



**World Customs
Organization**

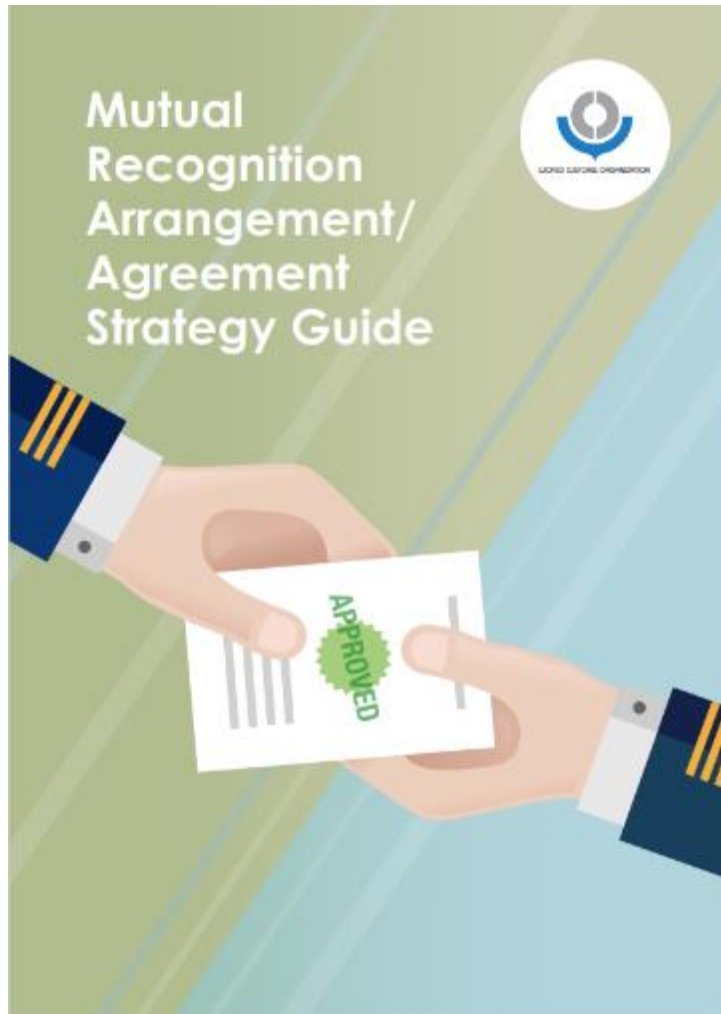
Session 8 : WCO Guidelines on Negotiating Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)

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**Regional Workshop in Enhancing and
Accelerating the Implementation of the AEO
program in Central Asia**

