

SEPTEMBER 2023



IAN SAUNDERS

SECRETARY GENERAL-ELECT OF THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

DEAR CUSTOMS LEADERS,

I am sincerely grateful for the trust you have placed in me this past June with the election for the next Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO). I am also grateful for the informative and thoughtful conversations we have had, the experiences you have shared, and the commitment you have demonstrated to the important work of customs worldwide.

This election, with the quality and diversity of views and thought leadership that was put before members, has confirmed for me just how important the WCO is globally. In this context, please allow me to express my appreciation for Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, our current Secretary General. His leadership and approach have significantly contributed to the WCO's evolution and growth. As we look forward to the future, we remain thankful for his commitment and service to the organization and its members.

As I reflect on the months preceding the election, I remember many insightful and inspiring interactions with members from every region. It was during these discussions that I learned more about the unique needs and viewpoints of WCO members from across the globe, and developed an even greater appreciation of the responsibilities that rest upon our collective shoulders. It was your feedback and experiences that helped shape the pillars of my vision to lead the WCO in a way that helps Customs to protect, deliver, evolve, and engage.

As I prepare myself for this role and the transition to Brussels (in every way – physically, administratively, and strategically), I remain humbled by the election outcome, the expectations attached to your decision, and criticality of the customs mission we must strive to achieve together. I thank you for your partnership, your commitment, and your confidence that we can build on our past, work hard in our present, and accomplish a great future for Customs.

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D E L I V E R .
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E N G A G E .



PLEASE SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK WITH ME!

Your feedback remains important. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts and ideas. I may be reached at IanSaundersWCO@trade.gov or through CBP's Senior Advisor at Christina.A.Bell@cbp.dhs



Photos













