



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN**

**THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION  
(WCO)**

**AND**

**THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION  
(IMO)**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)  
ON CO-OPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)  
AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)**

The World Customs Organization, hereinafter referred to as WCO<sup>1</sup>, and the International Maritime Organization, hereinafter referred to as IMO;

Hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Parties";

**Believing** that it is within their common interest to enhance co-operation;

**Being mindful** of Resolution A.64(III) adopted by the Third Session of the IMO Assembly in 1963, which approved arrangements for co-operation between the Parties;

**Aware** that since the adoption of Resolution A.64(III), arrangements have been established for the Parties to consult each other on matters of common interest with a view to ensuring maximum co-ordination of their work and activities in respect of such matters;

**Further aware** that reciprocal arrangements are in place for the Parties to invite each other to send representatives to observe meetings or conferences of mutual interest, convened by or under the auspices of their respective bodies in accordance with procedures applicable to each meeting or conference;

**Recalling** IMO Assembly Resolution A.786(19) on a strategy for ship/port interface, which recognised that, from the ship safety and security perspectives, IMO is the competent body to address the security threat against a ship in port and to take appropriate measures in co-ordination with WCO;

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<sup>1</sup> Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council

**Further recalling** IMO Assembly Resolution A.924(22) on review of measures and procedures to prevent acts of terrorism which threaten the security of passengers and crews and the safety of ships; and the recommendation of the Intersessional Maritime Safety Committee Working Group on Maritime Security (ISWG) regarding container examinations and co-operation with WCO with the aim of establishing international measures that would enhance the integrity of all cargo throughout the transport chain;

**Noting** the WCO initiatives to improve security at the frontier in order to combat international terrorism as well as the WCO Business Partnership programme to improve security;

Have agreed as follows:

**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this MOU is to strengthen existing co-operation between the Parties within the field of their competence and according to:

- i) the Convention establishing the Customs Co-operation Council from 1952;
- ii) the Convention on the International Maritime Organization, and;
- iii) resolution A.64 (III) adopted by the Third Session of the IMO Assembly in 1963, which approved arrangements for co-operation between the Parties.

**2. Contact persons:**

The Parties shall designate contact persons in order to facilitate the most efficient co-operation.

**3. Mutual consultation:**

1. The Parties shall consult regularly on policy issues and matters of common interest for the purpose of realising their objectives and co-ordinating their respective activities.

2. The mutual consultation may include the use of personnel, material, services, equipment and facilities for joint undertakings which may be agreed between the Parties in the fields of container examinations, cargo integrity in multimodal transport and matters related to the ship/port interface and the WCO Security and Business Partnership initiatives.
3. The Parties will render assistance to each other in respect of matters within their competence. Where assistance involves substantial expenditure, consultation will take place with a view to determining the most appropriate financial solutions.

**4. Exchange of information:**

1. Exchange of information between the Parties shall take place for the purpose of and in accordance with the provisions of this MOU. The exchange of information shall include new developments on matters of common interest.
2. The Parties will exchange information and keep each other informed of projected activities and programmes of work in the fields of container examinations, container integrity in multimodal transport and matters relating to the ship/port interface. Such information exchange shall be subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for the safeguarding of confidential information, in accordance with the rules of procedure applying to either Party.

**5. Reciprocal representation:**

Existing arrangements shall continue to be made for reciprocal representation at meetings and conferences organised by the Parties, convened under their respective auspices and dealing with matters in which the other Party has an interest or competence.

**6. Applicability :**

It is further agreed that nothing in this MOU shall bind any of the Members of the WCO jointly or severally. Similarly, the MOU shall not bind any of the Member States of the IMO jointly or severally.

**7. Amendments to and termination of the MOU:**

1. This MOU may be amended by mutual consent at any time.
2. The Parties shall enter into consultations with respect to the amendment of this MOU at the request of either of them.
3. This MOU may be terminated by either Party with six months' written notice.


**8. Entry into force:**

This MOU shall enter into force on twenty-third July 2002 following the signature of the Secretary General of WCO and the Secretary-General of IMO.

Done at the WCO Headquarters, in Brussels, on twenty-third July 2002, in two copies in the English and French languages, both of which shall be equally authoritative.



Michel Danet  
Secretary General  
For the WCO



William A. O'Neil  
Secretary-General  
For the IMO