COMPLIANCE AND FACILITATION DIRECTORATE
ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE SUB-DIRECTORATE

WCO Anti-money Laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing Programme

Anti-money Laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing Project Coordinator (Project OCTAGON)

1. INTRODUCTION
The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an independent intergovernmental body, established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs services across the globe. The WCO represents 184 Customs administrations that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade. As the global centre of Customs expertise, the WCO is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters.

As a forum for dialogue and exchange of experiences between national Customs delegates, the WCO offers its Members a range of Conventions and other international instruments, as well as technical assistance and training services provided either directly by the Secretariat, or with its participation. The Secretariat also actively supports its Members in their endeavours to modernize and build capacity within their national Customs administrations.

2. OVERVIEW
The WCO created its 8th Programme within the Enforcement and Compliance Sub-directorate, the Anti-money Laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing Programme (hereinafter referred to as the “AML-CTF Programme”) in 2018. The primary reason that most transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) engage in their illicit activities is to generate premium profits due to the illegal nature of their activities. Law enforcement authorities, in addition to targeting the illicit activity that is at the core of these networks, should also target the illicit profits that these organizations generate. The most damaging action against such networks, after the actual
arrest and prosecution of their leadership, is the identification, seizure and confiscation of their dirty money. Without these illicit funds, TCOs and terrorist organizations cannot continue their operations. They cannot pay their lower-level members, purchase the equipment they need, pay bribes, etc.

The WCO realizes that Customs Services ("Customs") play a primary role in the global effort to thwart money laundering. Customs is uniquely positioned to serve as the primary sentinel at international borders and inland ports of entry, as an important Customs mandate is to identify and prevent the movement of smuggled currency, currency equivalents, gems/precious metals and other items of monetary value across the international borders.

In support of the global law enforcement and regulatory effort to combat international money laundering, the WCO established Project OCTAGON (also referred to as the “Project”). Project OCTAGON is a WCO-led AML-CTF project that will target money laundering activities in the customs arena and build the capacity of the WCO Members and that of the WCO partners to better combat bulk currency smuggling, the smuggling of gems and precious metals, as well as laundering of illicit funds via trade (i.e. trade-based money laundering or "TBML"). The Project will also involve the analysis of high-crime regions across the globe and the prioritization of capacity building efforts to assist WCO Members in combating specific crime sets in those regions. This effort also involves the collaboration of INTERPOL and the Egmont Group.

3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The goal of Project OCTAGON and the broader WCO AML-CTF Programme efforts are to raise the capabilities of the WCO membership, and its primary AML partners, INTERPOL and the Egmont Group, to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and to target the same activities from an operational standpoint. The activities connected to Project OCTAGON will span almost all regions around the world. Project OCTAGON will specifically involve the analysis and assessment of the primary sub-regions around the world that are in need of enhanced AML-CTF capacity building support from the WCO and its partners as it relates illicit proceeds connected to transnational organized crime groups and terrorist/insurgent organizations. The Project will also provide mentorship and operational training support to designated customs services, through the global WCO AML-CTF expert network.

4. OBJECTIVES

The Project objectives are envisioned to be achieved mainly through:

- Delivering technical assistance and capacity building;
- Conducting training workshops;
- Conducting scoping missions;
- Coordinating annual forums and conferences in furtherance of Project OCTAGON with partners such as INTERPOL, the Egmont Group and the National Defense University College of International Security Affairs (NDU CISA);
- Developing and updating training curriculum and materials including e-learning module;
• Preparing operational efforts to target the smuggling of currency/currency equivalents, gems and precious metals and basic trade-based money laundering;
• Providing experts to support Members operational efforts within their countries;
• Organizing post-operational meetings to assess the overall results of the missions;
• Promotional efforts to heighten awareness of AML-CTF in the Customs arena;
• Utilizing the forum of WCO AML-CTF experts to provide training, assessments and subject matter expertise to the WCO Members; and
• Partnering with the primary WCO counterparts on the international stage with regard to AML-CTF, such as INTERPOL, the Egmont Group, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and others.

