"The World Customs Brokers Organization"

## Dear IFCBA Members,

I am delighted to share with you a momentous announcement that fills us with pride and excitement. After much anticipation. To honor and celebrate the outstanding efforts of customs brokers worldwide, we are officially declaring January 26th as International Customs Brokers Day, marking a significant milestone for our esteemed fraternity. This date holds particular significance as it aligns with International Customs Day, providing us with a unique opportunity to celebrate our profession on a global scale.

This day serves as a testament to your unwavering commitment, professionalism, and the vital role you play in connecting nations, businesses, and people.

This initiative aims to bring well-deserved recognition to our profession and celebrate the crucial role each one of you plays in facilitating global trade. It is a testament to the dedication and expertise of our members that we have reached this point of international acknowledgment.

The progress of Information Technology in customs has been remarkable, enhancing our professionalism and opening doors for the next generation of talented individuals, including young enthusiasts and women, to consider Customs Brokering as their first choice of industry.

As we embrace the theme for 2024, "Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose", we recognize the importance of collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and respective Customs administrations worldwide. This theme underscores our commitment to fostering a sense of belonging within the global Customs community.

As we approach this significant day, I am reminded of the invaluable contributions each one of you makes to the efficiency and effectiveness of global trade. Customs brokers play a pivotal role in facilitating the smooth movement of goods across borders, ensuring compliance with regulations, and fostering international commerce. Your dedication and expertise are essential components in the intricate machinery that keeps the wheels of global trade turning.

We encourage each member to take a moment on this day to reflect on the impact of your work, both individually and collectively. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the challenges you overcome, the relationships you build, and the positive influence you have on the global supply chain. Let this day be a celebration of your achievements, a recognition of your resilience, and a collective moment of pride for the customs brokerage profession.

We envision International Customs Brokers Day as an annual tradition that not only celebrates our achievements but also serves as a platform to foster camaraderie among our members. It is an occasion to share experiences, insights, and best practices, thereby strengthening our community and positioning customs brokers as integral contributors to the international trade landscape.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each member of our Customs Brokers fraternity. Your dedication and contributions have played a pivotal role in reaching this milestone. Together, we have formed a strong and supportive community within the International Federation of Customs Brokers Associations (IFCBA).

On this joyous occasion, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your continued efforts and support to IFCBA. Your hard work and professionalism have not only elevated our fraternity but have also contributed significantly to the facilitation of international trade.

Wishing you all a Happy International Customs Brokers Day! May we continue to grow, collaborate, and thrive together.

Warm regards, Shankar Shinde Chairman, IFCBA