



Ian C. Saunders
U.S. Candidate for Secretary General
of the World Customs Organization

Fostering reliable, collaborative, and resilient Customs

IanSaundersWCO@trade.gov

A proven and principled leader with more than 20 years of Customs experience and 30 years of experience in international relations. A member of the U.S. Government Senior Executive Service since 2008 with a record of addressing complex challenges and elevating organizations to excellence. Has served the public and the international community in diverse and challenging roles focused on various facets of trade: Customs, commercial policy, travel, and infrastructure. Collaborative in style, considered in communication, and accomplished in delivery, has led the implementation of programs, formulation of policies, and forging of partnerships that have advanced facilitation and security in trade worldwide. Proficient in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

U.S. Department of Commerce

Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere

January 2020 – present

- Responsible for developing programs, policies, and strategies designed to strengthen the U.S. commercial position in the Western Hemisphere.
- Works with the private sector, with other U.S. agencies, and with other governments to identify opportunities to enhance and expand trade between the United States and countries in the Western Hemisphere.
- Oversees a network of 24 overseas offices and a staff in Washington, DC.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Assistant Commissioner for International Affairs

April 2018 – January 2020

- Led the coordination and support of all CBP's international initiatives, programs, and activities to include policy coordination and development, capacity building, assessments, and negotiations.
- Developed and executed international strategies for CBP through an organization consisting of over 200 employees based in Washington, DC and overseas.
- Engaged with international partners to promote trade, travel, and security.
- Provided executive representation for CBP in various interagency, international, and public settings.
- Led and supported numerous delegations to the World Customs Organization and served as Chairperson of the Permanent Technical Committee (2018-2020).

Acting Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner for Operations Support

February 2019 – June 2019

- Provided leadership and direction across the broad spectrum of capabilities that support CBP operations and enable mission execution, specifically: intelligence, incident management, agency planning and requirements, law enforcement safety and compliance, laboratory and scientific services, and international affairs.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner for International Affairs

June 2016 – April 2018

- Directly supported all facets of the Assistant Commissioner role while having primary responsibility for managing organizational resources, human capital, and accountability.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Director of the Office of International Programs

April 2008-June 2016

- Led the agency's information sharing and global technology exchange activities and advised senior leadership on international matters.
- Coordinated FHWA's contributions to the Department of Transportation's international efforts, including comprehensive technical assistance efforts.
- Developed and executed engagement plans with individual countries based on agency and international partner interests and capabilities.
- Revitalized FHWA participation in international organizations, and led development of a 4-year strategic plan for the World Road Association.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Customs Service

Office of International Affairs

Director of the International Policy and Programs

August 2007 – April 2008

- Formulated and implemented strategies to engage partner government officials and solidify cooperative arrangements between the agency and its counterparts abroad.
- Integrated newly created CBP Attaché program with regional policy management.

Director of International Training and Assistance

June 2003 – July 2007

- Led long-term overseas advisory programs and the full range of short-term training.
- Led a comprehensive update and expansion of CBP's international training curriculum.
- Led the formulation of CBP's capacity building approach in support of the World Customs Organization SAFE Framework of Standards.

Previous Positions and Assignments

Special Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner of CBP 2002-2003

Chief, Regional Programs Branch, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Customs Service 2001-2002

Program Officer, International Policy and Programs Division, U.S. Customs Service 1995-2001

Program Officer, Office of the Customs Attaché – Caracas, Venezuela 1997

Student Trainee, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Customs Service 1991-1995

EDUCATION and CERTIFICATIONS:

Senior Executive Fellow, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Federal Executive Institute

Presidential Management Intern, Class of 1996

M.A. Government and Inter-American Affairs, Georgetown University, 1996

B.S. Foreign Service (International Relations, Law, and Organization), Georgetown University, 1995