Values and benefits of a Port Community System, links to Single Window and WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

SINGLE WINDOWS IN AFRICA

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Why Africa is the best time and location for implementation of a Single Window?

- Lack of integration and cooperation (in & out)
- CFTA in the African Union
- « Best-in-class » tool to support the 3 pillars (infrastructures, integration, trade facilitation)
- Digitalization on tracks (telcom money, ..)
- International compliance with IMO and other standards
Specific approach to the Single Window in Africa

- Mobilizing and securing public revenues (State budget consists for the largest part of customs revenue)
- Leapfrog from limited legacy systems
- Full integration (trade and logistics)
- Single Pay Slip concept
A political reform

- Government’s willingness to modernize its public administration and to move forward for continental and regional integration

- Nationwide and fully integrated project (trade and logistics)

- Change management as a backbone

- Strong involvement of the highest-level State authorities (under Presidency either Prime Ministry or specialized ministries’ supervision)
The challenge

- To secure and increase revenue collection
- To comply with the international trade facilitation and security regulations
- To relieve congestion in any traffic (simplified procedures, speeded clearance of good)
- To enhance the corridor’s efficiency and reduce transit time
- To improve visibility on trade flows (statistics): centralized data base to be mutualized
The scope

The African model

- Port / Cargo Community System
- Maritime Single Window
- Trade Single Window
- Interconnection with CMS / ASYCUDA

- e-Maritime
- e-Freight
- e-Regulatory
The features

- Electronic platform centralizing all information and procedures related to import, export and transit of goods
- Handles all modes of transport (maritime, land, air, river, lake and rail)
- Pre-clearance: constitution of the electronic regulatory import documents
- Interface with CMS / ASYCUDA - Real-time information exchange
- Logistics: all information relating to operations on the goods at the border crossing
The sizing

- Implementation in PPP with the Government for a 10-year period
- Setting up of a digital platform in line with the current initiatives (WCO SAFE framework of standards, WTO TFA, ..)
- Constant management of changes
- Business process reengineering
The stakeholders

SINGLE POINT of ENTRY and INVOICING
A National Single Window (example in DRC)

- 5 Ports
- 2 Airports
- 1 Railway
- 7 Border posts

- 66 employees (local resources)
- 7 Customer Care Service Centers
- Assistance in French, English, Lingala and Swahili

- Permanent free training sessions (20,000 users trained)
“The experience of the Democratic Republic of Congo highlights the importance of **training** as well as communicating **changes** as catalysts to trade reform implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2016, the country introduced a single window for trade, which began as a pilot. The following year the government continued the implementation of the single window, publishing information on new requirements on its website and providing training workshops to the private sector. The government also opened trade facilitation centers equipped with Internet-connected computers to assist and train users.”

By implementing the single window together with the accompanying training and communication, the Democratic Republic of Congo reduced document preparation time by 122 hours for exports and 42 hours for imports; border compliance time was also cut, by 219 hours for exports and 252 hours for imports.”

*Doing Business 2019 Report*
The new trends

- Data is the new currency
- Statistics
- Digital logistic corridors
- Blockchain and cybersecurity
- Integration in larger ecosystems
Thank you!