



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES



REPUBLIC OF LEBANON  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION**

**AND**

**THE LEBANESE MINISTRY OF FINANCE - HIGHER COUNCIL OF CUSTOMS**

**REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A**

**WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE**

**IN BEIRUT, LEBANON**

**Memorandum of Understanding  
between the World Customs Organization and  
the Lebanese Ministry of Finance - Higher Council of Customs  
regarding the Establishment of a  
World Customs Organization Regional Training Centre  
In Beirut, Lebanon**

The World Customs Organization<sup>1</sup>, hereinafter referred to as the WCO, and the Lebanese Ministry of Finance - Higher Council of Customs:

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the enormous challenges facing Customs administrations due to increasing volumes of trade, globalization of trade, and regional integration;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that changing trading patterns, the need for more facilitation of trade and the requirement to produce more with limited resources calls for enhanced co-operation among Customs administrations and with the WCO;

**RECOGNIZING** that international and regional co-operation provides a useful framework for the promotion of Customs effectiveness and efficiency;

**RECOGNIZING** that the dissemination of information, training and technical assistance are indispensable for the uniform implementation of key Customs-related international conventions, recommendations and other standards;

**RECOGNIZING** that the WCO provides relevant and meaningful training and technical assistance to its Members;

**RECOGNIZING** the important role and the significant potential of Lebanon in supporting the WCO in its efforts to provide assistance to WCO Members;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that Lebanon is member of WCO since 20/5/1960;

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**

The WCO and the Lebanese Ministry of Finance - Higher Council of Customs will establish a WCO Regional Training Centre, hereinafter referred to as the Training Centre, in Beirut, Lebanon. The WCO will use the facilities of the Institute of Finance, the training and documentation centre of the Lebanese Ministry of Finance, for the purposes of regional training, technical assistance meetings and other Customs-related events.

**Article 2**

In order to achieve the objectives laid down in Article 1, the Lebanese Ministry of Finance - Higher Council of Customs will make available to the WCO the facilities of the Institute of Finance located in Beirut, 512, Corniche Al Nahr.

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

### Article 3

The Customs training unit and the Institute of Finance will put at the disposition of the WCO its national and international training programmes.

### Article 4

1. The Parties will communicate to each other their training plans in order to define the use of the facilities of the Institute of Finance. The WCO should give advance notice of not less than two months before each planned event, along with the necessary information to confirm the event.
2. Within one month from the date of signing of this Memorandum of Understanding the Parties will designate liaison officers to co-ordinate matters arising from its implementation.

### Article 5

#### Technical conditions for the use of the Training Centre

The Institute of Finance will make available classrooms, together with regular training aids, meeting rooms, and other service facilities of the Training Centre, for use by the WCO.

### Article 6

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signature.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Party at any time, by written notification. This Memorandum of Understanding shall cease to have effect immediately after the receipt of such notification by the other Party.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding can be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties, in written form.

Done in 4/6/2006 on this  
languages, both texts being equally authentic.

in two originals in the English and French



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Michel DANET  
Secretary General  
For the World Customs Organization.



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Jihad AZOUR  
Minister of Finance  
For the Lebanese Ministry of Finance