

---

**Global Preparatory Meeting on the Mid-Term Review of  
the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action**

on

**Trade Facilitation Opportunities for Landlocked and  
Transit Developing Countries**

Geneva, 8–9 July 2008

**Single Window  
To enhance the (electronic) exchange of  
information**

by

**Tom Butterly  
Trade Facilitation Section, Trade Logistics Branch  
UNCTAD**

# Single Window

To enhance the (electronic) exchange of information

Tom Butterly  
Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Agenda

- Single Window Concept
- Single Window Features
- ASYCUDA and Single Window
- Benefits of a Single Window

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

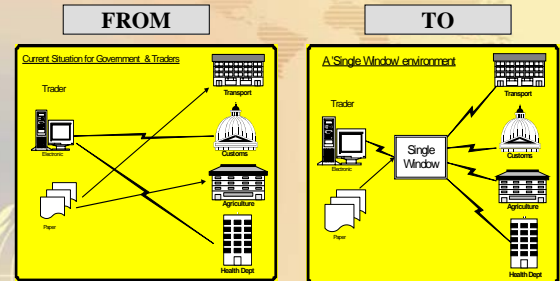
## What is a Single Window

*"A Single Window is a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. If information is electronic, then individual data elements should only be submitted once".*

UN/CEFACT Recommendation 33

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Single Window Concept



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## A Single Window is ..

- essentially a political / organizational / procedural concept – it is not a technology system!

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Single Window Features

- Allow traders to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements
- If information is electronic then it need only be submitted once
- Allow for the sharing of information amongst government agencies in respect of international trade transactions

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## SW Features (continued):

- Provide coordinated controls and inspections of the various governmental authorities.
- Allow payment of duties and other charges
- Be a source of trade related government information

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Single Window Facilities in many countries

- Finland
- Germany
- Guatemala
- Hong Kong SAR (China)
- Mauritius
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Senegal
- Singapore
- Sweden
- United States
- Ghana

[http://www.unece.org/cefact/single\\_window/welcome.htm](http://www.unece.org/cefact/single_window/welcome.htm)

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Diversity of SW models: adopting to specific national/regional conditions and requirements

- **Financing**
  - By the State (Finland, Sweden, United States).
  - By the private sector (e.g. Guatemala, Germany)
  - Public-private partnership (e.g. Ghana, Mauritius, Senegal, Singapore)
- **The use of Single Window**
  - Compulsory (Finland, Guatemala, Mauritius, Senegal)
  - Voluntary (Germany, Malaysia, Sweden, United States)
- **Services**
  - Free on charge (Finland, Sweden, United States)
  - Paid based on various payment schemes (Guatemala, Germany, Malaysia, Mauritius, Senegal, Singapore)

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Costs and Benefits

### Benefits for government and trade

- Faster processes, clearance and release
- Reduced costs of compliance
- Reduced corruption
- Reduction in bureaucratic processes
- Better collection of government revenues
- Improved trader compliance
- risk management techniques for control and enforcement purposes
- Predictable application and explanation of rules

### Implementation costs

- From less than one million US dollars (Guatemala) to
- Between 1 and 4 million dollars (Finland, Senegal, Malaysia).
- In the US, the cost was significantly higher but the system is quite extensive and covers many additional areas.

**Benefits outweigh costs .....**

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Key factors for success

- **Strong leadership (Political Will)**, which can come from the public sector (Malaysia, Senegal, United States, Singapore) or the private sector (Guatemala)
- **Cooperation and commitment of all stakeholders**, private and public (Finland, Mauritius, Malaysia, Senegal, United States, Singapore)
- **User-friendly system**, which do not create complications for usual business procedures (Malaysia, Sweden, Senegal, United States)
- **Investments in modern technologies** (Guatemala, Malaysia)
- **Phased, flexible approach** (Germany, Mauritius, Singapore)

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Step by Step Implementation Based on International Standards

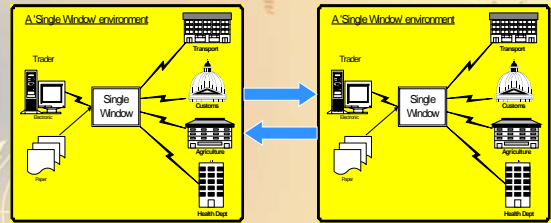


## Regional Single Window Initiatives

- Regional Single Window initiatives, such as
  - ASEAN
  - APEC
  - European Commission
- Key to regional initiatives is International Standards

