



MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN NETWORK OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE SINGLE WINDOWS

*Ollantaytambo Room
Convention Center
December 4 and 5, 2014 – Cusco, Peru*

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

On December 4 and 5, 2014, the VI Meeting of the Inter-American Network of Single Windows (Red VUCE) was held in Cusco, Peru. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the exchange of experiences and best practices on the design and implementation of the national single window projects, and discuss the necessary steps to advance toward the region's interoperability between single windows in the near future. The meeting also provided an opportunity for participating countries to exchange experiences on other single window-related trade facilitation initiatives, which can potentially improve the efficiency of trade in ports and associated ancillary services; to further the dialogue regarding best practices for the inclusion of private-sector solutions into the single window design and implementation; and advance the discussion on the indicators to measure the impact of single windows.

Thursday, December 4

The meeting started with an opening speech by Mr. Antoni Estevadeordal, Manager of the Integration and Trade Sector at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Mr. Estevadeordal highlighted the agreements reached in Cartagena and, especially, the implementation of the interoperability pilot project for the phytosanitary certificate. He noted that since the meeting in Cartagena, countries continued moving forward, discussing their different views, and intensifying the exchange of experiences with other countries and regions in the world with objectives similar to those of Red VUCE. He also underscored the importance of the work being carried out on indicators within Red VUCE, in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and he stressed the need to expedite the implementation of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement, stating that for this purpose, it is highly important to have renowned international experts, as well as foreign experts, present on this occasion.

After the introductory speech, Mr. Edgar Vázquez Vela, Peru's Vice Minister of Foreign Trade, declared the VI Meeting of Red VUCE officially open. Vice Minister Vázquez Vela highlighted the significance of the single window as trade facilitation tools and addressed the following subjects:

- Peru has been making major efforts to develop its single window.
- The country has initiated the second stage of its International Trade Single Window project, under the name VUCE 2.0, as part of the work to be undertaken in the context of the update of the National Strategic Export Plan (*Plan Estratégico Nacional Exportador*, or PENX).
- He underscored the positive impact that this system has on entrepreneurs and people involved in trade, and he reported that Peruvian single window has close to 21,000 users and more than 350,000 electronic authorizations have been issued to date.
- Mr. Vázquez Vela emphasized that digitally processed formalities have substantially lowered costs by avoiding physical conveyance, eliminating the use of paper, and reducing response time.

- Lastly, he pointed out that one of the largest challenges countries in the region have to face is achieving single windows interoperability to facilitate cross-border electronic interchange of data and documents, which will lay the groundwork for deeper integration and give rise to more dynamic regional trade.

PANEL I: REPORT OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE RED VUCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Luis Fernando Fuentes, Director of Foreign Trade at Colombia's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, reported on the activities undertaken over the past six months during Colombia's chairmanship, and referred to the following issues:

- He highlighted the need to intensify the exchange of experiences and best practices with other countries and regions, and consolidate national single windows to eventually enable interoperability at a regional level.
- He explained that building an interoperability platform among single windows is one of the main tasks planned for 2015 and that implementation will be carried out in stages.
- Mr. Fuentes identified that the first stage will consist of the virtual interchange of the phytosanitary certificate among the four Pacific Alliance countries (i.e., Chile, Peru, Mexico, and Colombia), while the second stage will extend the interchange to all Red VUCE countries.
- He stressed the importance of consolidating Red VUCE as a platform to optimize the region's capabilities and position Red VUCE countries in international markets by ensuring competitive, safe, streamlined, and transparent trade.
- He agreed that the greatest challenge lies in achieving interoperability and that the Bali Trade Facilitation Agreement will provide a great incentive to achieving it.

PANEL II: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SINGLE WINDOW IN AND OUT OF THE REGION

Panel II included three international speakers, who shared their respective experiences and best practices in the implementation of a single window in Cambodia, United States, and Uruguay.

