

RESOLUTION OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL
ON THE FRAMEWORK OF STANDARDS
TO SECURE AND FACILITATE GLOBAL TRADE

(June 2006)

THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL *,

Noting :

- (a) the Customs Co-operation Council Resolution of June 2004 on Global Security and Facilitation Measures Concerning the International Trade Supply Chain that established the High Level Strategic Group;
- (b) the Customs Co-operation Council Resolution of June 2005 to adopt the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade ("SAFE Framework of Standards") and extend the mandate of the High Level Strategic Group to develop strategies to guide implementation of the SAFE Framework of Standards;
- (c) the progress made by the Vice-Chairpersons, Members and the Secretariat on reporting on adoption of the SAFE Framework of Standards;
- (d) the report of the Private Sector Consultative Group;

Recognizing that there is a need to focus on the implementation of the SAFE Framework of Standards to enhance the security and facilitation of the global supply chain, as well as economic security;

Believing that :

- (a) there is a need to continuously monitor and review developments in the international landscape and to assess the impact on Customs to enable the WCO and Customs to be more strategic and outward-focused and to strengthen their value proposition offered to governments, international trade and the private sector;
- (b) the SAFE Framework of Standards represents uniform, minimum international standards required to enhance supply chain security and facilitation and implementation;
- (c) Customs of importing and exporting countries, as well as the private sector, have a mutual responsibility for supply chain security;
- (d) capacity building is essential to enable Members to implement the SAFE Framework of Standards and modernize their Customs administrations;

* Customs Co-operation Council is the official name of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

- (e) the WCO has a critical role to play in promoting implementation of the SAFE Framework of Standards and Customs modernization.

RESOLVES as follows :

(1) Implementation of the SAFE Framework of Standards

- 1.1 The Secretariat, in consultation with the High Level Strategic Group, shall establish a group of experts consisting of interested Members to develop proposals on the implementation of the Customs-to-Customs pillar of the SAFE Framework of Standards and other issues related to the SAFE Framework of Standards and present the interim report to the Policy Commission at its next session;
- 1.2 The Secretary General shall ensure that assistance and guidance are provided to enable interested Members to participate in pilot projects to implement the SAFE Framework of Standards and shall monitor such pilot projects in consultation with the High Level Strategic Group and the Vice-Chairs;
- 1.3 The Regional Vice-Chairs shall continue to promote, monitor and report on the implementation of the SAFE Framework of Standards in their respective regions in accordance with the mechanisms approved by the High Level Strategic Group;
- 1.4 The Secretary General, in consultation with the High Level Strategic Group, shall continue to explore the possibility of organizing a Ministerial Forum to raise political awareness of, and support for, the SAFE Framework of Standards;
- 1.5 The Secretariat shall continue to develop a strong communications strategy to promote the SAFE Framework of Standards and, thereby, a stronger role for Customs in the 21st Century, and raise awareness of the benefits of the SAFE Framework of Standards to governments, the private sector and other international institutions;

(2) Customs in the 21st Century

- 2.1 The Secretariat shall invite comments on the discussion document on the role of Customs in the 21st Century with a view to finalizing the document for consideration by the Policy Commission at its next session;
- 2.2 The Secretariat shall further develop an analysis of specific environmental factors influencing the role of Customs in the 21st Century and opportunities for Customs to expand their role, for consideration by the Policy Commission at its next session;

