

DRAFT 8 May 2007



## **Promoting Good Governance in Customs: Lessons Learned from the Caucasus**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

14-15 May 2007

Marriott Hotel (Ballroom), 13 Rustaveli Avenue, 0108 Tbilisi, Georgia

### **MONDAY, MAY 14**

**08:30 Coffee and Registration**

**09:00 – 10.45          SESSION ONE – OPENING REMARKS**

#### **Welcoming Remarks**

Ambassador Roy Reeve, Head of the OSCE Mission to Georgia  
Andrea Harris, Eurasia Foundation, Vice President for the South Caucasus

#### **The Role of the OSCE in promoting Good Governance**

*Mr. Kilian Strauss, Senior Programme Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)*

#### **Linkages Between Good Governance and Other Elements of Customs Reform**

*Mrs. Tamara Sulukhia, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, Sustainable Development Department, Europe and Central Asia, World Bank/Georgia Office*

#### **South Caucasus European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) Commitments in Good Governance in Customs**

*Mr. Malcolm Liebrecht, European Commission Representative (TBC)*

#### **Challenges to Good Governance in Customs – Better Laws Are Not Enough**

*Mr. Jaromir Cekota, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE Transport Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

**10:15          Plenary Discussion**

Facilitator: Andrea Harris, Eurasia Foundation, Vice President for the South Caucasus

**10:45          Coffee Break**

**11-15 – 13.00          SESSION TWO – KEY ISSUES IN GOOD GOVERNANCE**

#### **Harmonizing Legislation with Internationally Accepted Standards and Best Practices and Increasing Transparency/Accessibility in Customs Laws, Regulations, Rulings, Customs Rates and Taxes**

*Mr. Robert Struthers, Technical Officer, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, World Customs Organization*

**Building a Single Window: a key step to Good Governance in Customs**

*Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE Trade Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

**Mechanisms for Maintaining Integrity in Customs Systems**

*Mr. Robert Struthers, Technical Officer, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, World Customs Organization*

**Human Resources Management Issues – Remuneration, Recruitment, Promotion, Rotation, Relocation, Training and Code of Ethics**

*Mari Novak, KNO Worldwide (TBC)*

**Interagency Cooperation and Collaboration with the Private Sector**

*Mr. Robert Holler, Customs Advisor, USAID Business Climate Reform Project*

**12:15 Plenary Discussion**

Facilitator: Kilian Strauss, Senior Programme Officer, OSCE

**13:00 Lunch**

**14:30 – 15.45 SESSION THREE – POSITIVE EXAMPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS**

**Georgia: Topic to be defined**

*Mr. Levan Jgarkava, State Customs Department (TBC)*

**Armenia: Post-Customs Clearance Procedures**

*TBC*

**Azerbaijan: Topic to be defined**

*TBC*

**15:15 Plenary Discussion**

Facilitator: EF, TBD

**15:45 Coffee Break**

**16.15 – 17.15 SESSION FOUR – REVIEW OF REMAINING REGIONAL CHALLENGES**

**Better Integrated Border Management**

*Mr. Chris Nelson, Georgian Border Security and Law Enforcement Project (TBC)*

**Harmonization with EU Standards/Practices – View of New Customs Legislation from Private Sector Viewpoint, Regional Co-operation Needs**

*Mr. Giorgi Pertaia, Customs Expert, AmCham Georgia*

**Moving Toward Risk Management**

*Mr. Mark Stomski, Customs Advisor, USAID Business Climate Reform Project*

**16:45 Plenary Discussion**

Facilitator: Roel Janssens, Economic and Environmental Adviser, OSCE

**17:15 Day One of the Conference Ends**

**18:00 Group Dinner**

**TUESDAY, MAY 15**

**08:30 Morning Coffee**

**09:00 - 10.15 SESSION FIVE – EXAMPLES OF HOW OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DEALT WITH CUSTOMS GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

**Mr. Slawomir Pichor**, Director of Customs Chamber in Warsaw (Poland)

**Morocco** (specific issue(s) to be determined)

**Baltic States** (specific issue(s) to be determined)

**10:15 Plenary Discussion**

Facilitator: **Mr. Giorgi Pertaia**, Customs Expert, AmCham Georgia

**10:45 Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 13.00 SESSION SIX – FACILITATED COUNTRY BREAK-OUT SESSIONS TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC CHALLENGES**

**Groups will be broken down by country or by custom check point (e.g., Sadkhlo, Red Bridge, Sarpi, Poti, etc.)**

**12:30 Groups Report Back/ Q&A Session**

**13:00 Lunch**

**14:30 – 17.00 SESSION SEVEN – FACILITATED COUNTRY BREAK-OUT SESSIONS TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Groups will be broken down by country or by custom check point (e.g., Sadkhlo, Red Bridge, Sarpi, Poti, etc.)**

**16:00 Coffee Break**

**16:15 Groups Report Back/ Q&A Session**

**17:15 Conference Wrap-up**