



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)

(established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council)

AND

THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

See M

PREAMBLE

The World Customs Organization (WCO), an intergovernmental Organization having its Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium; and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), an international Organization having its Secretariat at Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, in the Republic of Guyana (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties")

CONSCIOUS of the important role that Customs administrations and other government agencies have to play worldwide in facilitating international trade and in combating Customs offences, including commercial fraud, transnational organized crime and terrorism;

CONSIDERING the need for Customs administrations to reform and modernize in order to address the challenges of a fast-developing free-trade environment;

RECOGNIZING the obligations of the Customs administrations of the Parties, under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and the need to improve their overall trade and enforcement capabilities;

BEARING IN MIND the need to assist the Customs administrations of the Members of CARICOM (hereinafter referred to as "Member States") to enhance the professionalism and effectiveness of their organizations as well as to improve the level of cooperation and the exchange of information between them and other stakeholders in trade facilitation;

CONVINCED that such assistance can be made more effective by close cooperation between the Parties;

SEEKING cooperation which maximizes the benefits of an improved Customs administration in CARICOM,

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

Article 1: Objective

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to enhance the professionalism and effectiveness of CARICOM Customs administrations through cooperation between the Parties in the field of technical assistance and capacity building.

Article 2: Training Coordination

The CARICOM Secretariat and WCO will endeavor to cooperate in the following areas:

- (a) The coordination of Customs training programmes in the Member States in order to minimize any undesirable duplication of efforts and funding bids;

See M

- (b) The identification of training solutions best adapted to the needs of the Customs administrations of the Member States;
- (c) The incorporation into training programmes of the priorities identified by Member States for regional implementation of the TFA; and
- (d) The prioritization of identified training needs in CARICOM's approaches to trade facilitation with a view to maximizing the effectiveness of Customs administration in Member States.

Article 3: Technical Assistance Coordination

The CARICOM Secretariat will cooperate with the WCO to assist Member States in managing development and technical assistance programmes relating to Customs administration with a view to minimizing any undesirable duplication of efforts and to avoiding inefficient use of resources.

Article 4 : Cooperation

The CARICOM Secretariat will cooperate with the WCO to:

- (a) promote closer cooperation between the Customs administrations of Member States in order to enhance the security and facilitation of the supply chain and to reduce administrative burdens on compliant traders; and
- (b) encourage the timely exchange of information on the basis of WCO-developed standards and conventions.

Article 5: Capacity Building

- (a) To the extent possible, the WCO will actively promote the modernization of the Customs administrations in the region through the WCO Capacity Building Strategy and the implementation of Customs reform and modernization programs. The areas of intervention should be defined in separate agreements.
- (b) The CARICOM Secretariat will endeavor to promote the participation of Member States in regional capacity building events at the Trinidad and Tobago Customs and Excise Regional Training School or any other regional CARICOM training centre.
- (c) The CARICOM Secretariat will encourage Member States to improve their efficiency and effectiveness by adopting WCO instruments and best practices as the basis for their Customs procedures and processes, and to consider membership to the WCO, if they are not yet Members.

See
W

Article 6: WCO Meetings and Inter-Connectivity

In further pursuit of the objectives of this MOU, the WCO may:

- (a) invite CARICOM to relevant meetings as it may be beneficial to attend, as an observer; and
- (b) share with the CARICOM Secretariat any relevant documentation.

Article 7: CARICOM Meetings

Whenever possible, CARICOM will invite the WCO to attend relevant Customs-related meetings as an observer.

Article 8: Implementation

The points of contact to facilitate the discussion regarding this MOU are as follows:

CARICOM Secretariat: Deputy Programme Manager – Customs and Trade Policy Unit

WCO: Regional Development Manager for Americas/Caribbean – Capacity Building Directorate

Article 9: General Considerations

1. The Parties acknowledge that:
 - (a) This MOU does not create any legally binding or enforceable obligations between or among the Parties.
 - (b) Nothing in this MOU is to be construed as creating a joint venture, an agency relationship, or a legal partnership between the Parties.
2. This MOU will enter into force on the date of signature by the latter of the two Parties and will be effective for a period of three (3) years and may be subsequently renewed by the Parties.
3. Any dispute about the interpretation or application of this MOU will be resolved by consultations between the Parties.
4. This MOU may be amended by written agreement of the Parties.
5. This MOU may be terminated by either Party by written notification. This MOU will cease to have effect within thirty (30) days after receipt of such notification by the other Party.
6. Any notices required by this MOU are to be given in writing and delivered to the following representatives of each Party:



Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown

GUYANA

Email: osg1@caricom.org

Fax: (592) 222-0173

Attention: Irwin LaRocque - Secretary-General

World Customs Organization

Address: 30 rue du Marché, B-1210 Brussels

Email: kabera.aboulaiz@wcoomd.org

Attention: Kunio Mikuriya - Secretary General

Done in Georgetown, Guyana, in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authentic, in two originals, this 20th day of March 2018 which will be deposited with the Secretary General of the WCO and the Secretary-General of CARICOM. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the

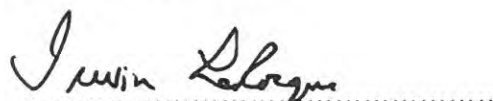
World Customs Organization



Dr. Kunio Mikuriya
Secretary General

For the

Caribbean Community



Ambassador Irwin LaRocque
Secretary-General