Cambodia's Experience

Gerard McLinden, Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, World Bank

Mr. McLinden set forth the following main issues:

- The single window is a facilitation tool, not an end in itself.
- The challenges involved in implementing a single window at the national level include the following:
 - rivalry among organizations and conflicts among agencies,
 - lack of appropriate incentives for the stakeholders involved to commit to a long-term project,
 - lack of political will and commitment to support the process beyond the government term,
 - competition over solutions and lack of full comprehension thereof,
 - inadequate budget,

- limited experience in the use of automation and information technologies, and
- limited national capability to support project sustainability over the long term.
- The driving force behind Cambodia's implementation of the single window has been the country's entering into agreements and commitments within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The automation of its customs system has produced significant improvements, including a reduction in the number of documents, the percentage of physical inspections and the length of processing time.
- Mr. McLinden stressed that one of Cambodia's main problems is that the investment has been made only in customs, leaving out other government agencies involved in the foreign trade process.
- This has brought about unsatisfactory results: although the customs service has improved, the comprehensive foreign trade process is still suffering from major deficiencies.
- In order to improve Cambodia's process it is necessary that additional investments be made in agencies other than customs and that the intervention of key partners be secured to assure long-term financial support, inter-institutional coordination, quality control, and knowledge and best practice sharing, among others.

Implementation Progress of the Single Window in the United States

José Raúl Perales, Assistant Secretary for the Private Sector, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Perales stressed the following issues:

- The political leadership role played by President Obama through Executive Order 13659, *Streamlining the Export/Import Process for America's Businesses*, issued in February 2014, containing the formal mandates to develop the United States' single window, better known as the International Trade Data System (ITDS) and to consolidate customs modernization efforts.
- This Order stipulates that the single window needs to be in place and operational by December 2016 and sets forth a series of mandates for 47 government agencies to adopt the necessary measures for their active participation in the single window process.
- Mr. Perales also mentioned that both sides of the system, exports and imports, are being developed simultaneously, and that although the imports module is scheduled to be launched first, this decision will depend on the level of development achieved once the first stage of the ITDS is completed in 2016.

Results Achieved in Uruguay

Juan Juncal, Technology Director; and Lorena Veiga, Customs Coordinator, Uruguay XXI.

The main purpose of this presentation was to share a general overview of and lessons learned from the implementation and operation of the single window in Uruguay. Within this context, the following aspects were underscored:

- The single window has 600 registered users, 400 enabled users, and 8 connected entities—representing 30% of all entities in Uruguay—, with 26 permits, which correspond to 80% of operations.
- Mr. Juncal and Ms. Veiga emphasized that 90% of users have reported that the single window has considerably streamlined foreign trade proceedings, including a 50% reduction in processing time for most formalities, improved information quality, and enhanced capabilities.
- They explained that the main challenges faced going forward include achieving interoperability, incorporating further proceedings, enhancing current ones, implementing the mobile single window, and incorporating the electronic sanitary certificate.

- They concluded their presentation with a series of recommendations, among which they highlighted the need to:
 - streamline the platform,
 - maintain political support,
 - generate entity “ownership” of the project,
 - create a multi-functional team, and
 - achieve an all-inclusive single window, i.e., covering exports, imports, and merchandise in transit.

PANEL III: TRADE FACILITATION AND THE SINGLE WINDOW

Panel III comprised three sessions. First, IDB Lead Specialist Christian Volpe gave a short overview on the significance of single windows as trade facilitation mechanisms; he presented the results of a case study performed on the Costa Rica Single Window and its impact on the exports of companies using the Window.

Subsequently, WTO Trade Facilitation international expert Nora Neufeld addressed the subject of single windows as instruments for trade facilitation and spoke on the salient points of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. She underscored the following issues:

- WTO’s Trade Facilitation Agreement was reached after a decade of negotiations. It includes topics that will be key to trade facilitation in the 21st century.
- Some of the most noteworthy aspects of the Agreement are that it goes beyond traditional approaches by incorporating a whole range of flexibilities; it creates a link between implementation capability and implementation requirements; and it focuses on developing capabilities rather than on creating exceptions.
- In her detailed presentation, Ms. Neufeld informed on the scope and content of the Agreement provisions regarding single windows including an analysis on their specificity, level of ambition, and main implementation challenges, as well as the flexibilities incorporated by the Agreement.
- She also reported on the implementation status of the Agreement and evaluated the associated needs to date. The main challenges to be overcome for successfully implementing the Agreement include coordination, standardization, and modernization of traditional systems.
- Successful implementation will require political will and commitment at the highest level, outlining clear goals, carrying out a step-by-step implementation, creating a road map for every step, performing a process analysis, and securing private-sector support.

Afterwards, Ms. Evdokia Moïsé, Senior Trade Policy Analyst at OECD, gave a presentation on the proposal for impact and result measurement indicators of single windows, which is being developed in coordination with the OECD.

