

Joint Declaration between the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on Facilitating Safe, Secure, and Efficient Global Trade

We, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU), recognize the importance of safe, secure, and efficient global trade, for the interconnection, growth and development of economies and the well-being of people around the world. As custodians of global trade and postal networks, we are committed to working together to facilitate the movement of goods and services across borders while ensuring security and compliance with national and international laws and regulations.

We believe that the effective implementation of customs and postal procedures is essential for achieving our shared goals of facilitating trade and transport while interconnecting the world and protecting the public from the risks posed by illegal and dangerous goods, including weapons, drugs, counterfeit products, and other illicit items.

Therefore, we commit to continue working together and exchanging best practices, based on our Cooperation Agreement, to enhance cooperation and coordination between our organizations and our respective members to achieve the following objectives:

1. Continuing the dialogue between WCO Member Customs administrations and designated operators of UPU member countries, to ensure mutual understanding of our respective missions, requirements and how we can best achieve them.
2. Strengthening cooperation between our organizations and our members in capacity building, technical assistance and in raising public awareness of our respective missions and requirements to support the effective implementation of customs and postal procedures.
3. Fostering the exchange of information and data among all postal supply chain stakeholders, thereby enabling the digitalization of postal and customs working processes to facilitate a more efficient and effective collaboration.
4. Improving the quality and accuracy of data and information exchanged between customs and designated postal operators to support the safe, secure, and efficient clearance of goods.
5. Facilitating the development and implementation of common tools to identify high-risk consignments and reduce the risk of smuggling, fraud, and other illicit activities.
6. Promoting the use of technology and innovation to improve the efficiency, transparency, and security of customs and postal processes, including the exploration of interconnection of data exchange platforms and interfaces, the deployment of advanced screening technologies and the digitalization of the global postal supply chain.
7. Engaging partner organizations, in the development and elaboration of digital integration strategies related to electronic advance data in postal, transport and customs procedures.

We recognize that achieving these objectives will require a collaborative effort and a long-term commitment from our organizations, our respective members and our supply chain partners. Therefore, we pledge to work together in partnership with all stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society to achieve our shared goals of facilitating safe, secure, and efficient global trade.

Signed on this day, the 7th of June 2023, in Tokyo, Japan.