

**Joint Statement between New Zealand and the United States to
Strengthen Border Security, Combat Transnational Crime and Facilitate
Legitimate Trade and Travel**

Background

New Zealand and the United States have a strong partnership, rooted in a mutual respect for regional security, economic integrity, and liberty for all persons. As leaders in the development of new technology and advanced methods of cooperation in border security, the United States of America and New Zealand hereby state their intent to enhance cooperative risk assessment and targeting for the purpose of detecting and disrupting the movement of high risk travelers and goods, while facilitating legitimate trade and travel.

Building upon the *Agreement between the Government of New Zealand and the Government of the United States of America Regarding Mutual Assistance Between their Customs Services* (CMAA) signed in Hong Kong on the 13th of June 1996, the *Memorandum of Cooperation Regarding the Automated Targeting System – Global (ATS-G) Pilot for Passenger Risk Assessment*, signed on March 25, 2011, and the *Joint Statement on Global Supply Chain Security*, signed on the 18th of May 2011, the Government of New Zealand and the United States of America, acting through the New Zealand Customs Service on behalf of New Zealand border agencies and through the Department of Homeland Security, respectively (henceforth referred to as “the Participants”) state their intention to advance collaborative efforts to strengthen border security, combat transnational crime and to facilitate legitimate trade and travel.

Framework of Cooperation

Consistent with the CMAA, the Participants have worked in concert to strengthen their respective targeting centers, the Integrated Targeting and Operations Center (ITOC) and the National Targeting Center (NTC) by: (a) ensuring their countries' targeting systems meet basic standards and are compatible; (b) developing and running mutually compatible scenario-based targeting rule sets; and (c) sharing information in accordance with national legislative frameworks with respect to risk identification and assessment, targeting interventions or operational response, intervention outcomes and risk assessments.

By this Joint Statement, the Participants declare their intent to continue to work together with the aim of strengthening their cooperation to include, without limitation, the following:

(1) Consistent with the *Memorandum of Cooperation Regarding the ATS-G Pilot for Passenger Risk Assessment*, the Participants intend to work together to achieve more effective interventions with high risk persons and to facilitate legitimate travel. By further developing targeting capability, including algorithms using sophisticated analytic techniques, the Participants intend to enhance targeting of persons associated with or suspected of terrorism, transnational criminal organizations or other high risk criminal activity. The participants will also work towards further collaboration in respect of sharing information regarding identified high risk travelers.

(2) Consistent with the *Joint Statement on Global Supply Chain Security*, the Participants intend to work together to increase rates of successful targeting of high risk goods while not impeding the flow of legitimate trade.

This work is intended to include a focus on air cargo, including working together on the Transportation Security Administration's Air Cargo Advance Screening pilot project.

(3) The Participants recognize the role that cooperative risk management between commercial partners and their governments play in facilitating trade, and intend to work together to encourage broader participation in their respective trusted trader programs.

(4) The Participants intend to continue to address matters of information sharing and operational security including full consideration of privacy and civil liberties concerns, to include the implementation of appropriate protections. They intend to do so from the perspective of coordinated border management.

The Participants also intend to continue to further explore other areas of mutual interest in support of the *U.S – New Zealand Joint Statement on Global Supply Chain Security*.

Action Plan and Annual Consultation and Review

The Participants intend to jointly develop and implement a two-year Action Plan. The Participants note that senior representatives of respective agencies intend to meet annually to discuss and review any matters arising from implementation of the Action Plan. The corresponding Action Plan is to be drafted by the Participants within four months of the signing of this Joint Statement. Annual consultations and reviews are to be scheduled by the Participants as schedules and resources permit.

Financial Arrangement

Nothing in this Joint Statement is intended to imply that either of the Participants has approved or decided to provide any additional funds for the purposes of carrying out activities outlined in the Action Plan. To the extent that Participants incur expenses as a result of such activities, each Participant is to be responsible for its own expenses.

Discontinuing the Joint Statement

Either of the Participants may discontinue participation under this Joint Statement by written notification to the other Participant. Such discontinuation should take effect three months after the date of such notification.

Signed, in duplicate, in Wellington, New Zealand on this _____ day of May, 2012.

**Signed for and on behalf of
New Zealand:**

**Signed for and on behalf of the
United States of America:**

Maurice Williamson
Minister
New Zealand Customs

Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security