



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION¹

AND

THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

The World Customs Organization (WCO) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), referred to hereinafter as "the Parties";

RECOGNIZING that the mandate of the UNODA is to promote:

- Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;
- Disarmament regimes in respect to other weapons of mass destruction including chemical and biological weapons and supporting in this regard the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004);
- Disarmament efforts in the area of conventional weapons, especially landmines and small arms and light weapons (SALW), which are the weapons of choice in contemporary conflicts;

RECOGNIZING that the WCO has the responsibility for assisting Customs administrations worldwide to implement effective border controls which contribute to stronger small arms and light-weapons controls through its focus on prevention, inspection, investigation and prosecution;

BEARING IN MIND the requirements of effective arms regulation within the Parties' respective mandates;

WISHING to formalize existing co-operation with a view to enhancing cross-border arms regulation efforts;

AWARE that such co-operation should be developed in the light of experience and practical action;

¹Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council.

HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I: Objective

The Parties will work to promote close co-operation and consultation on matters of common interest in order to harmonize their efforts in the complementary discharge of their respective mandates.

ARTICLE II: Scope of co-operation

Within the scope of their respective mandates and within the limits of the resources available to them, the Parties agree:

- To support Members with the implementation of the international SALW requirements.
- To support international initiatives, undertaken by either Party, aimed at monitoring international trade in SALW and preventing illicit diversion and trafficking of SALW. In particular, the WCO promotes and encourages the application of UN ISACS and IATG standards / guidelines in the field of small arms control / ammunition management with its Members, and UNODA supports the WCO SALW Programme.
- To exchange contact information of focal points at Headquarters and to keep such contacts up to date.
- To the extent possible and subject to such restrictions as may be considered necessary by each of the Parties to preserve the confidential nature of certain information and documents, to share information on matters of common interest such as trends in diversion and trafficking of SALW, including detections and seizures.
- To facilitate regional training co-operation by ensuring co-ordination and avoiding overlap in regional / national training activities.
- To share expertise in the areas of capacity building in respect of arms management, ammunition safety and other areas of mutual interest.
- To closely co-operate in outreach activities pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

ARTICLE III: Representation at meetings

The Parties will invite each other to their meetings of common interest and also, as far as possible, grant each other observer status at such meetings in accordance with the applicable rules of procedure.

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ARTICLE IV: Joint training activities

Wherever possible, the WCO Secretariat and UNODA will, within the limits of the resources available to them, co-ordinate joint training activities for customs officers on matters relating to non-proliferation and arms regulation.

ARTICLE V: Programme of activities

The Parties will communicate to each other activities deemed to be of common interest.

ARTICLE VI: Financial obligations

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding is to be taken as creating any financial obligation for either Party.

ARTICLE VII: General provisions

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of its signature by the last signing Party.

This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to create legally binding obligations for either Party. It does not oblige either Party to support or engage in a specific activity or project.

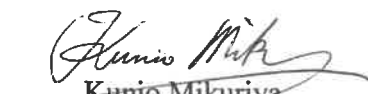
This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed upon the request of either the Secretary General of the WCO or the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and may be amended by mutual agreement in writing.

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


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned legal representatives of the Parties hereto have duly affixed their signatures below.

Signed this 23rd day of December, 2016.

For the World Customs Organization


Kunio Mikuriya,
Secretary General.

For the United Nations Office for
Disarmament Affairs


KIM Won-soo
Under-Secretary-General
High Representative for Disarmament
Affairs