

RESOLUTION OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL
ON THE ROLE OF CUSTOMS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

(JUNE 2008)

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THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL¹,

Taking into account the Resolution of the Council on defining a high-level strategy on the role of Customs in the 21st Century of June 2007 and previous Resolutions;

Taking into account the contributions made by many Members on the role of Customs in the 21st Century;

Recognizing the context of a fast-changing landscape within which Customs operates;

Acknowledging the traditional role of Customs;

Noting the new challenges and opportunities that Customs and governments around the world are faced with in a globalized world;

Recognizing the new and dynamic role that Customs administrations can play in the 21st Century;

Believing in the need for strengthening the role of the WCO to enable it to better support its Members in responding to new challenges and opportunities;

Recognizing that the policy document entitled "*Customs in the 21st Century, Enhancing Growth and Development through Trade Facilitation and Border Security (2008)*" is a living document that lays a foundation for future policy and strategic work in the WCO.

RESOLVES :

1. To adopt the policy document "*Customs in the 21st Century, Enhancing Growth and Development through Trade Facilitation and Border Security (2008)*" which embodies a new strategic perspective and policies that will shape the role of Customs in the 21st Century;
2. To encourage Member administrations to continue dialogue in regional forums to capture their experiences of innovation and modernization to enrich and enhance the mission and direction of Customs in the 21st Century;
3. To call on Member administrations and the WCO to continue their engagement with trade partners to respond to a changing trade environment;

¹ Customs Co-operation Council is the official name of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

- 4. To mandate the WCO Secretariat to distribute the policy document directly, and through Directors General, to political heads responsible for Customs activities in Member States and economic unions;
- 5. To mandate the Secretary General and the Council Chairperson to work together with the incoming Secretary General to develop a draft strategy and action plan to implement the policy document and ensure alignment of the WCO Strategic Plan with the policy document, and present a progress report on this work at the December 2008 Policy Commission for further guidance;
- 6. To task the new Secretary General, based on guidance received from the December 2008 Policy Commission, to present the new Strategic Plan to the June 2009 Council Sessions for adoption;
- 7. To task the Secretariat to continuously monitor changes in the global environment, global trade and trade supply chain in order to inform the strategic direction of Member administrations and of the WCO, to ensure that they are able to respond effectively to such changes;
- 8. To task the Secretariat to enhance its work in the area of risk management, in order to assist Customs in being proactive and responsive to new challenges and risks;
- 9. To call on Member administrations to consider taking the necessary steps to achieve the objectives contained in the policy document.

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