

RESOLUTION OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL
ON STRENGTHENING CUSTOMS-INDUSTRY RESILIENCE

(June 2024)

THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL,¹

RECOGNIZING that Customs-Industry resilience is a pillar of global security and prosperity that cannot be achieved in isolation in an age of transformation and unprecedented global challenges, requiring Customs to engage with traditional and new partners with purpose,

DESIRING to evolve and mature the Customs-Industry partnership from one based historically on trade facilitation to one that builds resilience in the Customs-controlled supply chain,

ADOPTING the standardized definition of “resilience” outlined in the World Customs Organization (WCO) Glossary of International Customs Terms applicable to Customs, Industry and legitimate operators within the connected border environment,²

ACKNOWLEDGING that Customs administrations around the world are national strategic assets that are lines of defence against many transnational, serious and organized crime, extremist and terrorist actors at international borders, with Customs responsible for security through the management of the movement of goods, money, people and means of transport across borders,³

RECOGNIZING that, to combat current, new and emerging threats, Customs must collaborate with and support the global network of Industry partners to assist in deterring threats before they reach or cross borders,

CONSIDERING the importance of Customs-Industry collaboration, to respond effectively to global disruptions and prepare for any shocks to global supply chains,

NOTING the respective value propositions that Customs and Industry offer through (but not limited to) trade facilitation, data and information sharing, infrastructure enhancement, capacity building and security measures,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Resolution of the Policy Commission of the World Customs Organization on the Role of Customs in the Security Context (WCO Punta Cana Resolution) (2015), the Revised Kyoto Convention, the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards, the WCO Trade Recovery Guidelines (2010), the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, and other relevant tools and global standards,

¹ Customs Co-operation Council is the official name of the WCO.

² WCO Glossary of International Customs Terms definition of “resilience”: “An entity’s preparedness and readiness to anticipate, prevent, absorb, adapt, recover and evolve from the full spectrum of natural and human-induced threats to ensure the continued delivery of critical goods and services”.

³ As outlined in the 2015 Punta Cana Resolution.

RESOLVES:

To invite Members to:

- (1) Commit to strengthening Customs-Industry resilience as a necessary strategic call to action in response to the evolving and transformative age of rapid expansions, technological advancement, environmental and health crises, and other global and economic dynamics.
- (2) Embrace an innovative approach in reaffirming longstanding relationships with traditional partners, while forging new partnerships with purpose.
- (3) Review existing or develop new business continuity plans in accordance with existing relevant WCO instruments, tools and parameters, including those related (but not limited) to business and supply chain continuity, and management during disruptive global situations.
- (4) Evaluate and monitor the efficacy of resilience measures on an ongoing basis to ensure Customs and Industry remain effective and modern in the changing operating environment.
- (5) Enhance the use of paperless trade through digitalization where achievable and, at a minimum, accept portable document formats (PDFs) and/or replace hardcopy risk assessment and clearance processes with secure digital copies.
- (6) Consider pathways to build and strengthen trust between Customs and Industry through increased data sharing and information exchange, including further deepening the existing relationships with Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs).
- (7) Continue current and future enhancement of AEO programmes, including more tangible benefits for AEOs that could include (but are not limited to): support for small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, greater use of technology and increased real-time data sharing, cyber security measures, frameworks of trust and recognition that AEO programmes should evolve at a pace conducive with changes in global supply chains.
- (8) Consider opportunities for mutually agreed Customs-Industry collaboration, including embedment, placement or collaboration programmes that are at the discretion of the Member and Industry partner or AEOs suitable to the needs, capacities and parameters of the respective parties.
- (9) Engage in capacity-building activities for Customs and Industry to become more agile, resilient and responsive in disruptive situations.
- (10) Reflect strengthening Customs-Industry resilience through practical regional and domestic initiatives, including through engagement and in various consultative material where appropriate, such as respective Regional Strategic Plans.

To invite the Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG) to:

- (11) Support the actions reflected in this Resolution by driving Industry engagement through its global industry network and products developed for the Policy Commission and PSCG annual Dialogue.

To instruct the Secretariat to:

- (12) Support WCO Members in considering principles of enhancing AEO programmes through the SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade.
- (13) Continue to cooperate with international Industry and private-sector stakeholders to advocate for the value proposition of Customs and Industry's preferred partnership, while ensuring timely and adequate information and guidance is made available to WCO Members to support resilience.
- (14) Make the relevant guidance material available to Members and to supply-chain stakeholders to support capacity-building and awareness-raising efforts.

To task the Permanent Technical Committee and the Enforcement Committee to:

- (15) Monitor the implementation of this Resolution, through the reporting of work plans from working bodies subsequent to the June 2024 Council Sessions.
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