

**SPECIAL SESSION 2: CHALLENGES IN CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

<p align="center"><i>Brief Note</i></p>	<p>Inefficient and complex customs procedures are considered as non-tariff barriers affecting trade flows adversely. Since customs play a key role in facilitating trade, policies aimed at ensuring efficient and well-functioning customs administrations are vital to any trade facilitation effort. Many countries have been adopting customs modernization and reform initiatives. Customs modernization requires fundamental changes such as simplification and streamlining of customs procedures, harmonization with international standards, adoption of modern risk management systems and improved legal and regulatory frameworks, physical, technical and human capacity and use of information as well as communication technology. On the other hand, along with the customs administrations there are other government agencies (OGAs) such as ministries of agriculture, health and environment which have also certain responsibilities related to cross border movement of goods. Therefore there is a need for strong coordination and cooperation among the border agencies.</p> <p>This panel will discuss main/common challenges that countries confront while modernizing their border agencies, in particular customs administrations. In doing so the panel will also seek ways to address these challenges by discussing and putting forward practical means of solutions.</p>
<p align="center"><i>Objective of the Panel</i></p>	<p>The key objective of this session is to learn from the experiences of countries in their efforts to modernize and reform customs administrations and to provide a platform where the challenges and the practical means of solutions in this regard are discussed. The inputs derived from these discussions will in turn form a basis for informing future strategies for the countries which aim to improve their own customs administration's efficiency.</p>
<p align="center"><i>Issues and Topics</i></p>	<p>Possible points of discussion include but not limited to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the critical points that need to be taken into consideration for a successful customs modernization?</li> <li>• What are the significant barriers for efficient and effective functioning of customs administrations?</li> <li>• How can the challenges confronted in customs modernization and reform efforts be addressed by the governments?</li> <li>• How can border agency cooperation and coordination be improved?</li> <li>• What role could be played by the private sector in customs modernization and reform initiatives?</li> <li>• What are the contributions/challenges of the public private partnership models in customs modernization?</li> <li>• Are there any successful public private partnership models that offer important lessons for other countries?</li> <li>• What opportunities can arise from cross border cooperation between/among customs administrations in relation to customs modernization?</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><i>Participation</i></p>	<p>All delegations of the OIC Member States, the representatives of the OIC Institutions and various International Organizations attending the 34<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Ministerial Session are invited to participate in the special session. Representatives of civil society, businessmen, academicians and other relevant stakeholders will also be invited to attend this Session.</p>
<p align="center"><i>Venue &amp; Date</i></p>	<p>Istanbul Congress Center, İstanbul / Turkey, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018  For more information, please contact:  Nihat AKBALIK, Expert,  COMCEC Coordination Office, Necatibey cd. No:110 CANKAYA- ANKARA  Ph: +90 312 294 57 49 E-mail: <a href="mailto:nakbalik@comcec.org">nakbalik@comcec.org</a></p>



## SPECIAL SESSION

### *“Challenges in Customs Modernization and Possible Solutions”*

NOVEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, ISTANBUL

Istanbul Congress Center

09:15-10:15	<b>Moderator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Aleksandr KUZMENKO</b> Head of Legal Department Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) Switzerland</li></ul>
	<b>Speakers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Jalal BENCHAYOUN</b> CEO PORTNET Morocco</li><li>• <b>Mr. Ömür GEBEŞ (tbc)</b> General Director Customs and Tourism Enterprises Turkey</li><li>• <b>Mr. Mourad ARFAOUI</b> Regional Development Manager for MENA Region World Customs Organization Belgium</li></ul>
10:15-10:30	<b>Questions and Answers</b>	