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 183 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 (CAs).

2. **OVERVIEW**

Within the Capacity Building Directorate, the Global Trade Facilitation Programme (GTFP) is a 4-year comprehensive capacity building programme made to assist the beneficiary CAs and, where relevant, other fiscal administrations and stakeholders (including the private sector) involved in the clearance of commercial goods at the border.

A full time Programme Management Team consisting of a Programme Manager, a Trade Facilitation (TF) Lead Expert and a Programme Assistant has been established at the WCO Secretariat in Brussels, Belgium.

3. **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

One of the main goals of the Trade Promotion Division of Switzerland’s State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) is to create favourable framework conditions for trade. SECO, therefore, supports partner countries, middle-income countries in a first place, to apply different international
agreements efficiently and to facilitate trade. Well-functioning institutions, such as CAs, are key to achieve this objective.

SECO has contracted the WCO to plan and implement a trade facilitation programme for some of their priority partner countries. This programme has started and will be delivered over the course of 4 years.

The beneficiary countries of this programme are in a first set: Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Serbia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Other countries may join the programme at a later stage, subject to the decision of SECO and the WCO.

The programme will allow full-fledged interventions for the main beneficiary countries but also ad-hoc assistance for other SECO partner countries, in particular EFTA partners with a free trade agreement in force. These activities will be agreed between SECO and the WCO during the programme’s inception or implementation phase.

4. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the GTFP is to contribute to fostering and facilitating international trade through strengthening compliance of selected developing SECO partner countries, in particular CAs, with international standards and best practices for the importation, exportation and transit of commercial goods.

The purpose of the intervention is to strengthen the organizational and technical capacities of beneficiary CAs, to successfully lead, plan and implement sustainable and transparent customs reforms, with involvement of relevant stakeholders, and apply international standards and best practices in particular those of the WCO and the WTO related to trade facilitation.

The programme will pursue three outcomes, thus responding to the main challenges identified in the area of Trade Facilitation:

• **Outcome 1: Organizational Development** - Sustainable management of customs reforms and modernization by beneficiary CAs through enhanced organizational development capacities. Institutional strengthening of CAs through leadership and management development, improvement of strategic planning of reforms, the introduction of competency based human resources management and the improvement of stakeholder relations, in particular those of the private sector.

• **Outcome 2: Trade Facilitation** – Facilitated and enhanced trade through modern and efficient customs procedures compliant with international standards and best practices. Improving of compliance capacity through specialized capacity building and training for CAs and relevant stakeholders in international standards and best practices related to trade facilitation.

• **Potential Outcome 3: Performance measurement** - A comprehensive performance measurement tool for CAs is developed. Providing Customs managements with a tool to measure the performance of Customs in a more comprehensive and transparent manner.
Therefore, the programme contributes to achieving the 2030-UN Sustainable Development goal 8: Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

5. **MAIN ACCOUNTABILITIES**

Under the supervision of the GTFP Programme Manager, the Trade Facilitation Expert will focus on the following key activities:

i. **Programme Implementation:**

   (a) Conducting diagnostic and scoping missions and working with the GTFP Programme Manager and TF Lead Expert to plan the Programme activities in detail, including schedule and necessary inputs to achieve Programme’s objectives and outputs;
   (b) Drafting terms of reference for each of the Programme’s technical activities, liaising closely with beneficiaries to define the technical inputs necessary;
   (c) Mobilizing Short-term expert resources to deliver the programme activities and achieve the Programme’s objectives and outputs; and
   (d) Together with Short-term experts, conducting missions to beneficiary countries to deliver technical assistance and capacity building in line with the programme’s objectives.

ii. **Communications:**

   (a) Supporting the GTFP Programme Manager and TF Lead Expert with the provision of content for necessary programme reports and both internal and external communications;
   (b) Establishing and maintaining a network of contacts in beneficiary institutions and within the TF specialist community to support implementation activities; and
   (c) Maintaining close contact with WCO-Secretariat staff responsible for TF instruments and tools to track updates and provide feedback from implementing administrations.

iii. **Support to Experts:**

   (a) Mobilizing experts to deliver technical assistance and capacity building activities under the GTFP;
   (b) Ensuring that experts are well briefed in the technical aims of their activities and that they are provided with access to the relevant WCO tools and instruments and are utilizing them appropriately; and
   (c) Debriefing experts after each intervention and ensure the quality of their reports.

iv. **Any other project-related duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.**

6. **EDUCATION**

- A university degree or higher relevant to the position, or in place of a degree, at least 10 years of relevant experience.
- Accreditation as a WCO Mercator Programme Advisor or Customs Modernization Advisor would be an advantage.
7. **EXPERIENCE**

- At least 7 years’ demonstrated experience in managing organizational and technical TF aspects in a customs administration;
- Demonstrated knowledge and expertise in relation to the WTO TF Agreement (TFA) and experience in delivery of capacity building and technical assistance support to developing countries in areas covered by the WTO TFA and WCO Mercator programme;
- Good knowledge of the WCO instruments and tools that support trade facilitation; and
- Demonstrated ability to provide strategic and technical advice to Governments, Customs Administrations, and stakeholders.
- It will be considered an advantage if the candidate is an active official with the endorsement of his/her home administration to support the Programme.

8. **LANGUAGES**

- Fluency in English; and
- Knowledge of other languages of beneficiaries of the SECO GTFP would be a strong asset.

9. **COMPETENCIES**

- Strong interpersonal skills, writing and communication skills and team-orientation;
- Leadership and high level of integrity;
- Good reporting and planning skills;
- International exposure in the field of capacity building and technical assistance, ideally in the regions covered by the GTFP;
- Ability to provide strategic and technical advice to Governments, CAs and stakeholders; and
- Knowledge of the principles of sustainable development and capacity building.

10. **CONTRACT AND CONDITIONS**

- Staff member under short-term contract of 1 year;
- Probationary period: 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 max. 6,000 EUR/month all-inclusive (remuneration exempted from income tax in Belgium);
• Compulsory WCO health insurance deducted from the salary (around 65 EUR/month); and
• Travel to beneficiary countries required.

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 19th April 2021, including a CV and cover letter in English by e-mail to:

wcoGTFP@wcoomd.org

Or by mail to:

World Customs Organization
Capacity Building Directorate
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.