Role of ICT in Regional Integration

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- What is Regional Integration?

  – Closer cooperation among countries in a region;

  – Promotion of economic growth through regional trade;

- Many Regional Integration Arrangements in Africa

  – A wide range exists: FTA→ Customs Union → Common Market → Economic Union

- ICT is an integral tool for socio-economic development .

  – ICT for improving global competitiveness of the region

Infrastructure for Regional integration

- Transport Infrastructure

  - Regional Transport Corridors

  - Regional gateway port & airport connectivity

- Legal Infrastructure

  - Harmonized trade procedures and trader interfaces

  - Facilitating movement of transport means & transport workers

  - External Trade Tariff & Rules of Origin

- Supply-chain ICT infrastructure

  - eCom/EDI facilities / Electronic Single Windows

  - Electronic payment & settlement infrastructure

- Publication of commonly managed rules and procedures

- Declaration Management

- Goods Classification & Rules of Origin Management

- Trader Identity Management

- Supply-Chain Security Management

- Transit Management & Guarantee Management

- Customs Receipts & Debt Management

- Risk Management (Compliance & Security Risks)

- Declaration Processing & Data Sharing

  - Standardization of goods declarations (Examples: EU:SAD //SACU:SAD500; //EAC:SAD; MERCOSUR//DUAM; CA4//DUCA; ASEAN//ACDD)

  - Common Customs Procedure Codes

    - Linkages with intra-region trade in domestic excisable goods

  - Agreement on supporting documents

    - Agreed inspection & testing facilities; authorize parties & authorized signatories

  - Authorization and Control results

  - Other common master data to be published online

- Transit Management

  - Transit information exchange

    - EU: NCTS

    - EAC: RADDEX

  - Guaranty management

  - Transit tracking

    - Eg: EU Transit MRN Follow-up website

  - eTIR

- **Goods Classification & Rules of Origin**

  - Online access to Common external Tariff & Non-tariff management:

    - EU: TARIC; EBTI; SUSP; QUOTA

    - SACU: Jacobsens Harmonized Customs Tariff Online

    - CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME): Common external tariff & Common protective policy

