

UNCTAD
Division on Technology and Logistics

ASYCUDA PROGRAMME
STRATEGIC PLAN
2011-2015

(EXCERPT)



Introduction

The ASYCUDA Programme provides technical assistance to Member States for managing international trade and transport operations in a modern automated environment. The ASYCUDA Programme designs and develops advanced software applications for Customs administrations and the trade community to comply with international standards when fulfilling import, export and transit related procedures.

The Programme provides advisory services and training in the framework of development oriented projects resulting in an effective institutional capacity building.

The present Strategic Plan is aimed at:

- Defining the strategy and direction for the ASYCUDA programme from 2011 until 2015.
- Providing the Programme's mission, vision and values, which determine decision making and priority setting
- Enabling definition of strategic goals and actions to achieve desired outcomes
- Guiding allocation of resources to implement its strategies
- Forming the basis for detailed business planning

Mandate

The mandate of the ASYCUDA Programme is reflected in the Accra Accord, paragraph 167, which reads as follows: "UNCTAD should 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 ASYCUDA, the automated system for customs data."

The UN General Assembly 5th Committee document (para. 82 document **A/C.5/64/L.23** of 29 December 2009) also makes reference to the Programme when it encourages the UNCTAD SG "... in supporting the strengthening of regional economic integration by providing, within the allocation to the Conference, technical assistance and capacity-building in the areas of trade, customs and infrastructure ..." .

Furthermore, ASYCUDA also contributes to achieve the MDGs, in particular MDG 1 (poverty eradication), by assisting user countries in the economic planning of their government's finances through revenue collection, trade statistics, and reduction of corruption (diversion of country resources).

ABOUT ASYCUDA

- The ASYCUDA software is developed in Geneva by UNCTAD.
- ASYCUDA takes into account the international codes and standards developed by ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation), WCO (World Customs Organization) and the United Nations.
- ASYCUDA can be configured to suit the national characteristics of individual Customs regimes, National Tariff, and legislation.
- ASYCUDA provides for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) between traders, shipping agencies and Customs using XML messages compliant with WCO data model.
- It operates in a client/server environment comprising web based/mobile clients under a variety of operating and RDBMS

MISSION

To provide technical assistance, develop advanced software applications and strengthen institutional capacity for Customs with emphasis on the special needs of the least developed countries.

VISION

Public Administrations are implementing e-Government strategies. Revenue agencies such as Customs can contribute to these processes together with trade partners and other public agencies. Present in 90 countries, ASYCUDA remains central to these developments.

VALUES

- Vehicle for UN Core values
- Search for Excellence
- Reliability
- Client Orientation
- Technological Awareness
- Creativity
- Innovation
- Development-oriented

Key features of the strategic orientation

The strategic goals of the Programme endeavour to ensure long term sustainability of the ASYCUDA Programme and to leverage innovative capacities to respond to demands from partners in order to support the Mission and Vision statements. These include:

1. To remain a de facto leader in Customs automation worldwide
2. To ensure successful delivery of ASYCUDA projects to address evolving needs of Customs
3. To maintain effective building of institutional capacity
4. To develop Single Window systems tailored to specific conditions of countries, in terms of institutional reform, technological solutions and business processes.
5. To establish a Customs centric Single Window model
6. To contribute to the Globally Networked Customs (WCO)
7. To ensure effective Programme management and governance in line with UN rules and regulations

ASYCUDA PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES (ID CARD)

- Over 90 countries are using ASYCUDA for Customs clearance automation purposes
- The present version of the ASYCUDA software embodies more than 25 years' of IT and Customs experience.
- In an average year, 15-20 new ASYCUDA projects or addenda are opened for a total effective annual disbursement above 13 Millions
- Beneficiaries fund directly three quarters of the total amount, which confirms the demand driven nature of the Programme
- On average, 20 personnel work as part of the central team in Geneva and around 100 ASYCUDA specialists work in UNCTAD executed projects in the field
- The Programme conducts, in an average year, field activities in about 45 countries (active projects)
- Memorandum of Understanding in the areas of international trade facilitation, Customs control, transit monitoring, and best practice are signed with other partners
- Two ASYCUDA Newsletters are published yearly
- An ASYCUDA WORLD REPORT biennial is published (first issue in 2008)