

ALMATY INTEGRITY RESOLUTION

WE, the participants in the Sub-Regional Integrity Conference “Strategic methods of improving integrity in Customs”, held in Almaty city of the Republic of Kazakhstan from 17 to 19 January 2007, and organized by the World Customs Organization and the Customs Administration of the Republic of Kazakhstan under the sponsorship of the Customs cooperation fund Japan;

RE-COMMITTING ourselves to the World Customs Organization’s Revised Arusha Declaration on Integrity in Customs, adopted in 2003;

RECOGNIZING that corruption is the phenomenon existed in all spheres of life, and that strong political commitment is necessary to combat it;

RECOGNIZING also that Customs administrations perform a wide range of vitally important fiscal, economic and social functions, which have a significant impact on a nation’s capacity to benefit from the expansion and development of world trade and on its capacity to ensure realization of legitimate social, economic and national development goals;

RECOGNIZING further that World Customs Organization Capacity Building strategies, including the Columbus Programme, support Members in their endeavours to modernize Customs services and that an integrity programme forms an integral part of the Columbus Programme;

CONVINCED that efficient human resource management and development is one of the most important elements in order to successfully implement the Revised Arusha Declaration and improving integrity in customs bodies;

ACKNOWLEDGING the wide range of positive and constructive steps that is taken by many Customs administrations of the States participating in this Sub-regional Integrity Conference to acknowledge the necessity of implementation practical and effective techniques on fighting against corruption;

NOTING that integrity in Customs increases public trust and confidence in government institutions, prevents significant revenue leakage, contributes to voluntary compliance with laws, regulations and directions, facilitates international trade, foreign investment and economic development, and increases the level of national security and community protection;

NOTING that external relation activities are effective to enhance the morale and ethics of customs officials and are expected to contribute to strengthening their status of customs;

NOTING also that a high level of integrity is absolutely essential to secure the international trade supply chain at every stage and remove unnecessary barriers to international trade and is identified as a key standard in the World Customs Organization SAFE Framework of Standards;

RECALLING the key standards and practical tools that have been developed by the World Customs Organization and its Members, such as the World Customs Organization Integrity Development Guide, the Model Code of Ethics and Conduct, the Compendium of Integrity Best Practices and the E-learning module on Integrity;

CONVINCED that the Integrity Development Cycle, including monitoring and peer review, as one of the key methods to enhance integrity in Customs;

RECOGNISING that further development and promotion of World Customs Organization integrity standards and tools is necessary and convinced that a new World Customs Organization initiative of case study development will be an integral part of that effort;

NOTING of the need for the businessmen to build integrity amongst business community and civil society and to accept joint efforts to ensure Customs administrations respect the principles of integrity;

RECOGNIZING that a best practice sharing approach is an effective basis for improving integrity in Customs;

RESOLVES that the Customs administrations of the States participating in this Sub-regional Integrity Conference will:

- Take comprehensive and practical steps to implement the key elements and provisions of the Revised Arusha Declaration on Integrity in Customs by using the Integrity Development Guide and the other relevant tools;
- Modernize systems, promote the application of modern technologies for customs clearance and customs control, which is directed at minimizing corrupt practices;
- Reduce the incentives for Customs officials and members of the business community to act in unethical ways;
- Develop and implement appropriate human resource management and develop strategies, including training and motivation, aimed at strengthening and ensuring the highest standards of professional ethics;
- Develop a positive and effective partnership with all sections of the business community to identify areas of high risk and to implement practical steps to address the problem of corruption in Customs administrations;
- Develop and implement appropriate Codes of Ethics and Conduct in Customs administrations which are drafted in very practical and unambiguous requirements to the customs authorities;
- Develop integrity case studies in co-operation with the World Customs Organization in order to assist Customs administrations in conducting effective training to improve integrity;
- Participate actively in World Customs Organization integrity meetings and international/regional forums, including the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity;
- Establish national integrity action plans (a) pre-emptive strategies such as education and corruption prevention, and (b) use traditional approaches such as corruption detection, investigation and prosecution;

- Develop and implement regional mechanisms to enable Customs administrations to identify and implement policies and pragmatic measures to increase integrity and combat corruption and share information on integrity strategies and best practice approaches.

Done at Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan, on the 19th day of January 2007

State Customs Committee of the Azerbaijan Republic

General customs administration of the People's Republic of China

Customs and tariff bureau of the Ministry of finance of Japan

Customs control committee of the Ministry of finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan

State customs inspection under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

Mongolian Customs

Federal customs service of the Russian Federation

Customs service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

State customs committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan
