SAO PAULO DECLARATION

The World Customs Organization, represented by its Secretary General, Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, and Latin America's international private sector organizations participating in the Conference on "Security of the Supply Chain and Commerce Facilitation: Challenges of the Revised Kyoto Convention" and representing the main sectors related to international trade, such as Customs agents, express delivery companies, freight forwarders and organizations of importing and exporting companies,

RECALLING that one of the principal objectives of the World Customs Organization (WCO) is to achieve the greatest possible degree of harmonization and simplification of Customs procedures;

that one of the roles of the WCO is to help global Customs administrations achieve their objectives concerning the facilitation and security of international trade and of the international supply chain by developing international standards and instruments;

that the private sector also has as one of its objectives to contribute to processes which facilitate and secure international trade by implementing the best practices of its partners and increasing competitiveness;

NOTING that the significant benefits of facilitation of international trade may be achieved without compromising appropriate standards of Customs control;

that in June 1999, the WCO Council adopted the Revised Kyoto Convention as the basis for achieving efficient and modern Customs procedures for the 21st Century;

that the Revised Kyoto Convention, as well as other WCO instruments, provides for the standardization, simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures, thereby eliminating differences in the practices of its Contracting Parties;
RECOGNIZING that major progress has been made in achieving uniformity and simplification of Customs procedures at global level as the Revised Kyoto Convention currently has 77 Contracting Parties who represent more than 80% of international trade;

that whilst only one country from Latin America has hitherto ratified the Revised Kyoto Convention, the Latin American region has achieved a degree of uniformity and simplification of Customs procedures, prompted by this Convention;

that Latin America's private sector, including Customs agents and other actors in international trade, has significantly helped simplify and harmonize Customs procedures through its contribution to the facilitation, competitiveness and security of the supply chain;

DESIRING to contribute to the effective development of international trade through the harmonization and simplification of Customs procedures, processes and practices, and through international co-operation;

DECLARE that the WCO and Latin America's private sector organizations participating in this Conference and representing the main sectors related to international trade in Latin America will take joint and co-ordinated action to promote the benefits of the Revised Kyoto Convention. Furthermore, they will seek to achieve the consensus needed to increase the number of Contracting Parties to the Revised Kyoto Convention in the region, whilst fully respecting national legislations.

Date:

[Signatures]

World Customs Organization
ASAPRA
CLADEC
ALACAT
International Chamber of Commerce