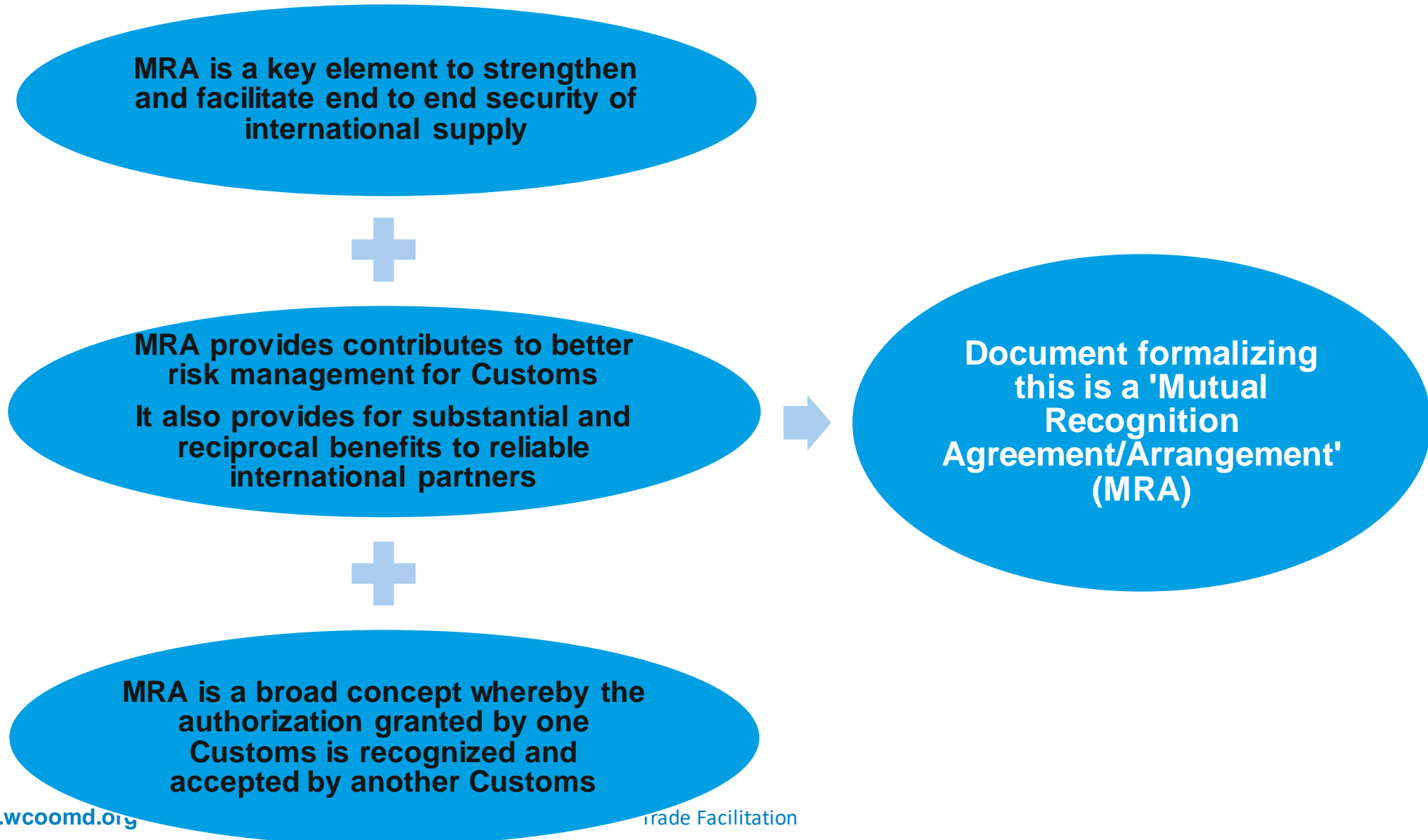
1 November 2023



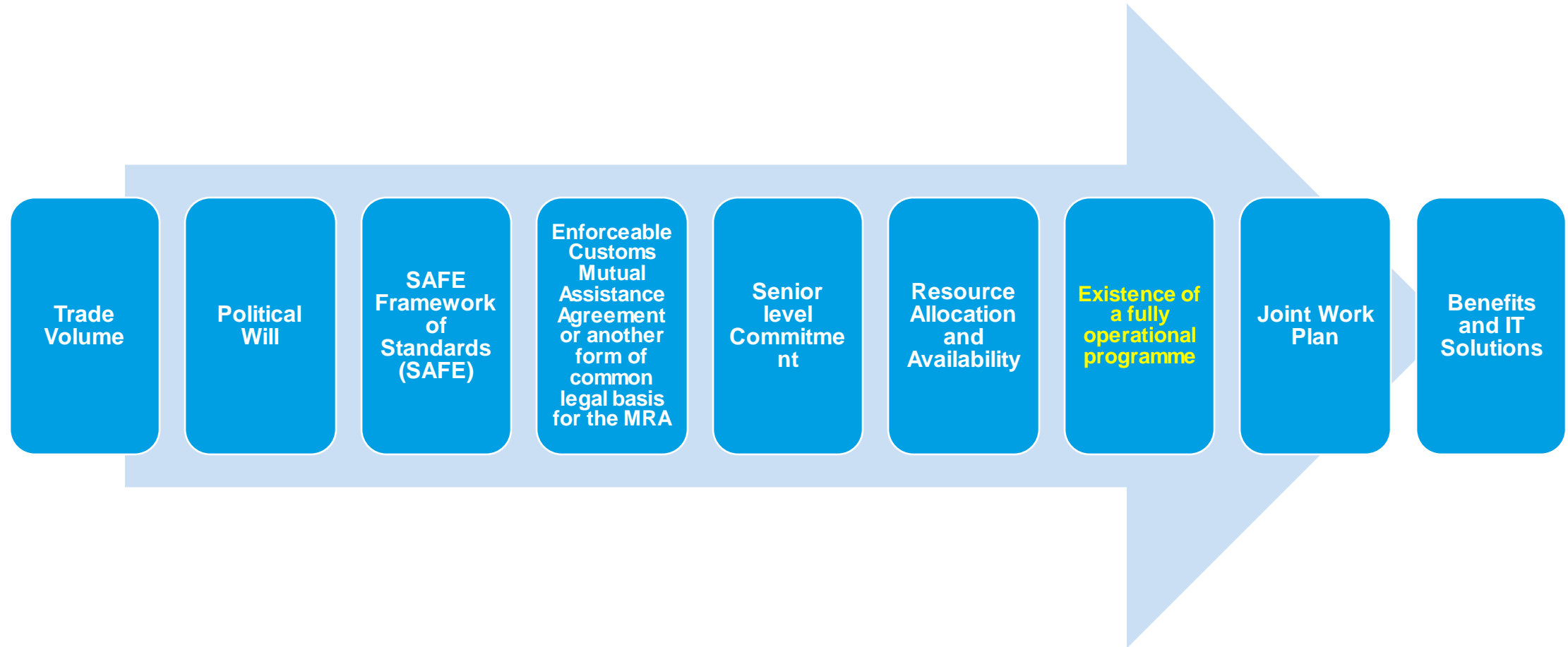
“...Mutual recognition can be a mean to avoid duplication of security controls and can greatly contribute to the facilitation and control of goods moving in the international supply chain”
(SAFE FoS)