Ms. Moïsé touched on the following main issues:

- Single windows as trade facilitation mechanisms represent a reduction in cost and time, improves the coordination of processes with the requirements of the agencies involved, and promotes consistency and integrity through a predictable application of the rules and requirements, digital signatures, and electronic payments.

- She made a presentation on the preliminary proposal for single window impact and result measurement indicators, and invited Red VUCE countries to participate in the exercise by sharing their comments and suggestions on the proposed indicators.
- She pointed out that the exercise will be vitally important to identifying priorities by area of action, analyzing the potential impact of reforms, concentrating efforts regarding technical cooperation and capability development for developing countries, and visualizing the implementation status of the measures set forth in WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- The indicators will focus on 5 areas:
 - institutional aspects
 - data content and structure
 - legal framework
 - technology architecture
 - international interoperability
- During the meeting, Red VUCE countries had the opportunity to exchange preliminary comments and discuss the indicator proposal. It was agreed that OECD will prepare a revised version of the questionnaire on the basis of those preliminary comments. The revised version will be distributed among all Red VUCE countries for further comments and suggestions.

PANEL IV: IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF VALUE CHAINS THROUGH the SINGLE WINDOW

Kristin Isabelli, Director, Customs and Trade Facilitation, United States Council for International Business (USCIB)

Maritza Castro, Head of Customs and Regulatory Affairs, Americas Region, DHL Express

Yamile Sánchez, Senior Sales Manager, APL Mexico

Guillermo Ferreyros, President of the Board of Directors, Peru's Foreign Trade Association (COMEXPERU)

The purpose of this fourth panel was to promote dialogue between private-sector representatives and Red VUCE members, in order to discuss the role played by the single window and trade facilitation in general in the enhanced efficiency of global value chains. The panel also sought to determine the private sector's highest priorities for trade facilitation from the perspective of global chain efficiency and take note of the recommendations for Red VUCE countries from a private-sector perspective.

In this context, Mr. Guillermo Ferreyros mentioned that:

- In Peru, the single window has brought about a significant improvement in processing time and a reduction in costs for trade chains.
- The cooperation between the public and private sectors is key to positioning countries in global value chains.
- COMEXPERU and MINCETUR have been working closely to identify the elements that would enable exporters of non-traditional products to be more competitive. He also mentioned that, for example, as a result of this dialogue and close cooperation, during the second stage of the single window the portal's existing processes will be examined to streamline them by weeding out less necessary formalities.

Ms. Isabelli reported on the joint work being performed by USCIB and the U.S. Government toward modernizing customs practices, which are key to the efficiency of global value chains. She also pointed out that:

- Globalization of the production processes is setting a new trend for industrial development.
- Participation in global value chains may bring numerous benefits both for the private sector and countries in general.
- The U.S. Government has been working with several public sector agencies and private sector entities to design policies that allow for the modernization of foreign trade processes.
- Private sector and logistics companies, in particular, have a key role in the coordination and facilitation of international trade.
- Companies have identified a series of obstacles that countries (especially APEC countries) must overcome to increase their participation in global value chains, including:
 - restrictions in the flow of cross-border information, which cause delays in processes,
 - lack of coordination in customs procedures, including duplicated requirements and complicated administrative requirements, and
 - lack of transparency.

Ms. Maritza Castro referred to the following main issues:

- The logistics industry is looking for a fast and efficient border process that includes processing of data prior to the arrival of merchandise; selection for inspection based on risk management; immediate release; and separation of release and clearance.
- Her presentation dealt with the results of the gap analysis on the Bali Agreement performed by Global Express Association. She explained the benefits and specific results that would arise, both for DHL and for users, from the successful implementation of single windows in the countries in the region.
 - For the private sector:
 - predictability;
 - reduction in transaction costs both for companies and clients, which represents a significant benefit for SMEs;
 - improvements in the logistics chain; and
 - unified response systems.
 - For government agencies:
 - consolidation of multiple IT systems;
 - elimination of paper;
 - reduction in transaction costs;
 - consolidation of information/data—data harmonization;
 - support of each government agency’s mission; and
 - risk management.

The panel concluded with Ms. Sánchez’s presentation, in which she explained the viewpoint of Mexico’s private sector. She pinpointed some of the benefits of the single window for supply chains, some of which are eliminating geographical and distance obstacles; reducing bureaucratic processes; having fewer information leaks; providing certainty on response time and official resolutions; carrying accurate statistics; and increasing competitiveness and reliability levels of Mexico’s foreign trade. She concluded by stating that the private sector expects that the single window system also incorporate processes that are currently managed by the private sector.

