



**World Customs Organization
East & Southern Africa
Regional Office for Capacity Building**

CALL FOR PAPERS

2ND REGIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE (THE ESARR CONFERENCE)

1. Background

The World Customs Organization, East and Southern Africa, Regional Office for Capacity Building (WCO ESA ROCB) launched the ESA Regional Research Programme, in 2013, aiming to build institutional capacity and the body of knowledge in Customs through research. The programme aims to enhance the region's capacity to showcase its own research globally. The 1st WCO ESA Regional Research Conference was hosted by the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority and took place on the 4th and 5th June, 2014 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The theme of the conference was "Customs and Trade Facilitation: Building Institutional Capacity and the body of knowledge in Customs through research".

2. The 2nd ESA Regional Research Conference

The 2nd ESA Regional Research Conference is scheduled to take place in 2017 and will be hosted by the WCO Regional Training Centre (RTC Kenya) on the 23rd and 24th November, 2017. In light of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and its entering into force, and the WCO support for its implementation, the conference will focus on Trade Facilitation, with the conference aiming to progress the trade facilitation (TF) agenda, within the framework of the WCO Mercator Programme.

3. Theme

The theme of the conference is '**Impacts and Implication of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and the WCO Mercator Programme to the ESA region**'.

Proposals and submissions of works done or ongoing are welcome on the following topics:

- i. Impacts of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in East and Southern Africa
- ii. Data Analysis for Effective Border Management in East and Southern Africa
- iii. Best Practices in Digital Customs in East and Southern Africa
- iv. E-commerce as a driver for Economic Growth in East and Southern Africa
- v. Securing and facilitating trade in East and Southern Africa
- vi. Regional Integration: Addressing levels of intraregional trade in East and Southern Africa

Further details on these topical areas are as follows;

i. Impacts of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in East and Southern Africa

Papers should focus on any of the TFA's related areas such the articles (considering publication and availability of information, Consultation, Advance ruling, Appeal/Review procedures, other measures for transparency, Fee and Charges, Release and Clearance of goods, Border Agency Cooperation, Movement of goods intended for import, Formalities, Transit and Customs cooperation), National Committees on Trade Facilitation, and the Special and Differential Treatment for Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries.

ii. Data Analysis for Effective Border Management in East and Southern Africa

Papers should consider the WCO's dedication of 2017 to promoting data analysis under the slogan 'Data Analysis for Effective Border Management' and promote such initiatives, taking into account the large amount of data at the disposal of Customs. Researchers may share experiences, the status, or how Customs can tap data from other government agencies, commercially available databases, and open source information platforms such as digitized global public records and multilingual news sources.

iii. Best Practices in Digital Customs in East and Southern Africa

Papers should share experiences and best practices in the area of Digital Customs and integration of Information and Communication Technology on Customs modernization and operations.

iv. E-commerce as a driver for Economic Growth in East and Southern Africa

Papers should recognize the rise of e-Commerce as a driver to economic growth. Researchers may consider case studies, the uptake and/or potential of ecommerce, potential revenue streams or leaks, criminal exploitation, among other related categories.

v. Securing and facilitating trade in East and Southern Africa

Papers should consider topics alongside the increasing vulnerability of the global supply chain in the midst of best efforts to facilitate trade, counter terrorism strategies, passenger controls (Advance Passenger Information and/or Passenger Name Record (PNR)).

vi. Regional Integration: Addressing levels of intraregional trade in East and Southern Africa

Papers should consider why levels of intraregional trade remain low among the various Members and/or trading blocks in spite of concerted efforts to promote regional integration.

4. Target Audience

WCO ESA encourages participation in this research from customs experts, researchers, analysts, authors, private sector and novices who would like to start researching.

5. Guidelines

- i. Researchers may begin fresh papers, present current or ongoing work (unpublished)
- ii. Submissions may include; i. presentation summaries of up to 1,000 words, or, ii. papers of approximately 6,000 words, submitted to the WCO ESA ROCB by 30th April, 2017. Researchers may continue finalizing their works after the submission of their summaries or papers.
- iii. Submissions must be on Ms. Word font Calibri, font number 12.
- iv. Each researcher should also share a biography of no more than 300 words.
- v. Successful candidates will be notified by 30th May, 2017 and will be expected to attend the conference
- vi. Presentation at the conference will be limited to 20 minutes.
- vii. Papers may be co-authored and presented by two or more authors
- viii. Please send you submission and enquiries to: Larry Liza larry.liza@wcoesarocb.org and copy rocb@wcoesarocb.org, and primrose.maina@wcoesarocb.org