(3) Authorized Economic Operator

- 3.1 There is a need for a core or basic set of WCO international standards on Authorized Economic Operator;
- 3.2 The objective of WCO international standards on Authorized Economic Operator is to move towards mutual recognition and, to this end, the Secretary General shall establish a working group to identify and address challenges and submit its report to the Policy Commission at its next session;
- 3.3 The Authorized Economic Operator standards are adopted and appended to the SAFE Framework of Standards;
- 3.4 These international standards may be supplemented by additional Customs or Economic Union and national requirements;
- 3.5 The Secretariat shall circulate the proposed Section N of the consolidated Authorized Economic Operator document to all Members of the Council by 15 July 2006, and those Members shall provide comments to the Secretariat by 1 September 2006. After appropriate consultation, the Policy Commission shall consider this matter at its next session;
- 3.6 The Secretariat shall consult on the implications of the implementation of the Authorized Economic Operator standards by small and medium sized enterprises and establish a working group consisting of all interested Members and the private sector that shall make recommendations for consideration by the High Level Strategic Group and present its report to the Policy Commission at its next session;

(4) Capacity Building

- 4.1 The substantial progress made by the WCO in delivering capacity building under the Columbus Programme is commended;
- 4.2 The WCO shall continue its excellent work in the area of catalytic co-ordination of capacity building;
- 4.3 The Columbus Programme monitoring package is endorsed;
- 4.4 The Secretariat shall provide an analysis and evaluation of capacity building under the Columbus Programme on a quarterly basis;
- 4.5 The Capacity Building Fund shall be further enhanced to provide the WCO with additional financial ability to carry out the Columbus Programme diagnostic missions and related work arising out of the decisions taken in respect of capacity building linked to implementation of the SAFE Framework of Standards;

(5) Future work of the High Level Strategic Group

- 5.1 The Council recognizes that the High Level Strategic Group is intended to assist the Policy Commission in its work and deliberations;
- 5.2 The mandate of the High Level Strategic Group is extended for one final year by the Council. The mandate of the High Level Strategic Group shall be as described in the Council Resolutions of June 2004 on Global Security and Facilitation Measures concerning the International Trade Supply Chain (Paragraph A) and June 2005 on the High Level Strategic Group (Annex 1).
- In addition, the High Level Strategic Group shall give priority to preparing and recommending an Appendix to the SAFE Framework of Standards on the issue of combating counterfeiting;
- 5.3 The work of the High Level Strategic Group shall be open for wider participation by Members, through :
- (a) Better access to documents; and
 - (b) Active involvement in current and ad hoc WCO structures;
- 5.4 The Secretary General shall request WCO working bodies and establish working groups, as required, to further develop recommendations on the implementation of the SAFE Framework of Standards and capacity building and report to the High Level Strategic Group;
- 5.5 The Regional Vice-Chairs shall report to the Members of their respective regions on meetings of the High Level Strategic Group;
- 5.6 The Secretariat shall make all documents of the High Level Strategic Group available to Members, including through the WCO Members' Web site;
- 5.7 Members shall have the opportunity to consider and comment on any matter considered by the High Level Strategic Group through the Regional Vice-Chairs;
- 5.8 The High Level Strategic Group shall monitor and evaluate the implementation of the SAFE Framework of Standards and report to the Policy Commission;
- 5.9 The Regional Vice-Chairs shall consult the Members of their respective regions in advance of each High Level Strategic Group meeting on documents and issues to be considered by the High Level Strategic Group;

(6) Consultation with Private Sector

- 6.1 There is a need to continue with the Private Sector Consultative Group;
- 6.2 The Secretary General, in consultation with the High Level Strategic Group, shall develop a roadmap for the Private Sector Consultative Group, as well as a short list of issues to be addressed by the Private Sector Consultative Group and report to the Policy Commission at its next session;

(7) Work with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

- 7.1. Given the relationship between the policy and standards of the WCO and the standards of the ISO, the WCO and ISO Secretariats should engage in a formal process to provide clarity regarding that relationship and the respective roles of the two Organizations and the Secretary General shall report to the Policy Commission at its next session;
- 7.2 A plan for both immediate and medium-term co-operation between the two Organizations should be drawn up;

(8) Outstanding issues from October 2005 Resolution of the High Level Strategic Group

- 8.1 The Secretary General shall address any other outstanding issues from the October 2005 Resolution of the High Level Strategic Group.

P. GORDHAN,
Chairperson.