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**STAKEHOLDER NEEDS AND PRIORITIES**

**Transmitted by the Government of Kazakhstan**

**Summary**

This document on the use of information technology was prepared by the Customs Control Committee of Kazakhstan. It is being submitted to delegates for information purposes and is reproduced as received by the secretariat in the original language.

## **Introduction**

1. The Customs Control Committee of the Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan is the Ministry department responsible for delivering and monitoring customs functions within its terms of reference as a central executive body.
2. The Committee's main tasks are as follows:
  - (a) Managing customs affairs in Kazakhstan, ensuring compliance with customs and other domestic law and monitoring enforcement by the competent customs authorities;
  - (b) Carrying out customs administration in accordance with customs law;
  - (c) Maintaining the Nomenclature of Goods for Foreign Trade;
  - (d) Participating in budget revenue forecasting and in setting policy goals and priorities for State revenue collection;
  - (e) Compiling foreign trade and special customs statistics;
  - (f) Ensuring compliance with tariff and non-tariff regulations under the laws concerning goods and means of transport moved across the customs frontier;
  - (g) Carrying out and improving customs clearance and customs control, and creating conditions for expediting the movement of goods across the customs frontier;
  - (h) Issuing licenses in accordance with the Customs Code and Kazakh legislation on licensing;
  - (i) Introducing and maintaining information systems, employing information and communication technologies, and performing many other tasks.
3. The significance of customs control and customs duties and tax collection is borne out by the fact that customs duties and taxes made up 37 per cent of the national budget in 2008 and 35 per cent in the first half of 2009.
4. Trade in Kazakhstan is as follows: total exports reached \$71,184 million and total imports \$37,889 million. Exports to countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States reached \$11,078 million and imports from those countries \$17,497 million. Exports to other countries reached \$60,105 million and imports \$20,393 million.
5. The customs authorities are ranked in the following order: the Ministry of Finance; the Customs Control Committee; the provincial customs control departments and customs houses; and customs stations and checkpoints. The customs bodies have about 6,000 employees.
6. There are 16 customs control departments, 3 customs houses and 171 customs stations (including 54 automobile, 14 energy carrier, 13 railway, 12 airport and 1 seaport customs station, 16 customs clearance centres and 61 checkpoints).

7. Kazakhstan's State frontier measures 14,053 kilometres in total (including 6,740 kilometres with the Russian Federation, 1,240 kilometres with Kyrgyzstan, 2,134 kilometres with the Uzbekistan, 426 kilometres with Turkmenistan and 1,783 kilometres with China). The frontier running along the shoreline of the Caspian Sea (seaboard) is 1,730 kilometres.

#### **Use of information technologies by the Customs Control Committee**

8. The introduction of an automated customs data system in Kazakhstan in 1997 has made it possible to submit customs documents such as cargo declarations or customs transit declarations in electronic form. While these documents are in DBF format, the XML format is under development.

9. The automated data system was initially intended as a self-contained system to address challenges specific to the customs service.

10. However, given the growth in international trade and the overhaul of domestic legislation, the need arose to improve information-sharing and integration with other data systems by employing new approaches and technical solutions. The positive experience of customs administrations of other countries in creating electronic customs was also taken into account. Accordingly, the Customs Control Committee is now working to establish an electronic customs data system, e-Customs, under the e-Government and e-Ministry of Finance programme.

11. A Web portal and a gateway for the customs authorities of Kazakhstan are being developed as components of e-Customs.

12. The Web portal is intended to give international traders a single access point for electronic services and information resources relating to international trade procedures.

13. The gateway is intended to integrate the automated customs data system and neighbouring systems (internal and external), to facilitate information-sharing with all participants in the system on the basis of unified and standardized mechanisms, and to achieve coordination of computerized business processes based on calls from internal services, services of neighbouring customs authority systems and external services of other State authorities and international organizations.

14. A variety of electronic declarations for customs applicants filing over the Web have been developed and are being introduced on a trial basis, which will enable foreign traders to complete electronic customs documents and submit them to any customs authority over the Internet free of charge. As part of the efforts to refine the legislative framework for customs authorities, a bill has been drafted amending the Customs Code to provide for integrated controls at checkpoints on the customs frontier of Kazakhstan. The bill envisages the transfer of most of the duties of the control authorities located at the frontier to the customs authorities, which will make it possible to continue to fulfil the one-stop and single-window customs control principles and to expedite the procedure for moving means of transport across the frontier. An operational management centre of the Customs Control Committee, which is mainly responsible for carrying out remote monitoring and control, has been established to coordinate and ensure rapid implementation of these tasks.

15. In addition, efforts are under way to set up a unified automated information system to monitor customs transit of States members of the Eurasian Economic Community within the framework of the inter-State programme to establish automated information systems.

16. Furthermore, Kazakhstan is working with the customs administrations of the Russian Federation and Belarus to introduce an advance information system on goods and means of transport.

17. The Customs Control Committee is currently working with the World Bank on a customs development project for 2008-2012.

18. The project is aimed at making fundamental improvements at all levels of the Committee's work, including information technology management.

19. The project includes an implementation plan that envisages the completion (in 2012) of the work to improve the Committee's information and communication technology and to bring it into line with international standards.

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