**Draft Paper to Explore the Relationship and Coordination between PSCG and RPSG and include in the means of operations.**

*To avoid duplication, points already covered in the document for the PC-PSCG Dialogue have not been repeated but are referenced.*

**Purpose and Collaborative Framework**

Regional Private Sector Groups (RPSGs) are autonomous regional extensions of the Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG). Their primary role is to facilitate focused representation and direct engagement with Customs authorities at regional and local levels. Conversely, the PSCG guides global policy dialogue and advocacy on Customs-related issues.

The collaboration between PSCG and RPSGs should consistently adhere to the following principles:

* No Duplication: Delineate regional and global initiatives to ensure activities complement rather than overlap. For example, when projects, papers, or surveys are initiated at the regional level, communication should occur early to avoid parallel efforts, ensuring each initiative adds unique value.
* Transparency: Regularly share information about priorities, planned activities, and outcomes, enabling timely awareness and coordinated responses.
* Alignment: Ensure consistency in messaging and advocacy across national, regional, and global platforms.
* Complementary Roles: RPSGs prioritise practical implementation and regional engagement, while PSCG focuses on global strategic policy dialogue.
* Partnership: Build relationships based on mutual respect, cooperation, and shared objectives, rather than hierarchy.
* Coordination with Vice Chairs: RPSGs maintain strong working relationships with WCO regional Vice Chairs and align closely with overall PSCG objectives.

PSCG and RPSG Interaction: Current Status and Potential Enhancement

**Membership Considerations**

As additional RPSGs potentially join, careful consideration is needed regarding PSCG membership composition to ensure:

* Continued effective representation of global priorities without diluting strategic clarity.
* Meaningfully integrating new regional perspectives that enrich PSCG’s global policy dialogues.

**Participation in WCO Meetings**

Given the limited attendance of PSCG members at recent WCO meetings (e.g., Permanent Technical Committee - PTC), there is value in exploring the greater involvement of RPSG representatives. This approach could:

* Strengthen overall private-sector presence and engagement at WCO meetings.
* Provide valuable regional perspectives on global initiatives, ensuring practicality and effective regional implementation.
* Reinforce transparency and prevent duplication through clearly defined roles and effective communication channels.

**Attendance of RPSG Members at PSCG Meetings**

To ensure transparency and enhance understanding regarding the participation of RPSG representatives at PSCG meetings, the following considerations are suggested:

* **Representation:** Clearly define who from the RPSG membership will attend PSCG meetings. Attendance may include the Chair or Vice Chair of each RPSG or their nominated representatives.
* **Number of Representatives:** Determine and agree on the maximum number of attendees per RPSG for physical and virtual PSCG meetings, ensuring effective representation while maintaining manageable meeting sizes.

**Recommendations for Strengthened PSCG-RPSG Coordination**

To enhance cooperation, communication, and alignment between the PSCG and RPSGs, the following practical recommendations are proposed:

1. Structured PSCG-RPSG Communication:
   * Include a standing agenda item in all PSCG physical meetings dedicated explicitly to updates on RPSG activities, priorities, and outcomes.
   * Invite the PSCG Chair, Vice Chair, or a designated PSCG member to attend RPSG meetings, establishing an effective two-way dialogue.
2. Enhanced RPSG Participation in WCO Forums:
   * Clearly define roles and opportunities for RPSG representatives to participate in key WCO meetings (e.g., PTC, SAFE Working Group). Participation criteria and roles must be structured explicitly to complement PSCG contributions without creating duplication of effort.
3. Collaboration Mechanism:
   * Establish an internal coordination mechanism—such as regular virtual meetings, shared calendars, or digital platforms—to ensure ongoing awareness of initiatives at both regional and global levels, thereby actively preventing duplication and enhancing complementarity.

Future Focus and Development

Positive experiences from established RPSGs have demonstrated the effectiveness of addressing regional-specific concerns while actively contributing to global PSCG objectives. Future discussions should deepen integration between PSCG and RPSGs, clarifying processes and mechanisms for structured interaction, thereby optimising regional engagement and global advocacy outcomes.

An ongoing, in-depth dialogue is recommended to strategically define further steps for effective collaboration, structured coordination, and strengthened mutual support.