PANEL V: INTEGRATING PRIVATE SECTOR SOLUTIONS INTO THE SINGLE WINDOW

Flavio Scorza, General Coordinator of Trade Facilitation Regulations, Brazil’s Ministry of Development, Industry, and Trade

John Mein, PROCOMEX, Brazil
Marvin Salas, Single Window Manager, PROCOMER, Costa Rica
Juan Araya, SICEX Executive Director, Ministry of Finance of Chile

Panel V started with a joint presentation by Mr. Scorza on behalf of the public sector and Mr. Mein on behalf of the private sector. Both presenters explained how process mapping has been carried out in Brazil through the joint work of the public and private sectors, and the lessons learned from this exercise. Mr. Scorza pointed out that the private sector has been instrumental in identifying all the key elements to ensure an efficient implementation of the single window. He stated that the private sector is the government's best ally to detect process inefficiencies and propose practicable, targeted adjustments. Mr. Mein, in turn, underscored the openness and flexibility displayed by the Brazilian government in listening to the private sector's opinions, and mentioned that establishing a successful public-private alliance calls for a shared vision, leadership, political will, and common goals. Mr. Mein gave a detailed presentation on the process of dialogue and collaboration between the public and private sectors in Brazil for the joint mapping of the processes involved in foreign trade transactions. Participating countries showed great interest in this methodology and experience, and agreed to further study this topic during Red VUCE discussions next May.

Subsequently, Mr. Salas from PROCOMER Costa Rica explained the process of integrating the private sector to the single window system in Costa Rica. He informed that to achieve interoperability with the private sector it is necessary to adopt a comprehensive strategy that actively involves the business sector as a whole—i.e., exporters, importers, customs agencies, transnational corporations, SMEs, and companies in general—and also design a simple and friendly architecture, including digital signature and message standardization, among others.

Lastly, Mr. Araya shared Chile's experience with the International Trade Integrated System (*Sistema Integrado de Comercio Exterior*, or SICEX) and its integration with the private sector. He explained that one of the main obstacles for the implementation of the single window was the private sector's skepticism, which was eventually overcome due to the political commitment and support of the Government of Chile. He mentioned that one of the key factors for success was solidifying that political commitment into the creation of a Supreme Presidential Council, which provided the single window with structure, and an Advisory Council that included the participation of the main unions in the country. This gave rise to a public-private alliance that enabled the consolidation of SICEX as a true trade-facilitation tool for the country. He stated that the objective is for SICEX Chile to become a system that allows for processing foreign trade transactions, at any time and from anywhere, through a single portal that includes all public services involved.

Friday, December 5

PANEL VI: EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES ON PORT COMMUNITY SYSTEMS

Javier Gallardo, Executive Committee Member, International Port Community Systems Association
Rajeev Puri, Deputy Director (IT), Indian Ports Association
Naveen Chidanand Bhat, Enterprise Singapore
Alfredo Meneses, Director, BioBio Logistics Desk; Regional Director of Chile's Association of Manufacture Exporters
Dwain Powell, Project Manager, Jamaica's Port Community System

Panel VI included the participation of six international experts, who shared their experiences on port community systems (PCS) and their connection with the single window. There follows a summary of the discussions.

The panel started with an address by Mr. Meneses, who stated that the great challenge facing national single windows is securing the continuity of policies through government changes, and stressed the need for long-term policies, independent from government incumbents. Mr. Meneses made a detailed presentation on the status of public-private discussions within the context of BioBio Logistics Desk talks, and on the prospects of integration with SICEX.

Mr. Gallardo then stressed the following points:

- Port community systems are essentially extended single windows complementing single window transactions, in such a way that processes between private parties may be carried out in concert with single-window processes.
- In order to design or map processes, it is necessary to thoroughly know the business.
- The port community system is not an IT project, but a change management project that combines both administrative and operational aspects.
- Mr. Gallardo shared with participants a series of lessons learned for the successful implementation of a PCS.
 - re-using existing resources: “if it is not broken, do not fix it.”
 - linking operational information to administrative information.
 - allowing for flexibility to include the private sector’s voice.
 - implementing a legal-framework-compliant PCS that must be capable of adjusting to the different legal frameworks involved.
 - maintaining confidentiality: respecting the confidentiality of the information and of the stakeholders involved.
 - taking an actual measure of the impact of any intended changes and proposing practicable plans by sector.
- The operator of a port community system can be a public, private, or public-private organization, which may operate and maintain the PCS under different contractual and management modes, as presented during the meeting.
- It is important to understand that the platform owner and the platform operator can be two different entities.
- There are three types of governance models:
 - The port authority or government entity owns the platform and also operates it.
 - Hybrid model: the port or government authority owns the platform but assigns its use to a public, private, or mixed entity for exploitation or marketing of its services.
 - Exploitation and ownership of the platform is external and the platform operates by concession. The concession consists in the existence of an interface.