⇒ *Challenge, but great opportunity for further trade facilitation*

General Concept of MRA



MRA Preparation prior to Engaging with other Customs Administrations



- Element 1 : Responsible Entities
- Element 2 : Compatibility
- Element 3 : Mutual Recognition
- Element 4 : Information Exchange and Participant Communication
- Element 5 : Future Endeavours
- Element 6 : Modification and Consultation
- Element 7 : Status of Arrangement/Agreement
- Element 8: Commencement and Discontinuation/ Termination

I. MRA Process Overview:

- Programmes Comparison
- Site Validation Observation
- Text Negotiation
- Implementation

II. MRA Negotiating Process:

- Parameter of scope for the negotiation
- Identification of roles
- Timeframes
- Draft legal text
- Evaluation mechanisms
- Communication plan

III. MRA Implementation:

- AEO Identifiers
- Benefits
- Transparency
- Privacy Laws
- Exchange of information
- Testing of notification protocols
- Protection of information
- Awareness raising/FAQs

IV. MRA Maintenance (after the signature and start of the implementation of an MRA)

Consultation and Co-creation with stakeholders

Resource Allocation

Automation/IT Systems

Internal Communications

Exchange of Benefits

Partner Government Agencies

Dedicated staff and leadership

Develop MRA selection criteria

MRA Roadmap/Joint-Work Plan

Website and Public Outreach

MODEL TEMPLATE FOR AN MRA ARRANGEMENT/AGREEMENT BETWEEN

THE

Official Department Name
Official Customs Administration Name
Country Name

AND

THE

Official Department Name
Official Customs Administration Name
Country Name

THEIR

AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR PROGRAMMES

The *Official Department Name*, *Official Customs Administration Name* and the *Official Department Name* hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”,

CONSIDERING that a joint evaluation has concluded that *Official Customs Administration's Name AEO Programme Name* and *Official Customs Administration's Name AEO Programme Name*, hereinafter referred to as the “Programmes”, are security initiatives that strengthen end-to-end security of the supply chain;

RECOGNIZING that the Programmes apply internationally recognized security standards in accordance with national laws and the standards advocated by the World Customs Organization;

ACKNOWLEDGING the specialized nature of each country's border management processes, procedures, mechanisms and legislation governing the management of their programme;

UNDERSTANDING that the integration of these Programmes with other Customs-to-Customs measures contributes significantly to end-to-end supply chain security;

HAVING REGARD FOR the Agreement between the Government of *Country Name* and the Government of *Country Name Regarding Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters* (“CMAA”) or another form of common legal basis signed at *location* on *date*;

SECTION I RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES

Official Customs Administration Name and *Official Customs Administration Name* are the entities responsible for implementation of this Arrangement.

