



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE GENERAL  
SECRETARIAT OF THE  
LATIN-AMERICAN INTEGRATION  
ASSOCIATION (ALADI)  
AND THE  
WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION  
(WCO)**

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COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE  
LATIN-AMERICAN INTEGRATION ASSOCIATION (ALADI)  
AND THE  
WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)

The General Secretariat of the Latin-American Integration Association, ALADI, (hereinafter referred to as "the Secretariat"), with headquarters on Cebollatí 1461, in Montevideo, Uruguay, duly represented by its Secretary-General, Dr. Didier Opertti Badán, and the World Customs Organization, WCO, (hereinafter referred to as "the WCO"), with headquarters on Rue du Marché No. 30, in Brussels, Belgium, duly represented by its Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Kunio Mikuriya.

CONSIDERING that the Latin-American Integration Association is an intergovernmental regional organization aiming at achieving balanced and harmonious promotion of the economic and social development of its member countries, the promotion and regulation of reciprocal trade, economic complementation, the development of actions that contribute to the enlargement of the markets, and the constituting of a Latin-American common market.

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CONSIDERING that the World Customs Organization is the only intergovernmental worldwide organization competent in Customs matters, whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Member Customs administrations, thereby assisting them to contribute successfully to national development goals, particularly in the areas of trade facilitation, revenue collection, community protection and national security;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the complementarity in the goals and the activities carried out by the Secretariat and the WCO, as well as the interest of both Institutions in strengthening their technical cooperation links;

AGREE the following :

FIRST - The Secretariat and the WCO, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties", will provide mutual cooperation in order to foster and carry out actions and/or cooperation projects in the areas of mutual interest in a coordinated or joint manner and within the scope of their own competencies.

SECOND - The cooperation agreed in each case might cover, among others, the following possibilities :

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- (a) The Parties shall support the devising and preparation of studies, research projects and publications, as well as the joint or coordinated execution of forums, lectures, seminars and other activities on specific subjects related to the subregional, regional and hemispheric integration process considered of mutual interest;
- (b) The Parties shall, on an ongoing basis, exchange information related to the activities that they carry out in the field of customs cooperation and facilitation covering bibliographic and documentary information, as well as appropriate publications;
- (c) The Parties shall join efforts to achieve an optimum use of their general, technical, economic and statistical information, providing each other with technical assistance on subjects related to their respective competences within their possibilities;
- (d) The Parties shall, in ways to be agreed upon, promote the exchange of specialists in areas of common interest;
- (e) The Parties may implement coordinated actions through horizontal cooperation with other bodies or institutions in order to join efforts towards the promotion of trade and cooperation; and
- (f) The Parties shall promote the dissemination of the activities and projects carried out or to be carried out within the framework of this Cooperation Agreement through the communication channels of both Institutions and the creation of a reciprocal link in their respective websites.

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THIRD - The actions, work and/or cooperation projects to be agreed may be settled through specific agreements, which will include the goals, terms of reference, work methodology and obligations of each Institution. The respective results will be assessed by the relevant bodies and in the way determined for each case.

FOURTH - Any expenditure relating to actions, programmes and/or projects to be agreed shall be determined and agreed in advance.

FIFTH - The Parties shall promote the appropriate and permanent exchange of complementary information on those subjects that they consider useful for achieving the goals of this Agreement.

SIXTH - The Parties can freely use all the information exchanged by virtue of this Agreement, except where restrictions or confidentiality have been stipulated by the providing Party regarding its use or dissemination. Confidential information shall not be transferred by one of the Parties to third Parties without the prior written consent of the other Party.

SEVENTH - Any differences that might arise between the Parties regarding the scope, effects, interpretation or other matters related to this Agreement shall be resolved through direct negotiation.

EIGHTH - This Cooperation Agreement will enter into force on the date of its signing for an unlimited period. It can be modified by common consent whenever the Parties consider it advisable. The amendments shall be formalized in writing, specifying the date of their entry into force. The Agreement can be denounced by either of




the Parties, in which case it will be void ninety (90) days after the corresponding written notification to the other Party.

NINTH – The total or partial modification or the denouncing of this Agreement shall not affect the ongoing projects at that moment, unless otherwise agreed.

In witness thereof, the Secretariat and the WCO sign this Cooperation Agreement in four identical copies, all of them equally valid, two in English and two in Spanish, in Montevideo, Uruguay, on the twenty-sixth of September of the year two thousand and six.

ALADI General Secretariat

World Customs Organization



Didier Operti Badán  
Secretary General



Kunio Mikuriya  
Deputy Secretary General