Mr. Puri then started his presentation highlighting the following issues:

- Single window and PCSs are key elements of trade facilitation.
- It is very important that there be a solid channel of communication between PCSs and the single window.
- The main challenges facing India’s port community are, among others, including other ports within the community, integrating a system of port intelligence, and implementing the next PCS version.

- PCSs are tools that seek to reduce transaction time and cost, achieve inter-institutional coordination, standardize the exchange of information, provide 24-hour prompt service, enable online access, and save in the use of paper.
- Single Window and PCSs may reciprocally benefit from close cooperation; a single window integrated into the PCS, or vice versa, may represent significant benefits for the applicable country.
- Mr. Puri made a detailed presentation of the PCS operation in India ([see presentation](#)).

Subsequently, Mr. Chidanand Baht shared the lessons learned from the implementation of a PCS in Singapore:

- A PCS is a “live” system that requires ongoing evolution in order to adapt to users’ requirements.
- It is vital that the port community be present at all times.
- The main challenges the port community has to face include reducing the use of paper, harmonizing data, and reducing the costs connected with implementing new software for platform enhancement.
- The integration of the single window with the PCS is key, because it creates a practical community, facilitates business logistics, and expedites processes.
- Some of the benefits of integrating single window and PCSs are the availability of actual information, reduction in cost and time for companies and government, and facilitation of information exchange, creating a community of reliable practices.

In Jamaica, as explained by Mr. Dwain Powell, the implementation of a port community system will enable the exchange of information among different systems; facilitate the access of all stakeholders involved in the foreign trade process to an updated, efficient database; and promote inter-institutional coordination. Mr. Powell stated that the PCS in Jamaica will seek to reduce costs for companies, consequently increasing the opportunities for businesses to compete at a regional level.

Presentations were followed by a dialogue with the Red VUCE countries. The countries showed great interest in the subject, on which there is little experience in the region. They shared the opinion that the PCS issue is very important and highly relevant for Red VUCE; therefore, they agreed to prepare a potential road map and include the subject in next meeting’s agenda.

PANEL VII: PROGRESS OF THE PILOT PROJECT –

During the meeting a presentation was given on the progress achieved by the pilot project for the interoperability of the phytosanitary certificate. The main goal of the pilot project is to implement an interoperability pack that will provide solutions for integrating the single windows of participating countries. To date, Pacific Alliance countries, within the context of the trade agreement they signed in Cartagena on February 2014, have made progress aided by IDB support. During the meeting, IDB Consultant Luis Fernando Bautista provided technical details on this progress.

In particular, he highlighted the following aspects:

- The creation of technical groups within each country, including the single window managers and animal health entities
- The determination of the work methodology within each team
- The definition of the messaging structure for the transmission of the phytosanitary certificate
- The harmonization of fields in the phytosanitary certificate according to UN/CEFACT standards

- The identification of changes and/or adaptations to be implemented by each country to support integration
- The field-by-field explanation of the UN/CEFACT standard
- The definition of the version of the UN/CEFACT standard to be used, namely, Version D13B
- The agreement on the fields to be used from the UN/CEFACT standard

Lessons learned were also discussed, among which the following were underscored:

- Countries in general are not harmonized regarding this version of the UN/CEFACT standard, whether at the field or content (catalogue) levels.
- There is a discrepancy between what the different certifying agencies must carry out and the implementations in place at the single window of each country.
- Local catalogues often prevail over international standards, and this hinders data harmonization.
- Each country's own definitions are generally used for data management.
- Some countries have already implemented UN/CEFACT standards, but are using older versions.

