

Benefits of the Johannesburg Convention

Adopting the Convention enables the Customs administration, in particular, to:

- legally exchange information, including personal data, and assistance directly with the partner of choice, which is not possible under the current Nairobi Convention;
- exchange information on consignments in advance of their arrival at destination in order to secure the international trade supply chain;
- have available a WCO instrument on mutual administrative assistance in Customs matters under which it is possible to enter reservations in respect of all provisions which do not constitute basic principles of the Convention, an option that does not exist under the Nairobi Convention;
- extend mutual administrative assistance to cover many aspects of Customs work in a complementary fashion to the principles of mutual legal assistance accepted by most Members in the United Nations' Palermo Convention;
- provide a legal status to the Customs Enforcement Network, which is the WCO's central data base on Customs offences; and
- have an instrument to supplement bilateral agreements dealing appropriately with topical issues relating to the protection of society and the collection of revenue.