  - ICT-based Origin administration

    - Application of common Rules of Origin

    - Certificates of Origin information exchange

- Trader Identification & Supply-Chain Security

  - Trader Identification at a regional level

    - Eg EORI

    - Authorization

  - AEO program administration

    - Mutual recognition of AEOs

  - Advance Reporting

  - Common Risk Assessment profiles

ICT in Regional Integration: WCO Instruments

- Globally Networked Customs

- Co-ordninated Border Management

  – Compendium on How to Build a Single Window Environment

- SAFE Framework of Standards

  – Integrated Supply Chain Management Guidelines

  – Trader Identification & AEO
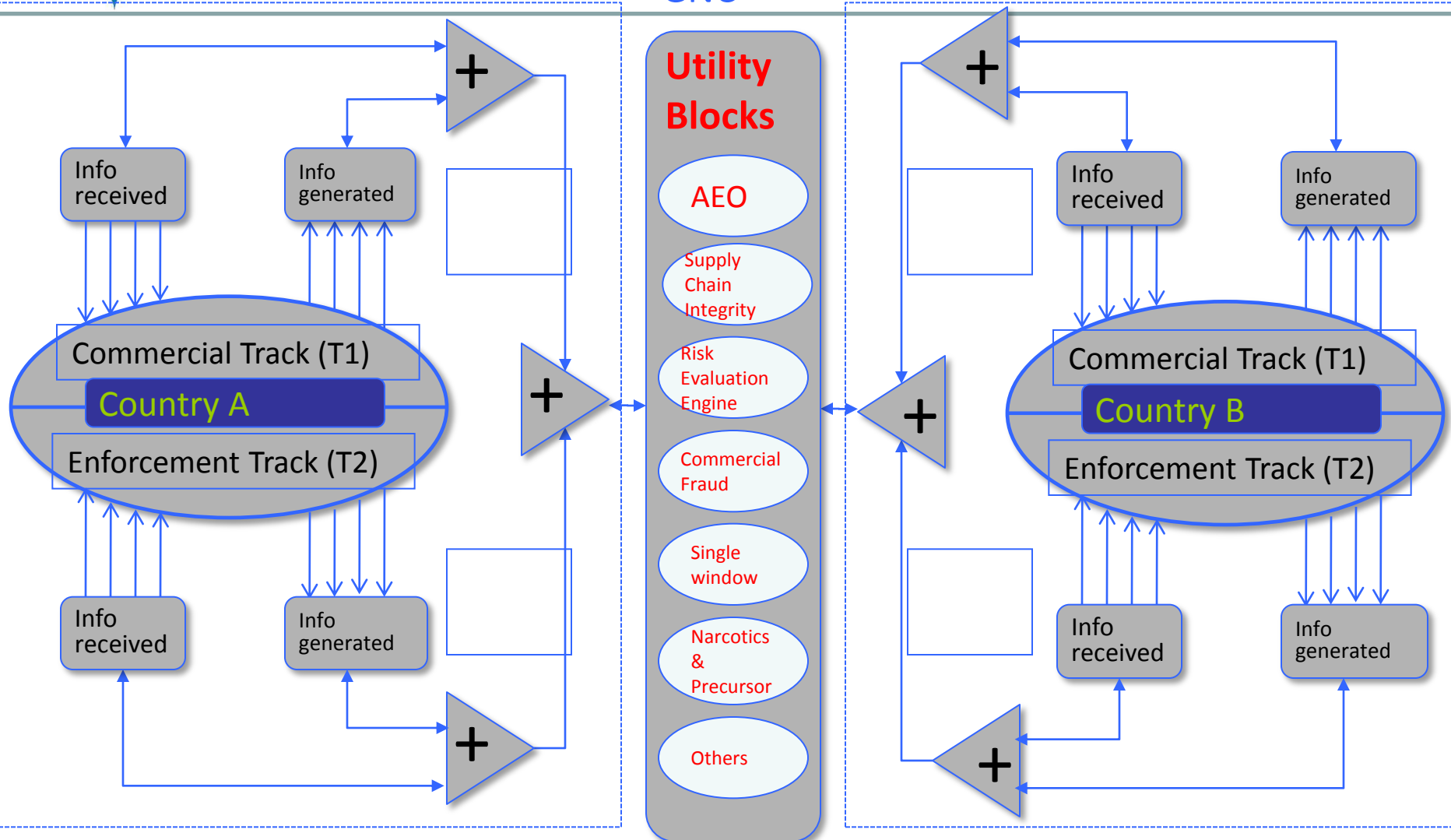
- WCO Data Model

