

## **PUNTA CANA RESOLUTION**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE POLICY COMMISSION OF THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION ON THE ROLE OF CUSTOMS IN THE SECURITY CONTEXT**

**(Punta Cana, December 2015)**

#### **THE POLICY COMMISSION**

##### **NOTING :**

the recent terrorist attacks in Tunisia, Turkey, Lebanon, France, Mali and other countries, as well as on a Russian airliner over Egypt, by violent extremist groups which threaten the security and safety of people, as well as economic development, political stability and social cohesion of countries in all parts of the world;

the G20 Statement of 16 November 2015 on the Fight Against Terrorism in which the G20 condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the recent heinous terrorist attacks as an unacceptable affront to all humanity;

the United Nations Security Council's Resolution of 20 November 2015 wherein the Council unequivocally condemned, in the strongest terms, the terrorist attacks perpetrated by ISIL (also known as Da'esh) in Sousse (Tunisia), Ankara (Turkey), over Sinai (Egypt), Beirut (Lebanon) and Paris (France) and called upon its Member States that have the capacity to do so to take all necessary measures, in compliance with international law, to redouble and coordinate their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts;

##### **RECOGNIZING that :**

Customs authorities around the world are the first line of defence against many criminal and violent extremist and terrorist organizations that exploit international boundaries, thereby highlighting the important role of Customs in border security through management of the movement of goods, money, people and means of transport across borders;

through the management of the movement of goods, people and means of transport, Customs has a key role to play in tackling cross-border provision of material support to terrorism and terrorist financing;

Customs authorities, through the deployment of effective and efficient control measures, contribute to national economic prosperity (through fair and accurate revenue collection), economic development (through trade facilitation), public health and safety (through suppression of illicit trade), and national security (through prevention and detection of smuggling of restricted, prohibited and strategic goods);

the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade was adopted as a global instrument to act as a deterrent to international terrorism, secure revenue collection and promote trade facilitation worldwide;

the sharing of intelligence and close cooperation between Customs authorities and with other law enforcement agencies to achieve common objectives in the context of border security is a key element in effectively addressing this threat;

the WCO Security Programme concentrates on strengthening the capacity of Customs administrations to address security threats nationally and internationally through the use of its international standards and technical assistance programmes in areas such as passenger controls through the use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR); controls on goods such as materials for explosives, weapons of mass destruction and small arms and light weapons; and controls on financial flows linked to crime and terrorism financing;

#### **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT :**

The Recommendation of the Customs Co-operation Council Concerning the Use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) for Efficient and Effective Customs Control (June 2015);

The Recommendation of the Customs Co-operation Council Concerning the Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (29 June 2002);

The Recommendation of the Customs Co-operation Council on the need to Develop and Strengthen the Role of Customs Administrations in Tackling Money Laundering and in Recovering the Proceeds of Crime (25 June 2005);

#### **RESOLVES that the WCO :**

**Endorses** close cooperation at national, regional and international level between Customs authorities and between Customs and other law enforcement authorities in relation to information exchange and investigations, with a view to enhancing border security, and identifying, disrupting and dismantling criminal and destabilizing organizations and individuals;

**Invites** Customs authorities to include security as part of their mandate and functions, where appropriate, by including security in their strategic plans and disseminating the goal to the front lines;

**Advocates** a deeper engagement with partner intergovernmental organizations, using all relevant bilateral and multilateral platforms;

**Underlines** the importance of the WCO Compliance and Enforcement Package, in particular the WCO Security Programme, particularly in relation to illicit movements of firearms and explosives and terrorist financing;

**Invites** Customs authorities to use the full range of detection and investigative techniques, including risk profiling, API/PNR analysis, intelligence sharing, controlled deliveries, forensic techniques, detector dogs and non-intrusive equipment, and upgrading them to high standards; and to use the full extent of the law to secure an appropriate level of punishment that would act as an effective deterrent;

**Requests** Customs authorities to participate actively in enforcement operations addressing emerging border-security-related concerns;

**Encourages** Customs authorities to seek powers where they do not have sufficient powers to make their contribution in the fight against terrorism including preventing the financing of terrorism through other illegal activities;

**Encourages** governments to provide financial, human and service support to ensure that Customs authorities can make their contribution nationally, and also internationally for the WCO Security Programme activities;

**Encourages** Customs authorities to study and make use of the available WCO Security Programme training and reference materials;

**Commits** to supporting Customs in enhancing border security capabilities, including advance passenger risk analysis as well as advance cargo risk analysis, and where necessary developing new tools and guidelines such as the Border Security Initiative and the Cross-Border Mutual Administrative Assistance, and including those to make high-risk commodity identification more effective;

**Stands** together as one with its Members in offering solidarity, support and commitment to provide any and all assistance available.

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