

VI. Conclusion



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The findings from the Study Report and the case studies provided in the Annex reflect a high level of Customs interest and activity in the testing and implementation of three groups of technologies in particular. Over half of the Members that responded to the WCO's 2021 ACS are already using IoT, AI, and ML, while only two respondents are currently deploying blockchain technology. Information on numerous pilot projects and PoCs shared by the Customs administrations and other stakeholders show the interest in expanding the use of these technologies, as well as the confidence in the benefits they will bring to Customs in achieving its objectives and supporting cross-border trade.

This Study Report intends to further raise the awareness and knowledge of WCO and WTO Members of the use of disruptive technologies in international trade and particularly in the border management environment, including the relevant international standards, the benefits and opportunities, and the challenges and gaps identified. It is also intended to serve as an important source of information and a basis for policy actions that will ensure Customs' contribution towards the paperless trade agenda and implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

The Study Report will remain a living document intended to contribute to well-informed decision-making in this domain.