The Anti-Corruption & Integrity Promotion (A–CIP) Programme for Customs responds to the recognised high costs of corruption in customs. The programme aims at improving the business environment for cross-border trade for selected WCO member countries.

Financed by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the A–CIP Programme supports beneficiary countries in implementing new measures to combat corruption and promote integrity in accordance with the ten areas of the Revised Arusha Declaration.

The Programme design has taken into account lessons learned from previous WCO programmes as well as experiences and insights into the challenges for technical assistance and capacity building in the fight against corruption. Specific attention has been paid to take into account parallel activities both in the participating countries as well as globally, in order to ensure that A–CIP delivers results that complement ongoing and deeper reforms. The actions aim to deliver specific outcomes for each participating country over a period of five years.

The A–CIP Programme is implemented through two components:

- **Bilateral component** — to support selected WCO member countries to implement priority areas of the Arusha Declaration, following multi-annual action plans.
- **Multilateral component** — to support and leverage regional and international initiatives in parallel, build WCO tools and create an enabling environment for WCO members.

**A–CIP PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES**

An improved business environment for cross-border trade for selected WCO member countries.

*Long term:* governance and integrity in customs improved for selected WCO member countries.

*Short term:* a select number of WCO members have implemented new measures to combat corruption and promote integrity in accordance with the Revised Arusha Declaration.

- **Component A** — improved capacity and utilisation of (1) performance measurement and (2) collective action, as well as (3) the implementation of specific customs modernisation efforts that combat corruption and promote integrity.
- **Component B** — improved regional and WCO tools and instruments on integrity to support customs administrations in target countries in the fight against corruption.
THE A-CIP PROGRAMME COMPLEMENTS OTHER WCO INITIATIVES

One of them is the WCO Mercator Programme, which also creates roadmaps and offers a results-based approach to help customs administrations implement relevant national commitments under the World Trade Organization’s Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA). Many of the TFA’s articles call for transparency and predictability, promoting integrity and closing opportunities for corruption. In particular, focusing on regulatory framework, transparency, automation, reform and modernization, as well as relationship with the private sector as also reflected in the Revised Arusha Declaration.

WCO CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT IN INTEGRITY AND COMBATING CORRUPTION

WCO advocates tailor-made and long-term solutions, as well as a holistic approach to integrity in line with the 10 elements of the Revised Arusha Declaration. Over the last 3 years, around 50 technical assistance missions on integrity have been delivered to requesting WCO Member-states. Support has been provided in a broad range of topics that include:

- Integrity diagnostic/assessment
- Support with introduction of performance measurement systems
- Programmed missions (e.g. Project / Mercator)
- Focused missions (e.g. support in revising a code of conduct, an integrity strategy, a training plan or the mapping of corruption risks)

The A-CIP Programme for Customs is providing a further boost for these activities.

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