upon request by the Director of the Office of outgoing Vice-Chairman, Ms **Colombe MALHABY**, Assistant to the Vice-Chairman, made a brief description of the disbursement processes. Then, the Director of the Office of the incoming Vice-Chairman was provided with a copy of the Budget and Financial Processes Manual and a document presenting the account status as of the date of the technical handing over of responsibility.

- **Main reforms undertaken and outlook**

The Director of the Office of the outgoing Vice-Chairman presented the achievements of the Vice-Chair, namely:

- The signing of the Memorandum Of Understanding and the Host Agreement of the Regional Office for Capacity-Building;
- The membership of Equatorial Guinea to the WCO;
- The approval of the Budget and Financial Processes Manual;
- The approval of the terms of reference of the finance and audit committees;
- The new contribution scale;
- The new sanction scale.

After that, he presented the main issues in process, namely:

- The carrying on of the drafting of the statutes of the Regional Structures (RILO, RTC, Info RWG) ;
- The update of the Regional Guide;
- The search for additional funds from development partners;
- The monitoring of the projects of the 3rd WCO/WCA - Partners Conference ;
- The implementation of the new contribution and sanction scales.



To conclude, he invited the incoming Vice-Chair to carry on and ensure the continuity of the undertaken reforms.

- **Handing over of the technical documents**

After the exchanges, the session was closed with the handing over of the documents related to the discussed issues, in both hard and digital version, to the Office of the incoming Vice-Chair. The list of the said documents is appended to the annex.

Done at Brazzaville, on the 29th day of July, 2022

For the outgoing Vice-Chair,



Gomez TSEKET,

Senior Customs Inspector,
Outgoing Director of the Office

For the incoming Vice-Chair,



Bede ANYANWU

Representative of the incoming Vice-Chairman

For the WCO Secretariat,

Vincent NJEBI KWALAR,

WCO-WCA Regional Coordinator

