

Customs leaders from the Americas to meet in Brazil to address evolving illicit trade risks, cooperation and technology needs

New York, USA, 10 February 2026 – Senior Customs officials from across the Americas will convene in Brazil on April 14- 16, 2026, for the 3rd Combating Illicit Trade Summit of Customs Directors-General – Americas Region, jointly organized by the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) and Special Secretariat of the Federal Revenue of Brazil (Receita Federal).

The Summit is a reunion of Customs Director-Generals and senior trade officials from 26 countries in the western hemisphere for a focused dialogue addressing how shared approaches, partnerships, and practical tools can be deployed to mitigate illicit trade in the region.

“A key takeaway from the last two summits [in Panama 2024 and Colombia 2025] is the value Customs Director Generals find in tackling common challenges, learning about technology advances, and sharing best practices,” said Jeffrey Hard, Director-General of the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade.

The Summits are designed to recognize the important role of Customs administrations in strengthening international cooperation and shielding our economies and societies from the detrimental impacts of illicit trade. In the spirit of collaboration established during the first Summit convened in Panama, Customs officials have reaffirmed their commitment to sustained, continuous joint efforts to mitigate illicit trade and organized crime across the region.

“One key lesson from last year’s Summit was that cooperation – based on shared objectives, a common risk language, and mutual trust at both strategic and operational levels – can be a true force multiplier,” said Fabiano Coelho, Undersecretary of Brazil’s Receita Federal.

In the lead-up to the Summit, TRACIT has undertaken a structured preparatory process to ensure that discussions reflect the operational realities and priorities of Customs administrations. This includes a series of interviews with Customs Director-Generals to capture their insights on challenges, best practices, collaboration models, and capability gaps.

“This Summit is designed as a working platform grounded in the priorities expressed by Customs administrations. Our aim is to support practical cooperation, informed use of technology, and the sharing of approaches that can be adapted across the region,” said Mr. Hardy.

For more information, visit <https://www.tracit.org/illicit-trade-summit-americas.html>

About TRACIT

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) is an independent, private sector initiative that works with governments and businesses to mitigate the economic and social harms of illicit trade. TRACIT brings together companies from key industry sectors to advocate for stronger enforcement, more robust policy frameworks, and international cooperation.

About Receita Federal

Receita Federal do Brasil is Brazil's federal tax and customs authority, operating under the Ministry of Finance. It is responsible for administering federal taxes, overseeing customs operations, and managing key taxpayer registries for individuals and businesses. The agency also plays a central role in combating tax evasion, smuggling, counterfeiting, and other forms of illicit trade linked to cross-border flows.

Contact

Jane Clark, Head of Business Development, TRACIT at jane.clark@tracit.org