I. Organization and focal point

1. Organization name: WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION  
   a. Address: 30 Rue Marché, Brussels 1240, Belgium  
   b. Organizational email: I2C@wcoomd.org  

2. SALW Focal Point  
   a. (Name): James McColm  
   b. Title: Technical Officer  
   c. Section/Department: Security Programme  
   d. Email: James.Mccolm@wcoomd.org  
   e. Telephone: +32 (0)2 209 9640

3. Applicable (sub)region: MENA Region

4. Member States in the (sub)region: Member States of the League of Arab States

5. General mandate / purpose of the organization: Setting international norms for Customs. Supporting Customs administration carry out mandated functions.

II. Regional Instruments

6. Regional instrument(s) relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action (if applicable)  
   a. Title of instrument(s): 
   b. Scope, objectives and main provisions of the instrument(s): 
      To provide funding for training events to participating states in the League of Arab States.
   c. Mandated function of your organization under regional instrument(s): 
      To provide awareness raising and training. Development of training materials and delivery of train the trainer courses for sustainable training knowledge for administrations.
   d. Requirement for national reports under regional instrument(s): 
      WCO reports to Donor (European Union).
   e. National focal points for your organization under regional instrument(s): 
      As per section 1.
   f. Regional action plan under regional instrument(s): 
      As described in EU Council Decision document 2018/1789 including provision of 22 weeks of in country training, 8 assessment missions and provision for translation of training materials and other relevant documents.

III. UN Programme of Action
7. Mandates and roles relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action:
   Punta Cana Resolution, December, 2015. MOU between WCO and UNODA to enhance collaborative efforts in respect of the UN POA, December, 2016.

8. Meetings:
   a. participation in global UN PoA meetings:
      - Attendance at seventh biennial meeting, June 2020.
      - UN Kazakhstan event, January 2021.
      - UN Kyrgyzstan Event, April 2021.
   b. regular meetings relevant to PoA process organized by your organization
      i. frequency and timing of meeting(s) (e.g. once a year in April)
      ii. timing of meetings aligned with the UN PoA process
      iii. capacity of participants (e.g. national focal points / national points of contact).

World Custom Organization Enforcement Committee held annually or as required. The WCO Security Project will report to the members on aspects of its work which includes details relevant to the PoA.

9. Challenges related to implementation of the PoA for States of your (sub)region:
   With focus on control at the border, the technical knowledge and provision and use of technical equipment to identify illicit shipments of SALW at the border are areas that can be targeted for training delivery. Provision of best practices for investigation of offences and legislative assistance in the area of SALW are also areas that have been identified.

10. Targets/goals/roadmaps for States of your (sub)region and/or your organization, which are consistent with PoA implementation:
    Sustainably strengthen the capacity of League of Arab States (LAS) Member States, in line with their priorities and needs, to implement the UN Small Arms Programme of Action (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), specifically for the purpose of combating illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) and terrorism.

IV. International assistance

11. International assistance (including regional assistance)
   a. assistance provided to member states during the reporting period:
      The WCO delivered a regional assistance program for Customs Administration in MENA region to League of Arab States countries in collaboration with Interpol and Small Arms Survey during the reporting period 2020-2021. This involved two sub-regional workshops and 14 national trainings. The training focused on control at the border; the technical knowledge and provision and use of technical equipment to identify illicit shipments of SALW at the border are areas that can be targeted for training delivery. Provision of best practices for investigation of offences and legislative assistance in the area of SALW are also areas that have been identified. The WCO continues to deliver training for the MENA region: a launch event for phase 2 and two national trainings have been planned for Jordan and Palestine in the near future.

   c. Views for enhancing international cooperation and assistance modalities and procedures in the framework of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, taking into
account good practice and lessons learned, and to present recommendations for consideration by Member States at the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States” (para 119, BMS7 outcome document; para 33, A/RES/76/232)

The EU-LAS SALW Project comprises the WCO, INTERPOL and the Small Arms Survey working as join implementation partners to deliver capacity building and training across a number of cross cutting SALW issues including border control, marking and tracing, illicit firearms investigation and stockpile management and security. Typically, recipient countries are contacted on behalf of the project as a whole and the broad scope of the project allows for far greater awareness raising and interagency cooperation within the recipient country than a single agency being contacted or Government agencies being contacted separately.

V. Relevant issues

12. Gender-specific considerations
   a. policies/guidance documents for gender-specific actions by your organization:
      All WCO Project and Programme activities are delivered in accordance with WCO’s Gender Equality guidance. This covers the use of language and access to WCO training. WCO seeks to have gender balance in relation to its management team, core staff and accredited experts.
      In addition, the WCO Gender Equality Organizational Assessment Tool (GEOAT), makes reference to sexual harassment and gender-based violence and encourages Customs to ensure safety at borders by providing sufficient infrastructure, developing reporting mechanisms and also assessing staff safety, acknowledging that the needs may be different for female Customs officers and stakeholders (building safe and secure societies).
   
      b. gender-focused initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period:
      The WCO hosted a virtual working group on Gender Inclusive Trade in October 2021. Also, a learning video on Gender Equality and Diversity was published in August 2021.
   
      c. gender-mainstreaming of SALW projects implemented during the reporting period

13. Contributions to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
   a. SDG-related initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period:
      The WCO endorsed “Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet” as its theme for 2020. Under this banner, the Customs community was invited to dis-cuss and position Customs’ role in contributing to a sustainable future; The WCO has confirmed its ongoing commitment towards sustainability under its theme for 2021: “Customs Bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a Sustainable Supply Chain”
      Also, The WCO Revised Arusha Declaration is an integrity tool that helps countries comply with their obligations under anti-corruption conventions and meet UN SDG 16. For that, the activities of the Security Programme actively aim to reduce violence and improve the security situation within countries by restricting the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) and improvised explosive device (IED) precursors which are drivers of violence around the world. The WCO SALW Programme provides awareness-raising and training for Customs administrations to assist in the detection of illicit SALW at borders. It targets the capacity building of at all levels for strengthening national customs through training and international cooperation.

   b. regional indicator(s), if applicable:
14. Information on marking practices for modular and polymer weapons by member states, if available.

15. Ongoing challenges associated with the diversion of small arms at the regional level, if available
   a. diversion related to international transfers
   b. diversion of state-owned weapons related to stockpile management

VI. Additional remarks

Date:

An MS-Word or PDF version of your completed 2022 report should be sent via e-mail to conventionalarms-unoda@un.org by 31 May 2022.