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Cross Border Data Exchange between Single Windows



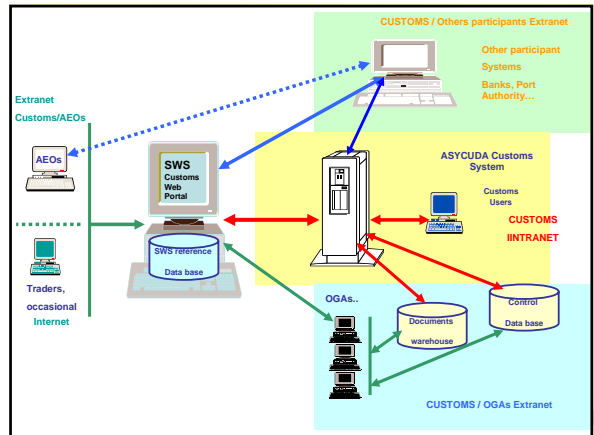
Must be based on International Standards

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

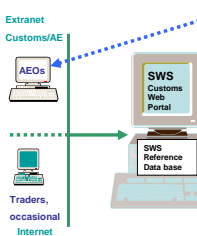
## ASYCUDA and Single Window

- ASYCUDA developing a SW portal and modules to link Customs and Other Government Agencies
- ASYCUDA also developing interfaces to Single Window type systems, such as Port Community Systems
- ASYCUDA has very large installed base in developing countries – opportunity for countries to leverage this

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs), Traders, occasional operators and citizens connect to the **Single Window System** through the **Customs Web Portal** using **Internet or Extranet** (AEOs only).



Unregistered users may freely query the SWS **Reference Data Base**. The RDB provides free information about the documents and formalities required for a given transaction (Tariff Expert, Tariff Query, exchange rates...).

Through the routing facility and according to their profile **registered users** may login to:

- the Customs Clearance System for lodging SAD declarations;
- the Document Warehouse System (OGAs) applying for a given document (i.e. License, certificate...);
- the Other participants systems (Banks, Port Authority, Warehousing Company), for lodging a manifest, for requesting a payment...

A **Single sign-on** facility allows the login of registered users to all systems participating in the SWS with **single user name and single password** (according to profile)

## Single Window and the WTO TF Negotiations

Main Areas covered	Groups of Measures Falling Under Those Areas	Textual Proposals
formalities connected with importation and exportation	<b>Disciplines on Formalities/Procedures and Data/Documentation Requirements Connected with Importation and Exportation</b>	
	Use of International Standards	W/131/Rev.1
border agency cooperation	Single Window/One-Time Submission	W/138/Rev.2
	Coordination of Activities and Requirements of all Border Agencies	W/128/Rev.1
customs cooperation	Improved Coordination and Cooperation	W/133/Rev.1+ Corr.1
	- Amongst Authorities	W/133/Rev.1+ Corr.1
border agency cooperation	- Between Authorities and the Private Sector	W/135/Rev.1+ Corr.1
	Multilateral Mechanism for the Exchange and Handling of Information	W/12/Rev.2, W/154

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## How can Single Window help LLDCs

- Comprehensive and politically palatable way of simplifying trade procedures and information flows
- Catalyst for simplifying and standardizing trade documents and information exchange
- Forces cooperation amongst national border agencies
- Enhances possibilities for regional cooperation between border agencies in different countries
- Greatly improves transparency and reduces corruption
- It offers major benefits to both government and trade
- Is reflected in several WTO TF proposals
- Step by step flexible approach

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Questions / Comments ?

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

## How can Single Window help LLDCs

- Comprehensive and politically palatable way of simplifying trade procedures and information flows
- Catalyst for simplifying and standardizing trade documents
- Forces cooperation amongst national border agencies
- Opens possibilities for regional cooperation between border agencies in different countries
- Greatly improves transparency and reduces corruption
- It offers major benefits to both government and trade
- Is reflected in several WTO TF proposals
- Step by step flexible approach

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT