



# ASYCUDA IN ACTION

## COMPENDIUM 2019



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# Foreword

Keeping the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals requires countries to mobilize more government resources and to better collect, process and analyse data on the sources of revenue at their disposal. In many developing countries, especially the least developed among them, customs revenue constitutes a significant, if not the largest, source of domestic resources potentially available to mobilize for development.

The UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) programme works to both increase the effective collection of customs revenues and strengthen institutions for customs data collection and processing in the countries where it operates, increasing government revenues from trade and producing trade-related statistics through its customs automation, modernization and reform projects. Given the programme's important function and the wide demand from member States for the services it provides, it is no wonder that ASYCUDA is the largest UNCTAD technical assistance programme, active in more than 90 countries.



The ASYCUDA programme is recognized worldwide for its contribution to the modernization and automation of customs procedures. However, its impact has continued to broaden over time at the request of member countries. This compendium provides case studies of ASYCUDA in action, offering a detailed look at some of the achievements and benefits reported by user countries after implementing ASYCUDA systems. The findings of this compendium further demonstrate the value that ASYCUDA provides to the countries that use it, and the critical role that trade can play through effective customs collection in mobilizing domestic resources for development.

On behalf of UNCTAD, I wish to offer my personal thanks to all member States that shared their stories and participated in the preparation of these case studies for the trust they placed in UNCTAD to work with them and for accepting to share with us their national data and statistics in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the ASYCUDA programme. This work could not have been possible without their cooperation and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Mukhisa Kituyi'.

Mukhisa Kituyi

Secretary-General of UNCTAD

# Acknowledgement

The “ASYCUDA In Action” Compendium was prepared under the overall direction of Shamika Sirimanne, Director of the Technology and Logistics Division of UNCTAD, and under the direct supervision of Fabrice Millet, Chief of the ASYCUDA Programme, UNCTAD. Kamal Tahiri, ASYCUDA Programme Management Officer, coordinated the production of the Compendium. Jonathan Mark Walls, consultant, provided the design concept and graphical elements. Fadoua Souissi and Jiayue Xu, interns, participated actively in its production and editing. Nadège Hadjemian, Graphic Designer, designed the cover. Pablo Cortizo, desktop publisher, finalized the design and formatted the compendium for printing.

The ASYCUDA Programme would like to acknowledge all the stakeholders in the preparation of case studies: ASYCUDA user-countries’ Customs Authorities for sharing information and data, UNCTAD staff for their participation and support and the ASYCUDA Project Officers and on-site staff for their input.



# ASYCUDA In Action

*IN A WORLD OF COMPLEX AND FAST CHANGING TRANSNATIONAL CHALLENGES...PARTNERING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND BUSINESS IS MORE THAN JUST AN OPTION. IN MANY WAYS, IT HAS TURNED INTO A NECESSITY FOR THE UNITED NATIONS IN ORDER TO "GET THE JOB DONE"*<sup>1</sup>

From the onset, and through its 35+ years of existence, the ASYCUDA Programme has always been a demand-driven Technical Assistance initiative of UNCTAD. The Nairobi Maafikiano adopted at the fourteenth session of UNCTAD in July 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, reconfirmed UNCTAD's mandate to ASYCUDA in paragraph 38 (p) "Continue to provide assistance to developing countries to design and implement policies and actions aimed at improving the efficiency of trade transactions as well as the management of transport operations. It should also continue to cooperate with member States in implementing, the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)".

Accordingly, over the years UNCTAD's ASYCUDA Programme has solely focused on delivering upon this mandate, providing expertise and capacity building on customs modernization and automation as a means to improving trade facilitation. This was and continues to be achieved through the adoption, by the requesting member States' customs administrations, of international standards (data), and the implementation of best practices (processes), followed by the automation of the customs clearance process through a thorough installation of the ASYCUDA automation platform.

With almost half of the customs administrations around the world now relying on a common automation platform to support their respective customs clearance operations, UNCTAD was able to build all the required and requested features of those administrations, using the latest technology available at any given time, in one standard and fully integrated software, i.e. ASYCUDAWorld. Aside from the expertise UNCTAD developed working with a large number of customs administrations, and benefiting from their inputs, a key value of the ASYCUDA Programme moving forward is the collaborative network of administrations, partners and experts it can build upon. This Compendium of case studies illustrates some of the positive outcomes of this partnership framework.

This edition covers a wide range of benefits acknowledged by the respective user countries, including Least Developed and Landlocked Developing countries, such as reduction in clearance steps for traders, improved "Doing Business" rankings, streamlined processes in customs and with other regulatory agencies, increased revenue. More case studies shall be prepared in the future as the 100+ user-countries' report on progress made in partnership with UNCTAD and its ASYCUDA Programme.

We invite you to follow us on our official twitter account: @AsycudaProgram and to visit our official website for more information: [www.asycuda.org](http://www.asycuda.org).

<sup>1</sup> Business UNUsual. Report commissioned by the Global Compact Office ISBN-1-100980-4 United Nations.

**ASYCUDA** COMMUNITY



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