

**COVID-19 vaccine supply chain and regulatory transparency symposium**  
**Tuesday, 29 June 2021, 10:00 – 13:00 15:00 – 18:00 (CET)**

I would like to thank the WTO for inviting the WCO to the Technical symposium on COVID-19 vaccine supply chain and regulatory transparency.

The WCO Secretary General had the pleasure and privilege to take part in the WTO event on COVID-19 and vaccine equity held on 14 April 2021 and there had been a number of follow-up actions after that event.

Customs is an important part of the international trade infrastructure. As such Customs administrations around the globe play an important role in facilitating and securing the cross-border movement of medicines, vaccines and related supplies and equipment, including vaccine manufacturing inputs and components.

The WCO as the voice of the international Customs community has undertaken a number of actions since the beginning of the pandemic to support its 183 Members in their efforts to facilitate the cross-border movement of relief and essential supplies and to support the economy and sustain the supply chain continuity.

Shortly after COVID-19 vaccine candidates demonstrated high effectiveness in Phase 3 clinical trials, on 11 December 2020 the WCO Council unanimously adopted a [Resolution on the Role of Customs in facilitating the cross-border movement of situationally critical medicines and vaccines](#), including measures for our Member Customs administrations and the WCO Secretariat.

Immediately after the adoption of the Resolution we took a number of step to implement it.

We developed a COVID-19 Action Plan containing 25 actions and covering the period January 2021 – JT

and a [Secretariat Note](#) on the role of Customs in facilitating and securing the cross-border movement of situationally critical medicines and vaccines.

We established a repository of Members' good practices in facilitating the cross-border movement of COVID-19 vaccines, which is publicly available on the dedicated [section](#) of the WCO web-site.

On 2 February 2021 the Secretaries General of ICAO and the WCO signed a [Joint statement](#)

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