SECTION II COMPATIBILITY

For purposes of consistency, the Participants intend to:

- A. Maintain compatible standards for each Programme with respect to the following matters:
 1. Application process for membership;
 2. Assessment of membership applications; and
 3. Approval of membership.

- B. Operate each Programme within the context of the Customs-to-Customs Pillar of the World Customs Organization 2018 Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, as it may be amended with the concurrence of *Official Customs Administration Name* and *Official Customs Administration Name*.

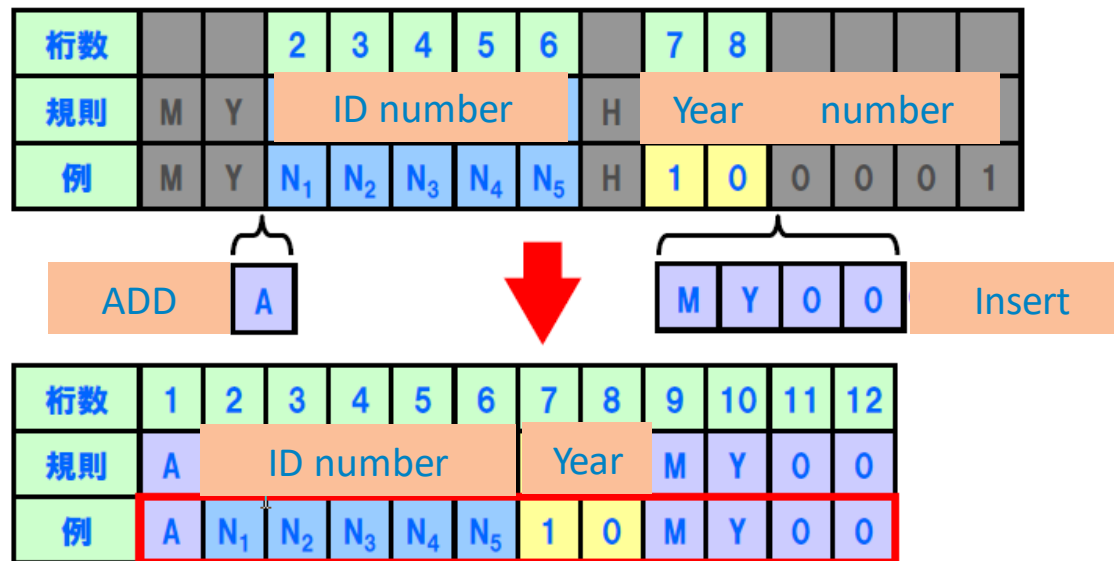
SECTION III MUTUAL RECOGNITION

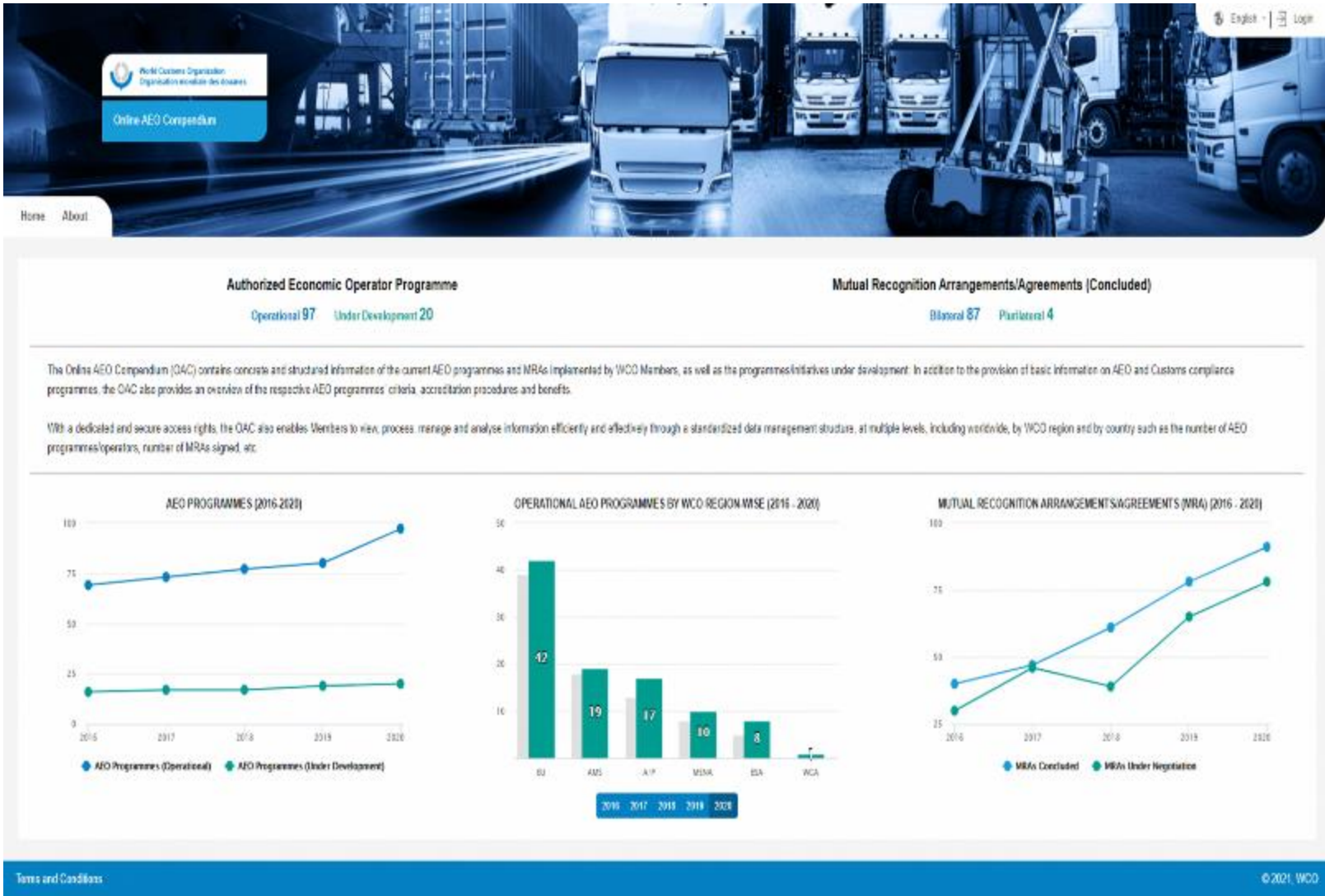
- A. Each Participant intends to accept the validation and approval status granted to members of the other Participant's Programme, but reserves the right to conduct its own validations of entities that are members of the other Participant's Programme, when deemed necessary and after prompt communication to the other Participant.

Example :System-related challenge

- ✓ Trader identifier Number (TIN) rule may be different from country to country
- ✓ Necessity to recognize the foreign AEO's codes for Customs clearance

(Example)





Authorized Economic Operator Programme
Operational 97 Under Development 20

Mutual Recognition Arrangements/Agreements (Concluded)
Bilateral 87 Plurilateral 4

