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Brasília, May 24th of 2021.

To Mister  
**Kunio Mikuriya**  
General Secretary of the World Customs Organization

**Subject: The need to promote immunization against the coronavirus (2019-nCoV), on a preferential basis, of customs officers in BRAZIL who work in person at ports, airports, border posts and in surveillance and repression activities throughout the country.**

**Mr. General Secretary,**

On January 30th of 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Interest (PHEIC). On March 11th of 2020, WHO characterized the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as a pandemic.

With the expectation, which has been confirmed over time, that the Customs of the world would face an increase in the movement of health related products (supplies, medicines, and medical equipment) across borders, the World Customs Organization understood that it would be essential that customs administrations acted in a coordinated and proactive manner with the aim of guaranteeing the integrity and continuous facilitation of the global supply chain.

Once again, the importance of customs inspection and control work carried out by the Customs, as bodies that operate day-to-day at the countries' land, sea, and air borders, was proved. Even during the pandemic, which still lasts and has no defined date to end, customs officials remained present at their jobs and remain there, regardless of the degree of exposure to the virus that has already killed millions of people around the world.

In Latin America, several countries recognized this work done on the front line of the pandemic by customs officials, services of extreme importance and considered essential. To prove the recognition deserved Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama included customs officers in their priority vaccination groups. Not to mention other countries such as the USA, Canada, Germany, China, Japan and so many others who recognized the efforts of customs officials at their borders during the pandemic.

Unfortunately, Brazil did not include its customs officers in any priority vaccination group, even though

many were contaminated during the pandemic and Brazilian Customs showed expressive results in the seizure of drugs, illegal goods and, above all, demonstrating a high efficiency in security and facilitating the process of the flow of goods across the country's borders, with emphasis on the release of products intended to combat Covid.

In view of the above, as legal representatives of the Tax Analysts of the Federal Revenue of Brazil - civil workers who are part of the Tax and Customs Career of the Federal Revenue of Brazil, a typical State career, and who perform duties related to inspection activities and customs control in all over the country -, Sindireceita asks this important organization, to reinforce with Brazilian State organs the importance for society and for combating the effects of the pandemic, of the inclusion of Brazilian customs officials in a priority group of vaccination against the COVID-19.

There are about 1500 civil workers who work in person at ports, airports, land border posts and in surveillance and repression activities, being Tax Analysts, Tax Auditors and administrative workers.

We are hopeful that we can count on your valuable contribution, we thank you in advance.



**Geraldo Seixas**  
**President of the National Union of Tax Analysts of the Federal Revenue of Brazil**