



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between the Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and the World Customs Organization¹

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) hereinafter referred to as "the Parties":

Based on the Charter establishing the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) of 25 May 1981 and the Convention Establishing a Customs Co-operation Council of 15 December 1950,

Recognizing that the Parties seek to ensure effective functioning of international trade through the use of international instruments, the promotion of best Customs practices, and Customs modernization programmes,

Recognizing that the Parties wish to establish and develop cooperation based on mutual support and to create the mechanism for such cooperation,

Recognizing that the exchange of information, training activities and technical assistance are essential for the unified application of the key international conventions, recommendations and other standards in the Customs sphere,

Abiding by the principles of equality, transparency and mutual understanding,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
General

The Parties agree to cooperate and consult on matters of common interest in order to coordinate their efforts on trade facilitation and improvement of Customs regulations each within its own competence, as well as to enhance the economic development of the Member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and of the World Customs Organization.

Article 2
Scope of cooperation

For the purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties agree to cooperate in the following areas:

- Improvement of Customs, based on international standards;
- Development of international Customs cooperation;
- Elaboration of effective and modern standards in the Customs sphere;
- Establishment of practical cooperation between the Parties in Customs

¹ Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council.

- matters;
- Implementation of best Customs practices;
 - Harmonization and increased effectiveness in the use of the resources of Customs administrations;
 - Increase in effectiveness of Customs controls;
 - Development of Customs infrastructure.
 - Development of cooperation in the field of rules of origin.

Article 3 Forms of cooperation

The Parties agree to cooperate, where appropriate and inter alia, in the following forms:

- Exchange of publically available information and documents concerning matters of common interest;
- Participation of the representatives of one Party in relevant events organized by the other Party;
- Organization of joint meetings, consultations and conferences on matters of common interest.
- Consultations and exchanges of views on possible GCC membership of the WCO.

Article 4 Programmes of activities

The Parties shall invite each other to meetings and events of common interest in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures of each Organization.

The terms and procedures for the holding of joint meetings shall be determined by the Parties in each specific case.

The activities may also include:

- (a) Providing technical assistance in Customs matters to GCC Member States through the GCC Secretariat General, as needed and to the extent possible;
- (b) Inviting the GCC Secretariat General to periodic meetings and events held by the WCO.

Article 5 Entry into force, amendments, termination

The Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute an international agreement and does not impose any legal or financial obligations on either of the Parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties by virtue of official notification to the other Party.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Party at any time, by written notification. In such case, the Memorandum of Understanding shall terminate on the date stipulated in the notification.

Done in Brussels, on 15 December 2017 in two originals each in the English and Arabic languages.



Dr. Abdullatif Bin Rashid ALZAYANI

**Secretary General of the
Cooperation Council for the Arab States
of the Gulf**

GCC Secretariat General.



Dr. Kunio Mikuriya

**Secretary General of the
World Customs Organization.**