



Recommendations from the First Regional Meeting on the Global Container Control Programme in the Middle East and North Africa

1-2 December 2015, Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

We, the heads and members of the delegations participating in the First Regional Meeting on the Global Container Control Programme (CCP) in the Middle East and North Africa, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) in partnership with the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council and under the auspices of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;

Expressing our deep concern at the problem of illicit trafficking, organized crime and terrorism affecting the Arab region and the world. In confirming that the economy of the region is an integral part of the global economy, we are participating in implementing the principles and standards of international trade cooperation, which are central to the economic development of the countries in the region;

We value the efforts of the League of Arab States and its Member States in addressing these threats, including through the call by the Meeting of the Steering and Follow-Up Committee of the Regional Programme on Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform in the Arab States, from 15-16 December 2014 in Cairo, to expand the CCP and recommending the organization of a Regional CCP Meeting;

We welcome recommendation number 705 of the 32nd Meeting of Arab Ministers of Interior on 11 March 2015, which extended its support to the CCP by calling for the organization of a Regional CCP Meeting in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council;

We invite the countries of the Arab region to secure their economies and protect them from threats and exploitation due to the misuse of the international sea and air cargo supply chains while ensuring the facilitation of trade;

We request the countries of the Arab region to encourage more efforts to enhance border security measures through the modernization of laws and the application of risk analysis procedures at sea, air and dry ports, including free trade ports, of containerized sea freight and air cargo; as well as to strengthen cooperation with the private sector in the exchange of information, practices and clearance procedures in order to further facilitate international trade;

We request regional and international partners to encourage these efforts through supporting the countries of the Arab region in the implementation of the UNODC-WCO CCP and the new UNODC-WCO Air Cargo Programme (ACP) in line with the internal procedures of each country;

1. We are determined to encourage the countries of the Arab region to enhance the border controls they exercise over trade transported by sea containers and air cargo through the introduction of new approaches that will serve not only to facilitate legitimate trade but also act effectively to prevent illicit trafficking, protect revenues and ensure safer communities;
2. Fundraise for and support the implementation of the CCP and the ACP in the Arab region in order to facilitate international trade and prevent the exploitation of sea containers and air cargo for the purposes of illicit trafficking, organized crime and terrorism;
3. Invite the countries of the Arab region to establish and maintain Port Control Units (PCUs) as part of the CCP and ACP, comprising customs and other law enforcement officers (as relevant), trained and equipped to identify and inspect high risk sea freight containers and air cargo consignments with minimum disruption to the flow of legitimate trade and commerce;
4. Encourage the PCUs to open a collaborative dialogue with their local transport, trade and business associations to seek the mutual goal of better border management and safer communities;
5. Support the UNODC and WCO, in cooperation with other relevant partners, to enhance mechanisms for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information targeting trade in sea containers and air freight that poses a risk to countries of the region and beyond;
6. Promote closer cooperation and encourage the development of effective information sharing mechanisms within and between countries participating in the CCP and the ACP and with the wider customs, border policing and relevant authorities;
7. Invite the UNODC, WCO and the participating countries to share the results and successes of the initiatives CCP and ACP at the national, regional and international level;
8. Encourage the organization of an annual regional meeting of CCP and ACP participating countries and relevant authorities to review their operation, effectiveness and the future enhancement of these initiatives at the national, regional and international level;
9. Invite the countries of the Arab Region, the UNODC, the WCO, the ICAO and the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council to present these recommendations to their appropriate decision making authorities to endorse their implementation.