5. **MAIN ACCOUNTABILITIES**

Under the oversight and supervision of the Deputy Director (Enforcement and Compliance) the AML-CTF Project Coordinator for the Project OCTAGON has oversight responsibility to plan, direct and monitor all Project efforts and liaison activities within the WCO AML-CTF Programme. In particular, he/she shall be accountable for the expected Project results and perform the following highly developed duties:

i. Implementing, managing and monitoring the AML-CTF Project plans under the WCO Strategic Plan;

ii. Overseeing the AML-CTF Project team members, to include Project managers, and the organization, management and delivery of all WCO AML-CTF project efforts;

iii. Liaising efforts with the WCO AML-CTF partners, to include: INTERPOL, the FATF, Egmont Group for FIUs, United Nations bodies and FSRBs and Project engagement with the same

iv. Representing the WCO at global AML-CTF conferences, seminars and training forums;

v. Advising WCO’s upper management and Secretary General in relation to the AML-CTF Programme’s efforts and accomplishments;

vi. Overseeing WCO AML-CTF Projects budget;

vii. Providing briefing notes and texts for presentations/speeches given by the WCO Secretary General and other senior Secretariat staff; and

viii. Any other Programme-related duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.

6. **EDUCATION**

• Post-graduate level degree in a relevant field of study.
7. EXPERIENCE

- 10 years plus of experience in Customs AML law enforcement, with sound strategic and operational experience in combatting and investigating money laundering and terrorism financing in the Customs arena;
- Must have knowledge of all facets of Customs-based money laundering and have led both AML and terrorism financing investigations;
- Extensive experience in international capacity building and training, as well as outstanding competence and experience in international project management; and
- Extensive experience in customs intelligence and AML-CTF intelligence.

8. LANGUAGES

- Strong command of English or French, both written and spoken;
- Basic knowledge of the other language; and
- Good knowledge and command of Spanish would be an asset.

9. COMPETENCIES

- Strong written and oral communication skills, including an ability to engage, and persuade individuals at the senior level (primarily in English; Spanish would be a plus);
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work in a team, in a multi-cultural environment; and
- Being a good moderator/facilitator, and have good networking, negotiation and presentation skills.

10. CONTRACT AND CONDITIONS

- Staff member under short-term contract for 2 years (with possibility of renewal);
- Probationary period: six (6) months;
- Full-time employment (37 hours and 40 minutes weekly) at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium;
- 30 days of annual paid leave;
- Salary commensurate to experience and up to 9,000 EUR/month all-inclusive (remuneration exempted from income tax in Belgium); and
- Compulsory WCO health insurance deducted from the salary (around 67 EUR/month).

This position is subject to the Manual for Short-Term Contractors. The successful applicant shall not acquire the right subsequently to occupy a permanent post within the WCO. The successful applicant will not be affiliated to any retirement fund or pension scheme taken by the WCO.

11. APPLICATION AND RECRUITMENT PROCESS

The onus is on the applicant to demonstrate how he/she meets each of the essential qualifications and requirements. Applicants are encouraged to detail concrete achievements in their CVs and/or in their cover letters as well as include references.
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an assessment which may include a written test and/or an interview. All short-listed candidates may be requested to provide copies of their original diploma, certificates and proof of relevant experience. Pre-selected candidates may also be subject to reference checks to confirm the information provided in the application.

Interested candidates should submit their application for review no later than 6 April 2022, including a CV and cover letter in English or French by e-mail to:

Mr. Norbert Steilen at: Norbert.steilen@wcoomd.org

Or by mail to:

World Customs Organization
COMPLIANCE AND FACILITATION
Rue du Marché, 30
B-1210 Brussels
Belgium

Interested candidates may submit a request for additional information via e-mail, providing full name and contact details.

The evaluation of applicants will be conducted on the basis of the information submitted in the application according to criteria of the position and the WCO applicable rules.

12. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The WCO values commitment to the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability as well as values diversity among its staff members. Applications from qualified women and men will receive equal treatment and due regard will be paid to the importance of recruiting nationals from WCO Members on as wide a geographical basis as possible. Please note that the WCO Headquarters is a non-smoking environment.

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