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 185 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 Compliance and Enforcement Sub-directorate, the Anti-money Laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing Programme (“AML-CTF” or “Programme”) in 2018. The primary reason that 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 first established Project TENTACLE and has now established Project OCTAGON (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”). Project OCTAGON is a WCO-led AML-CTF project that targets money laundering activities in the customs arena and enhances the capacity levels of the WCO membership and 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). Project OCTAGON also analyzes the border regions across the globe with elevated customs crime sets and money laundering challenges and prioritizes regional capacity building efforts to assist WCO Members in combating these criminal threats. This project effort also involves the collaboration of the WCO partner agencies, INTERPOL, and the Egmont Group.

3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The goal of Project OCTAGON is to raise the capabilities of the WCO membership, and those of the memberships of 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 spans almost all regions around the world. Project OCTAGON specifically involves 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 to the movement of 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 service, through the global WCO AML-CTF expert network, as well as advanced training in gem and diamond quality and value identification.

4. OBJECTIVES

The Programme objectives are envisioned to be achieved mainly through:

- Delivering technical assistance and capacity building;
- Developing Customs-specific, AML-CTF intelligence, especially vis-à-vis trade-based money laundering (TBML);
- Conducting and supporting training workshops and scoping missions;
- Developing new/updated training material and capacity building efforts on AML in the Customs arena, with an emphasis on trade-based money laundering, to include e-learning modules;
- Providing support to WCO AML-CTF experts to deliver assessments, tailored-training workshops and operational efforts to WCO Member’s in high-risk areas for transnational organized crime;
- Supporting post-operational meetings and assessment of results of AML-CTF operational and analytical efforts;
• Promoting efforts to heighten awareness of AML-CTF in the Customs arena; and
• Generating AML-CTF reports and publications for the WCO leadership.

5. MAIN ACCOUNTABILITIES

Under the supervision of the OCTAGON Project Coordinator, the Trade Intelligence Analyst has the responsibility to support the training efforts of Project OCTAGON, design enhanced trade-based money laundering and other money laundering mid- and higher level training modules and exercises, and conduct analysis during operational efforts for projects OCTAGON and TENTACLE, and to support other WCO AML-CTF Programme efforts and platforms, to include the FinCRIME on-line Library, from implementation of Project OCTAGON to close-down. In particular, the Project OCTAGON Trade Intelligence Analyst shall perform the following highly developed project and AML-CTF Programme support duties:

• Implementing, analysing and monitoring the trade-based money laundering (TBML) component of Project OCTAGON and the WCO AML-CTF Programme, as well as the implementation of the broader project plan within the WCO Strategic Plan;
• Conducting diagnostic and technical assistance missions, including regional and national workshops based on Members’ needs;
• Developing and updating AML-CTF and illicit financial flows intelligence and ensuring that this intelligence is regularly disseminated to the WCO membership via the FinCRIME on-line Library;
• Supporting the AML-CTF analysis activities of WCO experts, WCO Members and joint efforts with AML-CTF partner organizations;
• Partnering with the primary WCO counterparts on the international stage with regard to AML-CTF (i.e., INTERPOL, the Egmont Group, the Financial Action Task Force, etc.) as part of the ongoing effort to engage Customs and its law enforcement/regulatory partners to target AML activity in the Customs arena;
• Designing both physical and e-learning materials for instruction, seminars and training courses organized/supported by the WCO;
• Promoting the Project, including liaising effectively with the intelligence components of other programme/projects managers and the WCO international partners such as INTERPOL and the Egmont Group;
• Advising WCO’s management and developing analysis documents for TBML and AML in relation to the Project OCTAGON and AML-CTF Programme activities;
• Generating briefing notes, texts for presentations/speeches given by the WCO Secretary General and other senior Secretariat staff; and
• Other Project-related duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.

6. EDUCATION

University bachelor’s degree or higher in in a relevant field of study, or an equivalent combination of education, skills, and experience.
7. **EXPERIENCE**

- Minimum five (5) years of experience in Customs law enforcement, with sound strategic and operational experience in combatting, analyzing and investigating money laundering and terrorism financing in the Customs arena;
- Extensive experience in international capacity building and training, as well as outstanding competence and experience in international project management; and
- At least three (3) years of experience in drafting analytical reports concerning customs crime sets.

8. **LANGUAGES**

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

9. **COMPETENCIES**

- Strong written and oral communication skills, including an ability to engage, influence and persuade individuals at the senior level (English and/or French);
- Strong analytical skills, especially as it pertains to money laundering, the individual should be familiar with both the suspicious transaction reporting regime for banking and finance and in commercial analysis for customs fraud and TBML;
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work in a team, in a multi-cultural environment;
- Being a good moderator/facilitator, and have good networking, negotiation, and presentation skills; and
- Information technology (IT) literate.

10. **CONTRACT AND CONDITIONS**

- Staff member under short-term contract until September 2025 (with possibility of renewal depending on performance and availability of funding);
- 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 starting at 4,500 EUR/month all-inclusive (remuneration exempted from income tax in Belgium); and
- Compulsory WCO health insurance deducted from the salary (around 68 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 18 November 2023, including a CV and cover letter in English or French by e-mail to:

wcotentacle@wcoomd.org

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. The age limit for employment with the WCO is 65. Please note that the WCO Headquarters is a non-smoking environment.

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