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Speaking points

History and a Bridge to Today

A) Brief picture of how the CVA got put together (including Ministerial Decision and the Subsequent WTO Committee Decision 6.1, etc) towards end of Uruguay Round.

- Mention some key commitments and how delivered (Ministerial Decision and Decision 6.1, Delivery of TA/CB).
- Importance of international institutions (notably WTO and WCO).

Change and Stability

B) General Developments and Changing Landscapes since then, notably

- Trade Developments since then (tariff reductions, Plurilateral Agreements like the ITA, progress of FTA's and Regional FTA's)
- What has been happening in the world of Customs (TA/CB, Modernisation, IT systems etc)
- Trade Growth,
- Evolving Business Practices, Value Chains, New Business Models

C) Asking whether the CVA - Scope, Content, Methods etc. has worked, remains as valid and necessary as when adopted as a WTO Agreement, and is still fit for purpose.

- Answering that the CVA has ensured stability and certainty during the entire period, giving reasons.

D) Doha Round issues (Implementation issues for WTO Agreements) and the TFA.

- Ask whether the benefits of the TFA are sufficiently realised with respect to the CVA, and the gains that are available to customs administrations in general.

Conclusions

E) And finally the Wrap-Up/Conclusions which may be of most interest

- The CVA has stood the test of time, and continues to deliver. However, the diversity and multiplicity of complex/new business and commercial practices - not around when the rules were written - must lead to some Fresh Reflections. These may include discussions on 1) Whether and 2) How, the Customs Valuation Environment can respond.
- The second part of this Event will help in this context.
- Finally, say that although huge efforts have been made by Developing countries, say that we must recognise that some practical challenges are still reported. Refer to a key event, the Milestone Experience-Sharing Workshop organised by WTO and held in 2019. Invite all to a) Read the Contributions and Presentations, b) Reflect on what necessary follow-up is needed, and c) invite suggestions for concrete actions (or Action Plan).