- UCR

Globally Networked Customs:
Ideal for Regional IT Connectivity
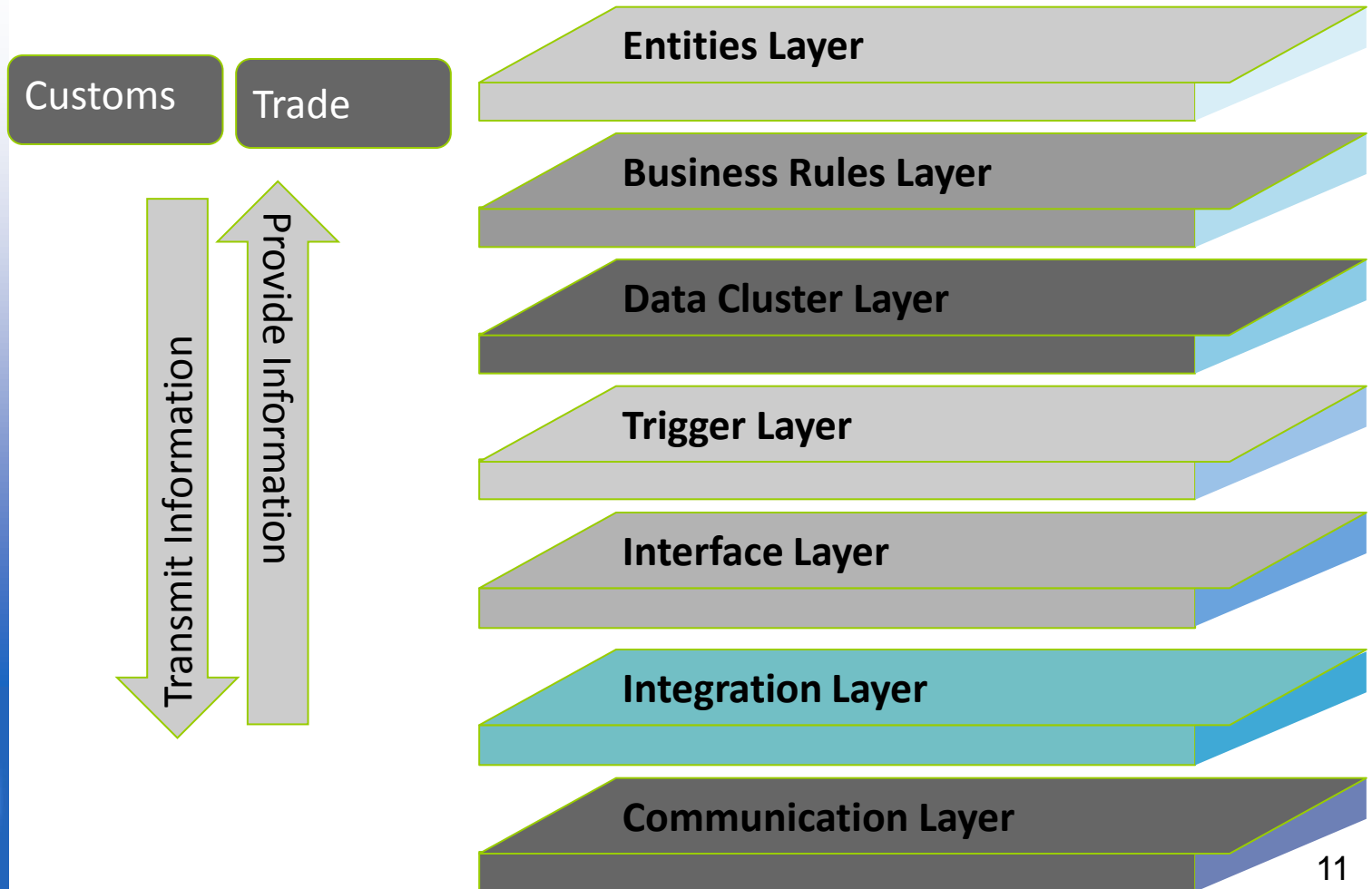
National Domain

GNC

National Domain

Info received

Info generated

+

Commercial Track (T1)

Country A

Enforcement Track (T2)

+

Info received

Info generated

+

Utility Blocks

AEO

Supply Chain Integrity

Risk Evaluation Engine

Commercial Fraud

Single window

Narcotics & Precursor

Others

+

Info received

Info generated

+

Commercial Track (T1)

Country B

Enforcement Track (T2)

+

Info received

Info generated

+

The Heart of GNC

Customs | Trade

Transmit Information →

Provide Information ↑

Entities Layer

Business Rules Layer

Data Cluster Layer

Trigger Layer

Interface Layer

Integration Layer

Communication Layer

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WCO Initiatives in Africa for Regional Integration: Examples

- **SACU**
  - IT Connectivity is an important part
  - Independent evaluation of IT pilots
    - South Africa –Swaziland - Community Hub
    - Namibia-Botswana – Cloud Computing
  - Pilot operators for Preferred Trader scheme identified

- **East African Community**
  - AEO
  - Fast Track Clearance
  - Coordinated Border Management
  - Effective Private sector Participation

- **ECOWAS**
  - Transit Management

- Regional collaboration

- Regional facilitation

- Improved controls, joint controls

- Improved logistics

- Joint processes and measurements

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Thank You

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