

# Foreword by the WCO Secretary General



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**Dr. Kunio Mikuriya**  
WCO Secretary General

Understanding the need to keep abreast of developments in the field of disruptive technologies and to seek to understand the challenges and opportunities they bring to Customs and border management, we are presenting an updated version of the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies. In the three years since it was first published, it has served as an important source of information. However, considering the numerous pilot projects and progress that has been achieved in the meantime, we believe the time is right to provide an update to ensure that Members, the trading community and other stakeholders are well informed about the latest developments on the ground, that can further support implementation of WCO standards, such as the Revised Kyoto Convention.

I am pleased that the Study Report comes as a result of a fruitful partnership with the World Trade Organization (WTO), with which we have long-standing cooperation in many different fields, and most recently in the field of disruptive technologies. Customs, even though an important international trade stakeholder, is nevertheless only one stakeholder in the global supply chain. Insights on the technologies used to digitalize global supply chains is an indispensable part of the discussions around digitalization of Customs and border management and must be viewed within a broader framework of paperless cross-border trade.

The 2022 Study Report builds on the one published in 2019 with lessons learnt and new experiences gained. In the spirit of Customs-Business partnership, and public-private partnership more broadly, we have provided case studies submitted not only by Customs, but also by the private sector. The time is ripe to consider all options and the overall context before opting for the most suitable solutions.

The WCO has dedicated 2022 to scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by embracing a data culture and building a data ecosystem. I am confident that this Study Report will complement the WCO’s extensive efforts in building a data-driven culture in Customs.