Lastly, some recommendations were made for other countries that may join the interoperability pilot project; namely:

- Considering the UN/CEFACT standard, schema D13B, for all new single windows
- Defining the flow of interaction between a country's single window, the institution issuing the certificate, and the destination countries using the interoperability pack.
- Carrying out a comparative study to detect early discrepancies with the UN/CEFACT standard. The matrix prepared by the IDB can be taken as a basis for this work.
- Evaluating the possibility of adding electronic signatures both for sending and for receiving the certificates.
- Considering BPM-SOA architecture for single windows.

As an outcome of the discussion among the countries, the following steps were agreed on:

- Harmonizing the content of the mandatory fields according to UN/CEFACT recommendations
- Evaluating the impact for each country and prioritizing the actions to be followed in order to be ready to join the pilot project
- Beginning preliminary work, with the support of the IDB, for an international public bidding process regarding the design, construction, and implementation of the interoperability pack
- Performing a comparative study for all countries, based on the IDB matrix that describes the UN/CEFACT schema
- Determining country gaps with respect to the UN/CEFACT standard and the impact of implementing the necessary matrix-based changes
- The IDB will circulate the matrix containing the UN/CEFACT standard, to be completed by all the Red VUCE countries
- The IDB will provide countries with an instruction manual on matrix completion and will host webinars to answer questions and address comments and suggestions

Meeting Conclusions

As part of the meeting conclusions, Carolyn Robert of the IDB and Flavio Scorza of Brazil's Ministry of Development, Industry, and Trade, set forth the goals and objectives for the next Red VUCE meeting.

Mr. Flavio Scorza thanked the Government of Peru for organizing the meeting and expressed that Brazil feels honored to be hosting the next Red VUCE meeting. He announced that the meeting will be held in Brazil at the end of May 2015, and that the exact date and city will be determined shortly.

Ms. Carolyn Robert also thanked the Government of Peru and MINCETUR for hosting Red VUCE's sixth meeting and stressed that the IDB is committed to Red VUCE.

The main agreements reached at this meeting were:

- The wide appeal of the meeting was acknowledged: the meeting included the participation of 24 countries in the region. The only countries that did not attend were Haiti and Venezuela.
- It was reported that the Red VUCE portal has been updated and passwords will be distributed so that users may access the private area.
- The private sector and distinguished international guests were acknowledged for their attendance to the meeting.
- The network has a new Twitter account, @RedVUCE, and participants were encouraged to share information on this forum using the #RedVUCE hashtag.
- It was agreed that the IDB, in coordination with OECD, will distribute the questionnaire containing the indicators for measuring single window impact, both in Spanish and English, to all RedVUCE countries. The questionnaire shall be completed by the directors and/or coordinators of the national single window.
- A workshop will be held to discuss and perfect—if necessary—the indicators proposal.
- The IDB will circulate the matrix containing the UN/CEFACT standard to be completed by all Red VUCE countries, will provide countries with an instruction manual for the completion of the matrix, and will host webinars to clarify any doubts.
- The importance of continuing to thoroughly discuss the port community systems was emphasized, and it was agreed that the agenda of the next Red VUCE meeting will include this topic.
- The IDB committed to providing support to Red VUCE countries on this topic. Circulating an outline among countries, to align their respective expectations and the potential steps to follow, was suggested.
- Participating countries thanked the Government of Peru for its excellent hospitality and organization of the meeting, and expressed their congratulations for the wide attendance.
- It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in Brazil at the end of May 2015. The exact place and date will be defined over the course of the following weeks.

The meeting was officially closed by the Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism, Magali Silva Velarde-Álvarez. During her closing address, the Minister mentioned the importance of the VUCE 2.0 project for Peru. Minister Silva also underscored the following issues:

- She stated that an important challenge is posed by implementing the port community system, so that it may function as a large ecosystem through which information from the single window processes will flow, together with information from transactions among private stakeholders involved in the entry or exit of merchandise into and out of the country.
- She congratulated Red VUCE country representatives, commending their efforts in maintaining the network, its discussions, and its work.
- She added that Red VUCE has consolidated its position as the most important regional forum regarding international trade single windows, in which knowledge about the topic is concentrated and disseminated, generating a space for the exchange of experiences and best practices in the region and with other regions in the world.

- She also stated that working on such issues as the region's single-window interoperability to facilitate electronic interchange of data and documents, lays the groundwork for deeper integration.
- Minister Silva thanked all participants for their attendance and active participation, and reiterated Peru's commitment to the trade facilitation agenda and to the implementation of the single window as a tool to reduce the time and cost associated with foreign trade and improve the competitive position of Red VUCE countries.