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**“Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet,”** is the 2020 slogan of the World Customs Organization (WCO)’s, International Customs Day (ICD), which officially falls on 26 January of each year. Celebrated by WCO Members, the WCO Secretariat and Customs partners worldwide, ICD is a celebration of Custom’s contribution to all border related activities under the chosen theme.

The 2020 celebration envisions a sustainable future where social, economic, health, and environmental needs are prioritised by the WCO and are at the heart of Customs operations. The theme for International Customs Day was announced by the Secretary General of the WCO, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, who

highlighted the prominent role that Customs administrations play across the international supply chain. A sustainable, secure and inclusive future for all is expected to guide operations of the global Customs community throughout the year, increasing the commitment to ongoing initiatives relating to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

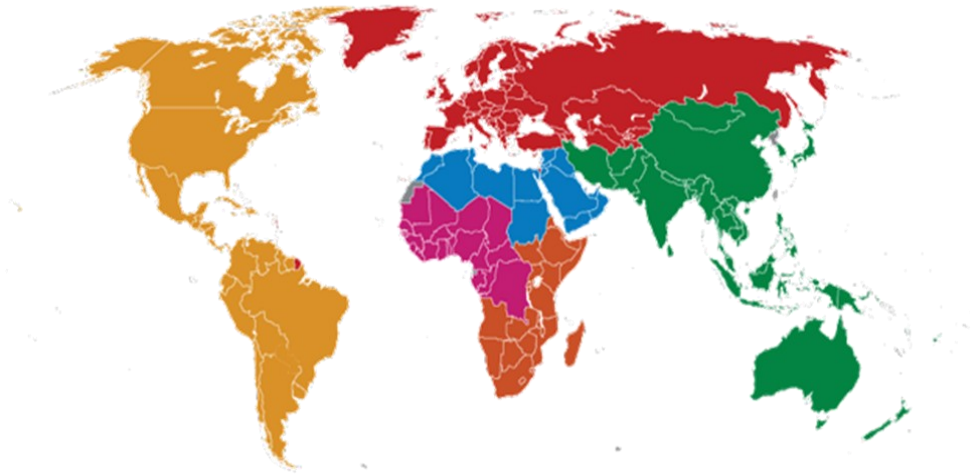
With 10 years remaining to achieve the 17 SDGs of the United Nations (UN), 2020 was seen as an appropriate year to recommit to the strategic mandate of Customs which is closely aligned with several of the SDGs under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is within that context that the WCO has prioritised and supports its contribution to a sustainable future.

# Sustainable Future



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

*Dedicated to the celebration of all things Customs, International Customs Day is a commemoration of the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), initiated by seventeen (17) European country members in 1953. The first session of the CCC was hosted in Brussels, Belgium, where the WCO Secretariat is currently located. The CCC has since increased in size from then till now, and was renamed the WCO in 1994 to commemorate its global membership. Currently, the WCO has a worldwide membership of 183 Customs administrations, which are responsible for managing 98% of world trade.*



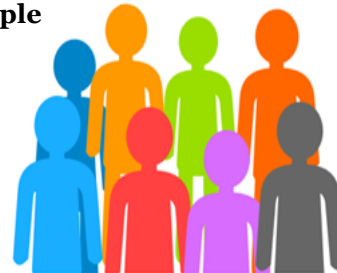
- South America, North America, Central America and the Caribbean
- Europe
- Far East, South and South East Asia, Australasia and the Pacific Islands
- North of Africa, Near and Middle East
- West and Central Africa
- East and Southern Africa

## The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an action plan for people, planet and prosperity, which also seeks to strengthen universal freedoms. The UN prioritizes eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and recognizes it as the greatest global challenge. Successful implementation of the sustainable development plan is largely dependent on collaborative partnerships between all countries and all stakeholders. The 17 SDGs with its 169 specific targets, are ambitious and seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they were unable to achieve. In developing the goals, it was recognized that bold and transformative steps were required to shift the world towards a sustainable and resilient path. The SDGs and its targets should be balanced over the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental, and will stimulate action over the 15 year period in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet.

The WCO has established deeper engagements with several UN Agencies in pursuit of the SDGs, which have been matched with specific WCO tools and instruments arranged under four specific pillars supporting their achievement. The Strategic Pillars of the Modern Customs Administration are outlined under the Economic Competitive Package, the Revenue Package, the Compliance and Enforcement Package and the Organizational Development Package.

