

NAIROBI RESOLUTION ON INTEGRITY

WE, the participants of the High Level Workshop on Integrity in East and Southern Africa Region, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 20 to 23 February 2007, and organised by the World Customs Organisation in cooperation with the East and Southern Africa Regional Capacity Building Centre (ESA RCBC) and hosted by the Kenya Revenue Authority under the sponsorship of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency;

RE-COMMITTING ourselves to the World Customs Organization's Revised Arusha Declaration on Integrity in Customs, adopted in 2003, and the Maputo Declaration, adopted in 2002;

RECOGNIZING that;

- Customs administrations perform a wide range of 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;
- corruption is a worldwide problem, and that a strong political will and the leadership of Customs administrations is necessary to combat corruption and improve integrity;
- World Customs Organization has developed standards and programmes that include integrity as key elements to support Members in their endeavours to modernize Customs services;
- the pool of experts is a regional resource available to Members in supporting implementation of strategies to promote integrity;

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 directives, facilitates international trade, foreign investment and economic development, and increases the level of national security and community protection;
- a high level of integrity is absolutely essential to secure the international trade supply chain, remove unnecessary barriers to international trade and constitutes one of the key standards in the World Customs Organization SAFE Framework of Standards;
- a wide range of positive and constructive steps have been taken by many Customs administrations in East and Southern Africa region towards implementation of practical and effective measures in the fight against corruption, including the establishment of the pool of experts within the region;

BELIEVING that;

- efficient human resource management and development is one of the most important elements necessary to successfully implement the Revised Arusha Declaration and improving integrity in Customs administrations;
- simplification of Customs procedures and the use of information technology minimizes unnecessary human intervention and opportunities for malpractices;

- fostering the Customs-to-Business partnership and enhancing Customs-to-Customs cooperation will promote and ensure that the initiatives to fight corruption and promote integrity are sustained;

ACKNOWLEDGING that building integrity in Customs is a shared responsibility of Customs administrations, the business community and civil society;

RESOLVE to;

- Commit ourselves to demonstrating a strong leadership to combat corruption and promote integrity;
- Enforce a zero-tolerance policy against corruption of any kind;
- Take comprehensive and practical steps to implement the Revised Arusha Declaration on Integrity in Customs by using the WCO Integrity Development Guide and the other relevant tools;
- Modernize systems, promote the application of modern technologies for Customs clearance and control, based on international standards such as the Revised Kyoto Convention, to reduce rent seeking opportunities for Customs officials and members of the business community;
- Develop and implement appropriate human resource management and development strategies, including training and motivation, aimed at strengthening and ensuring the highest standards of professional ethics and conduct;
- Develop a positive and effective partnership with the business community in aggressively addressing corruption;
- Develop, implement and periodically review appropriate Codes of Ethics and Conduct in Customs administrations;
- Cooperate with the World Customs Organization and other bodies to develop case studies on good governance and integrity;
- Participate actively in World Customs Organization integrity fora and other related international / regional activities, including the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity;
- Establish regional and national integrity action plans;
- Exchange information on strategies and best practices on integrity;
- Develop and implement peer review mechanisms on integrity; and
- Utilize the ESA RCBC and the regional pool of experts to support a regional approach on integrity.

Done at Nairobi, Kenya on the 23rd of February 2007
