## CHAPTER 4

## CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND TRADE FACILITATION

### Article 4.1: Definitions

For the purposes of this Chapter:

(a) **customs authority** means any authority that is responsible under the law of each Party for the administration and enforcement of its customs laws and regulations;

(b) **customs laws and regulations** means the statutory and regulatory provisions relating to the importation, exportation, movement, or storage of goods, the administration and enforcement of which are specifically charged to a customs authority, and any regulations made by a customs authority, under its statutory powers;

(c) **customs procedure** means the measures applied by the customs authority of a Party to goods and to the means of transport that are subject to its customs laws and regulations;

(d) **express consignment** means all goods imported by or through an enterprise that operates a consignment service for the expeditious cross-border movement of goods and assumes liability to the customs authority for those goods; and

(e) **means of transport** means various types of vessels, vehicles, and aircrafts which enter or leave the customs territory of a Party carrying natural persons, goods, or articles.

### Article 4.2: Objectives

The objectives of this Chapter are to:

(a) ensure predictability, consistency, and transparency in the application of customs laws and regulations of each Party;

(b) promote efficient administration of customs procedures of each Party, and the expeditious clearance of goods;

(c) simplify customs procedures of each Party and harmonise them to the extent possible with relevant international standards;

(d) promote cooperation among the customs authorities of the Parties; and

(e) facilitate trade among the Parties, including through a strengthened environment for global and regional supply chains.

### Article 4.3: Scope

This Chapter shall apply to customs procedures applied to goods traded among the Parties and to the means of transport which enter or leave the customs territory of each Party.

### Article 4.4: Consistency

1. Each Party shall ensure that its customs laws and regulations are consistently implemented and applied throughout its customs territory. For greater certainty, this does not prevent the exercise of discretion granted to the customs authority of a Party where such discretion is granted by that Party's customs laws and regulations, provided that the discretion is exercised consistently throughout that Party's customs territory and in accordance with its customs laws and regulations.

2. In fulfilling the obligation in paragraph 1, each Party shall endeavour to adopt or maintain administrative measures to ensure consistent implementation and application of its customs laws and regulations throughout its customs territory, preferably by establishing an administrative mechanism which assures consistent application of the customs laws and regulations of that Party among its regional customs offices.

3. Each Party is encouraged to share with the other Parties its practices and experiences relating to the administrative mechanism referred to in paragraph 2 with a view to improving the operations thereof.