Gael Grooby came to the WCO after 27 years in the Australia’s Customs administration, where she worked across a range of areas of Customs before focusing on trade, where her primary specialisations were classification, tariff policy and the Nomenclature. She served as a delegate at both the Harmonized System Review Sub-Committee and the Harmonized System Committee at the WCO prior to taking the position of Deputy Director, and worked successfully to have proposals from Australia implemented into the HS during this time.

Coming in part way through the HS 2022 Review Cycle, she oversaw the final push to the approval of the HS 2022 Edition and has worked with her Nomenclature team to roll out the new edition and its tools, despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic. During this time, the HS 2027 negotiations also started and the Nomenclature team is working to support the Committees in updating the HS in ways that are relevant to not only today’s environment, but which also look to emerging needs.

Gael has a passion for the Nomenclature, appreciating both its intellectual challenges and the positive impact it can have in the real world. Since joining the WCO, she has championed the HS in many forums, stressing the need for understanding of the HS so that it can be effectively utilised to inform and support trade and policy.