



# TOWARDS THE INTERCONNECTION OF CUSTOMS IN LATIN AMERICA, A PROPOSAL AND ON-GOING EFFORTS

The dilemma between consensus in general and  
differences about details

JOSE CARLOS MATTOS

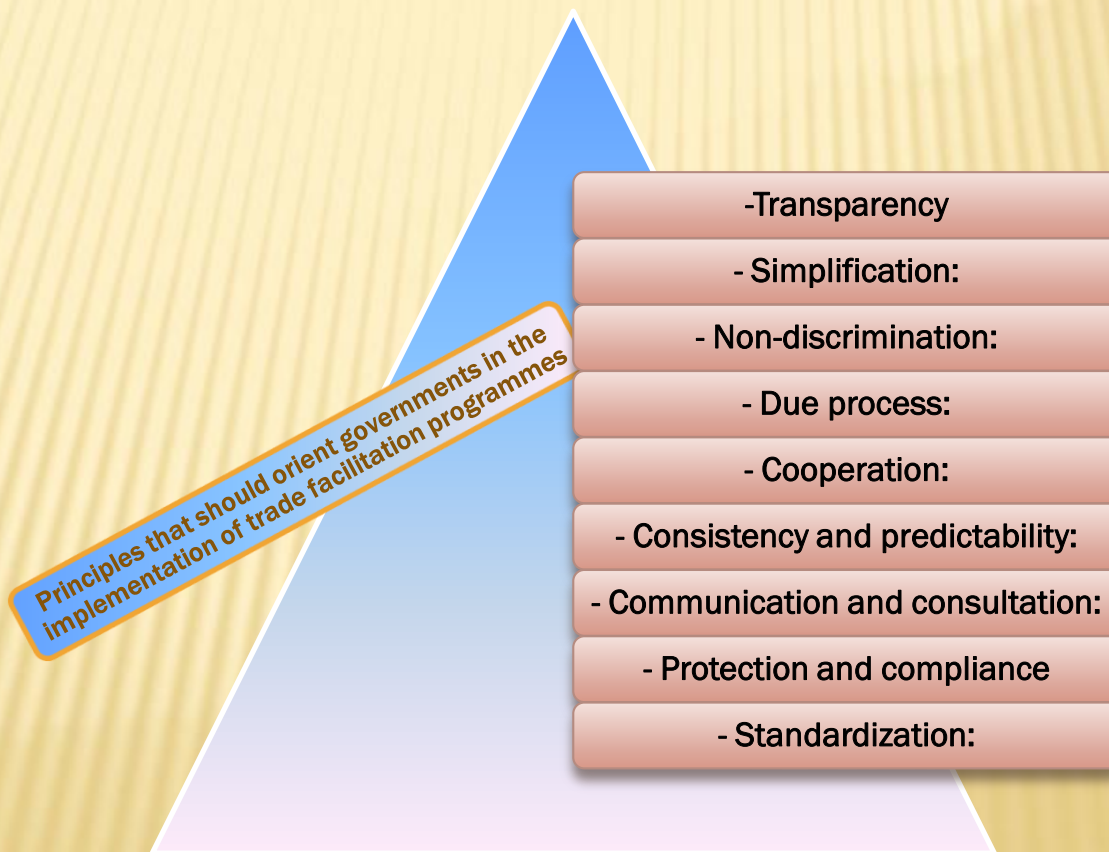
(The views are personal and may not reflect the views of the Organization)

In Latin America there is a general consensus that it is necessary to increase the competitiveness of its exports, and that one of the most efficient instruments to increase that competitiveness is through the use of trade facilitation instruments, particularly the use of single windows.

Nonetheless, the establishment of a single window goes beyond the implementation of technologies of information. It requires the implementation of political, institutional and legal aspects and in respect to regulation.

But, today, the challenge of establishing a Single Window is not enough and the countries are faced with the need to interconnect national windows in order to be able to face the international market by participating in supply chains, that require multiple origins for their products.

## NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF THE PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD ORIENT GOVERNMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE FACILITATION PROGRAMMES





# THE REGIONAL APPROACH

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As a region that has recently awoken to the relevance of improving competitiveness through the establishment of interconnectivity between their Customs. There are still few regional efforts towards interconnectivity.

One relevant effort is the one carried out through the creation of the Inter American Network of Single Windows for Foreign Trade (RedVUCE).

The first meeting of the members of the network, that comprises all the countries of the region, was in Chile in 2011.

# INTER AMERICAN NETWORK SINGLE WINDOW FOR FOREIGN TRADE (REDVUCE).

The members decided to create three workgroups in order to face the task,

- ❑ One group on that will study aspects related to **laws and regulations**.
- ❑ One group that will study **aspects related to Harmonization** and, finally,
- ❑ One group about the use of **technologies of information**

# INTER AMERICAN NETWORK SINGLE WINDOW FOR FOREIGN TRADE (REDVUCE).

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The objectives of the Network are:

- Work towards reaching a shared vision among the countries of the region
- Identify what are the necessary changes:
- Identify and quantify the group and national benefits
- Generate adequate and realistic expectations
- Disseminate information among the countries of the region
- Involve users in the process



# ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION:

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The Mesoamerica Project in close coordination with the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) supports the Mesoamerican Procedure for International Goods Traffic (TIM).

This involves the implantation of computer systems and standardized procedures at border checkpoints, to optimize and improve the formalities and procedures and quarantine operations international transit of goods, and thus facilitate border crossing for those operations, reducing transportation costs and increasing competitiveness.

# THE TIM (INTERNATIONAL TRANSIT): CONCRETE RESULTS

1. Definition of single, standardized procedure for the operations of international transit of goods , from the southern border of Mexico to Panama.
2. Defining the group of data to exchange electronically between customs authorities , immigration and quarantine of eight countries of Mesoamerica.
3. Computerized procedure for the international movement of goods.
4. Interconnection and operation of computer systems that manage the operations of transit of goods between Honduras and El Salvador .
5. Actual Tests since July 2008 , through a pilot plan at the border of La Hachadura ( Guatemala - El Salvador ) , El Amantillo (El Salvador - Honduras ) and Guasaule ( Honduras - Nicaragua ) .
- 6 . Improvement in infrastructure, telematics computing in customs administrations, quarantine at headquarters and at borders.

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