



## **BAKU RESOLUTION**

### **Resolution of the International Network of Customs Universities on the future direction of the organisation**

**(Baku, 23 May 2014)**

**Welcoming** the successful outcome of the Inaugural INCU Global Conference held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan from 21 to 23 May 2014, with the theme “Trade Facilitation Post Bali: Putting Policy into Practice”

**Noting** that the conference brought together delegates from over 70 countries including representatives of customs administrations, 20 international organisations, the private sector and academia

**Acknowledging** the significant support and contribution made by the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan in ensuring the success of the conference

**Acknowledging** also the personal support of the Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who was admitted as an Honorary Fellow of the INCU on 23 May 2014 in recognition of his contribution to the objectives of the organisation

**Noting** the high level Government representation at the conference, including that of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and other senior members of Government

**Recognising** the significant contribution to the conference agenda by the Director General of the WTO, three eminent Nobel Laureates, the Assistant Secretary of International Affairs of the US Department of Homeland Security and a number of other highly respected representatives of customs administrations, international organisations, the private sector and academia

**Noting** that the conference served to form or further cement the relationship between the INCU and organisations that support the INCU objectives

**Recognising** the significant achievement of the WTO in reaching its Agreement on Trade Facilitation (the Bali Agreement)

**Acknowledging** the importance that many international organisations play in developing international trade and the associated customs and border management policies

**Recognising** also the need to increase INCU's engagement with a broad cross-section of the international community

**Noting** the need to develop education and training programs that meet the requirements of both the public and private sectors.

**Resolves to:**

1. Formally engage with a broader cross-section of the international community
2. Identify further ways of providing opportunities for academics, students and less experienced researchers to present and publish their research
3. Develop a definition of the term "customs profession" which includes both public and private sector members of the international trading community
4. Identify the requisite knowledge, skills and competencies of those engaged in the customs profession
5. Develop guidelines for accrediting education and training programs that meet the identified knowledge, skill and competency requirements
6. Encourage mutual recognition of INCU Member education and training programs through credit allocation, cross-institution arrangements and other means
7. Develop regional INCU offices, commencing with the establishment of an office in the Republic of Azerbaijan
8. Support the work of the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation through empirical studies which address the following key propositions presented at the conference:
  - a. There is a need for a paradigm shift that views the role of "border management" agencies as one of Trade Flow Management
  - b. Trade facilitation and supply chain security are not mutually exclusive variables but involve the same processes
  - c. Meta data and targeting are necessary to risk management and traffic segmentation
  - d. Fragmented border management is an artifact of history that globalisation requires revisiting
  - e. There is a need to move from bilateral border relations to binational relationships transnationally.