The Online AEO Compendium (OAC) contains concise and structured information of the current AEO programmes and MRAs implemented by WCO Members, as well as the programmes/initiatives under development. In addition to the provision of basic information on AEO and Customs compliance programmes, the OAC also provides an overview of the respective AEO programmes' criteria, accreditation procedures and benefits.

With a dedicated and secure access rights, the OAC also enables Members to view, process, manage and analyse information efficiently and effectively through a standardized data management structure, at multiple levels, including worldwide, by WCO region and by country such as the number of AEO programmes/operators, number of MRAs signed, etc.

AEO PROGRAMMES (2016-2021)

Year	AEO Programmes (Operational)	AEO Programmes (Under Development)
2016	70	15
2017	72	16
2018	75	17
2019	78	18
2020	95	19

OPERATIONAL AEO PROGRAMMES BY WCO REGION WISE (2016 - 2021)

Region	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
EU	42	19	17	10	8
AMS	19	17	10	8	0
AIP	17	10	8	0	0
MSA	10	8	0	0	0
ISA	8	0	0	0	0
WCA	0	0	0	0	0

MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS AGREEMENTS (MRA) (2016 - 2021)

Year	MRAs Concluded	MRAs Under Negotiation
2016	40	30
2017	55	45
2018	65	40
2019	75	60
2020	90	75

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Thank you

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