### People



### Prosperity



### Planet



# Sustainable Future

## WCO's Contribution to Sustainability

According to Dr. Mikuriya in his International Customs Day message, Customs' contribution to sustainability can be categorized as follows:



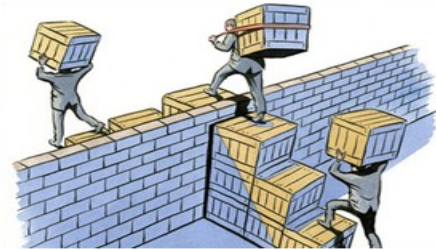
### Serving the People

Customs commits to building safe and secure societies by implementing regulations that address major social and economic challenges that face societies across the globe. In accordance with each member's national laws as well as in conformance with international standards, Customs seeks to promote innovation while protecting society by implementing the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR). This is enforced by preventing the importation of sub-standard or counterfeit goods and products. Customs remains committed to the fight against

transnational organized crime and terrorism, and takes the necessary action against serious offences including the trafficking of people, drugs, weapons and money laundering. A Bill tabled before the Jamaican Parliament marks the current stage of process that the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) is at to repeal and replace its Customs Act of 1947 to the Customs Act 2019. Modernizing existing legislation to encompass the SDGs relating to people is prioritized by the JCA in its actions to include provisions covering international standards and technological advancements into its new Act.

### Ensuring Prosperity

Customs commits to reduce trade barriers to foster just and inclusive societies. Prosperous, sustainable and resilient societies with strong economies are largely dependent on robust international trade. By streamlining operations, Customs is able to reduce the time and cost of moving goods across borders, further stimulating trade activities. Growth in trade increases income and employment potential, as well as stimulates both national and foreign investment. With more efficient cross border operations, traders will have greater competitive advantage. Customs therefore commits to strengthening governance and stability by taking strong action against commercial fraud and tax evasion. Customs also ensures that national governments are not deprived of critical revenues necessary to fund public infrastructure and services. The increased use of automation has been prioritized by the JCA for cross agency interoperability for the relevant border regulatory agents, which has proven to reduce time and cost to traders. The drive towards greater efficiency by the JCA has been facilitated through the implementation of ASYCUDA World and the Jamaica Single Window for Trade, resulting in the simplification of services.



### Protecting the Planet

Customs recognizes that protecting the planet is critical to ensuring its sustainability for future generations. By supporting the effective implementation of various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), Customs can contribute to the fight against climate change and provide enhanced environmental sustainability. The objectives of the various MEAs covers all aspects of sustainability that is critical to the survival of the planet. The Montreal Protocol and the Basel Convention addresses ozone-depleting substances and the illicit trade in hazardous waste respectively. The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

(CITES) combats the illicit trade in endangered species, while the Rotterdam Convention and Cartagena Protocol covers preventing the spread of plant and animal diseases, as well as invasive alien species. Additionally, Customs may be tasked to ensure the effective collection of excise taxes on carbon emissions. The JCA recognizes the importance of all aspects of sustaining the planet and administers all MEAs in support of global objectives to protect the planet. The JCA were regional pioneers in implementing Harmonized System (HS) codes for specifically identifying hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) which are to be phased down (production and consumption) under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, reducing the green house gasses footprint of Jamaica.

# Sustainable Future

## WCO Call for Action

- Implementation of the latest version of the Harmonized System (HS)
- Implementation of the international trade-related MEAs
- Implementation of risk management techniques and data analytics to facilitate trade
- Advance the Digital Customs Agenda with solid IT infrastructure & the paperless single window
- Implementation of the WCO Framework of Standards on Cross-border E-Commerce
- Reduce counterfeiting and piracy enabling innovation and creativity
- Improve Integrity through targeted approaches
- Promote gender equality



*The International and Industry Liaison Unit is committed to raising the level of awareness on topics relating to the Caribbean Community, as well as issues concerning the wider topic of international trade, to both our internal and external stakeholders. Our monthly newsletter seeks to highlight global trade topics and their importance to Customs Administrations worldwide and specifically how they affect the Jamaica Customs Agency. As we realize our vision of becoming a modern Customs administration delivering excellent service, we recognize the importance of knowledge transfer in delivering our objectives and use this forum as our way of contributing to the vision of the JCA. The International Liaison Unit is located at the Myers Wharf head office and our officers are available to respond to your queries and clarify any points of concern.*



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INTERNATIONAL & INDUSTRY LIAISON UNIT**

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***Country Above Self***

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