

WCO Security Programme

The global security landscape has been changing over the last few years. Conflicts around the globe have fuelled violent extremism and led to a dramatic increase in the number of terrorist attacks. No country is immune to the threat posed by terrorism and it has become a significant global challenge.

As the international community is joining forces to manage the threat, a lot of attention is appropriately devoted to borders and border security. Customs, as the indispensable border agency, plays an important role in the management of border-related aspects associated to terrorism.

The Security Programme is WCO's response mechanism to aid countries with their border security-related challenges. The Programme consists of five commodity based/thematic areas and a holistic technical assistance and capacity building initiative.

How can I learn more about the opportunities that are available?

More information on the WCO Security Programme can be received through the WCO Website or by contacting the WCO Security Programme.

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WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

WCO SECURITY PROGRAMME

Protecting societies and
citizens through effective
border management



Global Shield

Programme Global Shield is the oldest of WCO's security initiatives. It is a multidisciplinary effort to prevent the illicit diversion of explosives pre-cursor chemicals and detonators in the international supply chains. WCO partners in this programme with INTERPOL and UNODC. Global Shield is a Programme that saves lives and limbs.

Strategic Trade Controls Enforcement (STCE) Programme

The STCE Programme is focused on weapons of mass destruction and the prevention of illicit trafficking of items that could be used in such weapons or in their delivery systems. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 calls for proper export and transit controls to prevent proliferation. The STCE Programme is the main WCO vehicle for supporting Members in establishing and enforcing such controls at the borders.

Small Arms and Light-Weapons (SALW) Project

In the aftermath of the adoption of the global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the WCO established a special SALW Project to help its Members to implement measures designed to prevent illicit trafficking of firearms. In addition to the ATT, the United Nations Programme of Action (PoA) and the Firearms Protocol of the Transnational Organized Crime Convention (TOC) provide the framework for the activities of the WCO SALW Project.

Policy, tools, networks, partnerships, operations and research

Passenger controls

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 calls countries to focus their attention around the so-called "foreign terrorist fighters" phenomenon and to prevent the movement of high-risk individuals to and from conflict areas. The WCO's Security Programme contains a sub-initiative dedicated to passenger controls and is focused on assisting Customs to utilize Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR) as part of their passenger risk assessment processes.

Terrorist financing

Several United Nations Security Council Resolutions (1373, 2178) urge countries to tighten their controls around financial flows and to ensure these flows won't end-up with extremist groups. The Security Programme is addressing this pressing issue mainly through its work related to the prevention of cash and bearer negotiable instruments smuggling.

Border Security Initiative

The WCO "Border Security Initiative" provides Members with capacity building and technical assistance across all the afore-mentioned commodity/thematic areas. The objective of the initiative is to facilitate Members' activities to implement measures - whether standards, guidance, IT tools, operations, or specialized training - to enhance countries' border security and management capacities in a holistic manner.

What type of assistance is available?

The thematic initiatives of the Security Programme are all working on policy guidance, standards, tools, and training materials. They also coordinate operational activities that the WCO and its Members decide to undertake on one or several commodity areas which fall under the security programme. In addition to the tools and instruments that are available to Members through these initiatives, the thematic programmes and their coordinators facilitate inter-agency contacts and collaboration at the international level.

Diagnostic missions, training and various different forms of technical assistance are the main contributions of the Border Security Initiative. The produced training packages enable the training delivery to be very thematic or specific, while also catering for more holistic sessions where the focus is on the broader border security context.

