

ANNEX II
Action Plan – COMESA Digital FTA Instruments
(the 5TH HCSC, Oct. 2019)

Instrument	Description	Start date	End date	Status
<p>I. E – Trade</p>	<p>To build an inclusive platform for COMESA region traders. The purpose of platform will be to facilitate traders to trade online, do business freely, easily, openly, and fairly which is fundamental to the economies of COMESA member states over the coming years. The platform will eliminating physical boundaries, inclusive of preferential tax regimes and making COMESA 21 member states into one digital market. This will improve intra trade and enable traders to trade without barriers.</p> <p>The following online market structure is proposed: - Traders will be able to display their online shops with Products under their respective countries. All tax concessions relating to each country will be applied during an online purchase among 21 member states making it a real digital free trade Area.</p> <p>The following Trader registration structure is proposed: - Products are to be inspected and quality assured along with the certificate of origin prior to registering traders to be online traders. This will be done by the respective organisation responsible for registering online traders in each country.</p> <p>All registered freight forwarders that are to be listed in the COMESA online market. It will be mandatorily to use existing COMESA instruments such as , Yellow Card system etc. This will be a prerequisite prior to registering of freight forwarders.</p>	1/06/2019	30/01/2020	Tendered on COMESA Website calling applicants to develop the system
<p>Improve and provide data</p>	<p>To design and build a Mobile Application to collect information about Informal Cross border traders.</p>	1/6/2018	1/3/2019	Done

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I. E-Logistics integrated digital e-Services window (Customs, Immigration, Taxation, Import export permits, Company registration etc.) platform to access services related to trade	<p>A single window is a facility that enables cross-border traders/Freight handlers to submit standardized information and documents online at a single point without visiting multiple organizations. Single window platform will be connected to related competent authorities such as customs, immigration and taxation etc virtually limiting time taken to visit these organisations physically.</p> <p>Many countries have implemented single window systems among COMESA member states. An analysis will be done to gather information relating to countries that will require assistance in this regard</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Carry out a feasibility study and a gap analysis for all countries</p> <p>Implement single window for 21 countries based on gap analysis</p>	01/8/2019		Terms of reference completed

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Smart border Queue management and Self Exit system	<p>Design and implement smart borders</p> <p>The border queue management service is an ICT-based tool that lets car and truck drivers reserve time slots for passing through border checkpoints, thereby eliminating the need for physical queueing. This system will change the physical queue into a virtual queue. This service is planned to deliver as an e-service through the internet and also will be available as a self-service through kiosks. This system Will be designed to operate border queues.</p> <p>The functionality of paying vehicle taxes online will be incorporated to this service.</p> <p>Details Such as passenger details including electronic copies of passports, vehicle number and registration details , transit note details if carrying goods and insurance details plus vehicle tax payment will done online.</p> <p>Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and design smart borders Develop a system for queue management Purchase kiosks Purchase self-exit gates Purchase display screens. 	1/2/2019	-	Ongoing
Implementation of an export/Import permit system	Electronic Sanitary and Phytosanitary System (eSPS) Electronic health/agriculture and other related certificate of inspection All other related Competent authorities	1/6/2019		

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Yellow card system	Yellow card Insurance system is an existing COMESA Instrument. This system will be modified to sell yellow cards online making it possible for the availability of yellow cards on a 24/7 basis. This will cut down the time of waiting for insurance brokers to open their outlets making it available to customers any time.	01/01/2020	-	Yet to start
Online Certificate of Origin – Regional COMESA database for certificate of origin	<p>Online certificate of Origin will help member states to validate whether the certificate of origins are valid or not. Making it more secured and transparent.</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Implementation and sensitization in member states</p>	1/05/2019	1/6/2019	Done
Improve and re-engineer customs process flows in member states to deliver Efficient and faster services.	<p>Improve, standardize and re-engineer customs process flows, providing all related Universal, Regional and National customs documents online.</p> <p>The primary objective is to facilitate the adoption of a COMESA Customs Portal to increase the operational capacity of Customs Administrations and reduce cost of doing business in the region.</p> <p>The proposed solution is a Regional Centre of Customs Facilitation with the following features:</p>	01/06/2019	01/06/2019	Project Initiated
	<p>a) Create a Regional Centre's environment hosted by COMESA;</p> <p>b) The Regional Customs environment to use replication services to automatically update the information of each member country;</p> <p>c) Create a Customs Portal able to handle electronic documents compatible with ASYCUDA, following each country configuration;</p> <p>d) Develop validation schemes (in the portal) to comply with each country's regulatory requirements;</p>			

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	<p>e) Create conditions to pre-validate external users eventually requiring access to ASYCUDA in each country;</p> <p>f) COMESA Customs Portal to be eventually used by regional and global stakeholders (under defined protocols). Make available e services/E documents</p> <p>online Bill of entry, online Transit forms online Manifests for air and sea cargo online Payments Etc.</p> <p>Universal documents Air Waybill Commercial Invoice Confirmation of Insurance Packing List Proforma Invoice</p> <p>National documents</p> <p>Single Administrative Document Certificate of Clearance Certificate Of Origin</p> <p>Many countries have implemented customs e-services among COMESA member states. An analysis will be done to gather information relating to countries that will require assistance in this regard</p> <p>Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a regional customs and trade portal 			

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Improve and re-engineer Immigration process flows in member states to deliver Efficient and faster services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a needs assessment for Review existing customs process flows • Modernize ASYCUDA world to deliver online services Make available e-services Online lodgment of travel documents and validation Many countries have implemented immigration e-services among COMESA member states. An analysis will be done to gather information relating to countries that will require assistance in this regard	1/08/2019		Yet to initiate
II. E – legislation				
Modernise existing laws in member states to facilitate Digital transactions, Signatures etc.	Legalise digital transactions, digital documents, E-payment and digital signatures Electronic transactions act, Computer misuse Act, Cyber security Act, Etc. Many countries have modified exiting laws to accommodate digital transactions among COMESA member states. An analysis will be done to gather information relating to countries that will require assistance in this regard	Start date	End date	status
Activity Carry out a feasibility study				

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Improve and simplify regulatory processes for some of the key trade facilitation areas	Improve regulatory processes for the following Faster customs Faster import export permits Faster Cargo clearance Faster Immigration processes Activity carry out a feasibility study and recommend modernization procedures.	1/08/2017	-	A survey has been conducted to know the status of existing related Laws in Member States