

Regional Seminar on promoting integrity in Customs and Border Services in Central Asia and South Caucasus

Almaty, 12 – 13 July 2010



In collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Customs Control Committee of Kazakhstan, the WCO held a “Regional Seminar on promoting integrity in Customs and Border Services in Central Asia and South Caucasus” on 12 and 13 July 2010 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Presenters from Customs, other international organizations and the private sector were in agreement that a lack of integrity among Customs and border agencies has a negative impact on national and fiscal security and economic development, with potentially dire consequences for all the stakeholders, especially citizens who could be deprived of basic services.

The Seminar offered an opportunity for the World Bank and the WCO to present the Cameroon experiment related to performance contracts. The presentation explained how performance measurement can be used as a tool to enhance dialogue between Customs and the private sector and to support the new professional culture that is vital to the success of an integrity programme.

The discussions were characterized by candid and open-minded exchanges, with participants clearly stating that there is always scope to do more and that integrity needs to be addressed on a permanent basis.

The private sector was keen to point out that integrity is a shared responsibility which has to be addressed on both the supply and the demand sides.

Participants were invited to contact the relevant organizations should they wish to adopt a more in-depth approach in addressing the issue of integrity at national level or to reproduce the experiment carried out in some countries.

The WCO wishes to thank the Customs Control Committee of Kazakhstan for hosting the seminar and the OSCE for sponsoring the participants.