

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

IMF AFRITAC West 2 – Regional workshop on Customs Core Procedures

AFW2 organized an online regional customs workshop from 16 to 18 March. This included customs staff from 5 countries – The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria & Sierra Leone.

The workshop addressed the issue of implementing new and improved procedures in relation to customs border & inland controls, the application of risk based controls and the increased use of post clearance audit of goods.

The level of engagement was extremely positive and many issues were discussed, particularly in terms of the increased use of regional cooperation and coordination in all these areas.

The meeting also discussed the steps needed to ensure that customs can support businesses and national economies when the limitations imposed by COVID 19 are reduced.

Together with IMF technical experts, the countries agreed to:

- Consolidate and expand regional cooperation between all of the countries
- Establish an effective framework for the exchange of technical information
- Create a new, regional resource for the collation and distribution of key documents and on the application of best practice
- Introduce a new AFW2 work stream specifically targeted at trade facilitation measures