



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

WOMEN IN CUSTOMS, TRADE AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

*“Opening up opportunities for women through Customs reform and
modernization”*

JULY 1, 2013

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



This Conference is made possible with the generous support of the World Bank and the Government of Finland





OFFICIAL AGENDA

08:45 – 09:15

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mr Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General, World Customs Organization

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Ms Margaret Saner, Vice President of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration

09:15 – 10:45

SESSION I

External Perspectives: Women's Economic Empowerment and Trade Facilitation

Women in the developing world are becoming increasingly engaged in international trade. Women's economic empowerment, supported by trade, can support positive social, economic and national revenue outcomes. This session will explore the specific challenges of women traders in the developing world.

Moderator: Mr Erich Kieck, Director Capacity Building, World Customs Organization

Video Presentation: "Les Petites Barrières" – Introduced by Mr. Alan Hall, Senior Border Management Specialist, World Bank

Panelists:

- *Mr Alan Hall, Senior Border Management Specialist, World Bank*
- *Ms Päivi Kannisto, Senior Advisor, Economic Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland*
- *Ms Irene Musselli, Legal Affairs Officer (Gender and Trade), Division on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*

Questions and Answers, Discussion

10:45 – 11:15

COFFEE AND NETWORKING BREAK



11:15 – 12:30

SESSION II

External Perspectives: How Customs Can Support Women’s Economic Empowerment

Customs administrations play a key role in supporting trade facilitation and economic development in developing countries. This session will explore the specific needs of women as economic actors and how Customs Administrations and other stakeholders in trade can support women’s economic empowerment within the context of the 21st century Customs agenda.

Moderator: Ms. Elfriede Fritz, Head of Unit “Trade Policy Instruments” and Chairperson of the Working Group on Equal Treatment, Ministry of Finance, Austria

Panelists:

- *Ms Carol West, Chair, WCO Private Sector Consultative Group*
- *Ms Gertrude Nimako-Boateng, Executive Director, International Trade Institute for West Africa*
- *Ms Sarwat Tahira Habib, Chief, International Customs, Federal Board of Revenue, Pakistan*
- *Ms Valentina Mintah, Director, West Blue Consulting*

Question and Answers, Discussion

12:30 – 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 – 14:15

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Ms Allen Kagina, Commissioner General, Uganda Revenue Authority

14:15 – 15:45

SESSION III

Internal Perspectives: Equality as a Driving Force for Improved Organizational Performance

Inclusive organizations that make the best possible use of all the organization’s diverse talent, including women, tend to perform better. Using examples from within and outside of Customs, this session will explore how organizations that have assimilated the full talents of women have succeeded.

Moderator: Ms Heike Barczyk, Deputy Director Capacity Building, World Customs Organization

Panelists:

- *Dr Gudrun Vande Walle, Post Doctoral Researcher, University College, Gent*
- *Ms Christina Horchmans, Director, Indirect Tax, Customs and International Trade, Ernst & Young*



- *Ms Petra Hoogendoorn, Director, Diversity and Inclusion, Dutch Tax and Customs Administration*

Question and Answers, Discussion

15:45 – 16:15

COFFEE AND NETWORKING BREAK

16:15 – 17:45

SESSION IV

Practical Considerations: Helping Women to Work Effectively in Male Dominated Organizations

While largely male-dominated, women leaders have made a significant mark on Customs Administrations throughout the world. Using examples from within and outside Customs, this session will explore how women leaders have succeeded and thrived in male-dominated organizations.

Moderator: *Ms Heike Barczyk, Deputy Director Capacity Building, World Customs Organization*

Video Presentation: *“Women at the Helm” – Introduced by Ms Karine Langelois, New Media Officer, International Maritime Organization*

Panelists:

- *Ms Alessandra Zocca, Secretary General of Professional Women International, Brussels*
- *Ms Agnes Katsonga, Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Malawi Revenue Authority*
- *Mrs Maria Luisa (Olivieri) Eichhorst, International Relations Specialist, United States Customs and Border Protection*

Question and Answers, Discussion

17:45 – 18:00

CLOSING

Outlook on Women in Leadership Workshop

- *Mr Nathan Taylor, Project Manager, World Customs Organization*

18:00 – 20:00

RECEPTION

- *Hosted by the World Customs Organization*

