

## WCO

### **Proposed speaking points for the intervention of Dr. Mikuriya during the High Level Segment of the Kyoto Crime Congress (7 – 9 March 2021)**

(duration max. 3 minutes, approx. 300 words)

1. The World Customs Organization with its 183 Members develops standards and guidelines for Customs procedures to facilitate trade while fight against transnational organized crimes, coordinate global operations against illicit trade and provide technical and capacity building support.
2. Customs facilitates legitimate trade and thereby contribute to sustainable development while protects citizens from health and security threats by acting “first line of defense” on the borders against illicit trade.
3. Indeed, unlawful activities at the borders are the preferred way to gain illegal profit for criminal organizations: drug trafficking, revenue fraud, infringements of Intellectual Property Rights, money laundering, you name it.
4. In response, the WCO has developed the “SAFE Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate trade” which supports Customs to implement effective risk management to fulfil our vision of “Borders divide, Customs connects.”
5. Under the COVID-19 the WCO has produced many guidance to safeguard the supply chain and ensure speedy clearance of medicines, vaccines and other essential goods.
6. At the same time, mindful of criminal organizations’ attempts to exploit the trade, the WCO organized the “Operation STOP” around the world and seized millions of counterfeited and sub-standard medicines and medical goods, supported by the UNODC, Interpol and other partners.
7. Based on this outcome, the WCO is now organizing the “Operation STOP 2” focusing on situational critical medicines and vaccines with our partners.
8. The WCO values collaboration with our partners and stakeholders. The excellent cooperation of WCO and UNODC in the Container Control Program is a good model. Another model is the Authorized Economic Operator program whereby we encourage compliance of the private sector.

9. The WCO's another approach is the use of technology. With its Customs Enforcement Network infrastructure, WCO connects Customs administrations and other law enforcement agencies to facilitate the global exchange of information and intelligence.
10. The Kyoto Crime Congress is an excellent opportunity to exchange views and enhance cooperation among the participants to achieve the common goal.
11. I wish the great success of this conference. Thank you.