



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)**

**AND**

**THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE**

**CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (SIECA)**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION<sup>1</sup> (WCO),**  
**HAVING ITS HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, AND**  
**THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (SIECA),**  
**HAVING ITS HEADQUARTERS IN GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA**

The World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Secretariat for the Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), referred to hereinafter as "the Parties":

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that Customs is a critical institution for achieving regional integration and international economic prosperity, and for facilitating international trade;

**RECOGNIZING** that the WCO seeks to facilitate international trade through the use of international instruments, adoption of best practices and programmes for modernization of Customs techniques;

**RECOGNIZING** that SIECA is the technical and administrative body for the regional economic integration in Central America;

**RECOGNIZING** that the WCO and SIECA both now wish to establish a mutually supportive relationship which is essential for the development of trade and the well-being of nations;

**RECOGNIZING** that the WCO and SIECA both now wish to establish appropriate arrangements for co-operation which will help promote regional and international trade and otherwise be generally mutually beneficial to the Parties;

Hereby agree as follows :

**ARTICLE I**  
**Objective**

The Parties shall work to promote close co-operation and consultation on matters of common interest in order to harmonize their efforts in the discharge of their respective mandates and to contribute to the economic and social development of Member States of the Central American Subsystem of Economic Integration and Members of the WCO.

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<sup>1</sup> Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council.

**ARTICLE II**  
**Scope of co-operation**

The Parties agree to establish and maintain effective, systematic consultation, co-operation and exchange of information between each other in support of this Memorandum of Understanding.

**ARTICLE III**  
**Financial obligations**

- 3.1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Memorandum of Understanding, nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be taken as creating any financial obligation for either Party prior to such obligation being mutually and expressly agreed in writing.
- 3.2. Any expenditure arising from the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding that is routine and of negligible amount shall be borne by the Party concerned.
- 3.3. Where co-operation proposed by one of the Parties to the other under this Memorandum of Understanding has greater financial implications than the expenditure referred to above, SIECA and the WCO shall consult each other with a view to determining the means of mobilizing the necessary funds, the most equitable way of defraying the expenditure and, where necessary funds cannot be readily found, shall decide on the most suitable means of procuring them.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**Representation at meetings**

- 4.1. The Parties shall invite each other to their meetings of common interest and also grant each other observer status at meetings in accordance with the rules of procedure for granting of such status by each Organization.
- 4.2. The participation of representatives at such meetings shall be financed by each Party unless a Party offers to finance the participation of the other Party.

**ARTICLE V**  
**Modernization of Customs**

The Parties agree to actively promote the modernization of Customs administrations in Central America through the adoption and implementation of Customs instruments and tools sponsored or administered by the WCO in as far as Member States of the Central American Subsystem of Economic Integration agree.

**ARTICLE VI**  
***Joint training activities***

Wherever possible, the WCO Secretariat and SIECA shall, within the limits of the resources available to them, co-ordinate joint training activities for Customs officers of the Member States of the Central American Subsystem of Economic Integration.

**ARTICLE VII**  
***Programme of activities***

The Parties shall communicate to each other their programme of activities relating to harmonization and simplification of Customs procedures.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
***Entry into force***

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

**ARTICLE IX**  
***Amendments***

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be reviewed upon the request of either the Secretary General of the WCO or the Secretary General of SIECA, and may be amended by mutual agreement in writing.

**ARTICLE X**  
***Termination***

Either Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding at any time by giving the other Party a written notice of six months.

The termination of the Memorandum of Understanding shall come into effect on the expiry of the notice period of six months unless the Parties herein agree on a specific date of termination.

**ARTICLE XI**  
***Effect of termination***

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall in no way affect obligations assumed during the duration of this Memorandum of Understanding.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**Dispute resolution**

Any dispute over the interpretation or application of any provision herein shall be settled through negotiations or by such other means as the Parties shall mutually agree.

In witness whereof, the undersigned legal representatives of the Parties herein have duly affixed their signatures on the three originals of this Memorandum of Understanding in the English, French and Spanish languages, all three texts being equally authentic.



Kunio Mikuriya  
Secretary General  
World Customs Organization

Date: 25 May 2010



Yolanda Mayora de Gavidia  
Secretary General  
Secretariat for the Central American Economic Integration

Date: 25 May 2010