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Dear Director General's,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation for all members of the World Customs Organization on all the efforts and contributions over the past years.

As everyone is aware the issue of increasing financial contributions by members has been discussed many times and had its challenges. In addition the organization relies heavily on kind and generous donations from some of the members.

With the current pandemic taking its toll on many economies and taking into consideration the steady increase of cost of operations and living worldwide, it is evident that the current model of revenues within the organization will be facing challenges in the future.

Therefore, we propose that other sources of steady income for the organization should be investigated and a study should be launched.

We believe that the Global trade and E-Commerce community has benefited from many Global Trade platforms . Similarly shipping and express courier companies has also benefited from such platforms to track shipments worldwide.

However, we in the customs community have not had any attempts to create such platforms at the global level to exchange customs to customs information and many members rely on declaration prepared locally prior to or after the arrival of goods.

If we look at the complexity of information that is prepared by the exporter and some of the important approvals by other government agencies,



we believe that it is very important when it comes to preparing the import declaration. Therefore the ability to exchange such information on a global platform will benefit all members. An attempt to create such platforms was discussed using technologies such as blockchain. However, allowing this technology to be solely developed by private companies led to attempts to create a monopoly of this technological advancement.

Therefore, we propose the need to launch a study by the organization to explore the possibility of launching a global platform to enable the exchange of information between customs and to charge a small fee for that service similar to the service provided by IATA for the exchange of passengers data between the departure and arrival destinations.

Such solutions will help all members to anticipate risks and facilitate trade exponentially if it was connected to artificial intelligence and risk management softwares. And create an important stream of income for the organization.

With taking into consideration in the study all legal matters of data privacy this proposal is to launch a study only. And based on the findings members can make a sound decision on any future plans.

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Chairperson of WCO Council