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 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 (or also 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 of the WCO membership 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). Project OCTAGON will also involve the analysis of high-crime regions across the globe from a Customs perspective and the prioritization of capacity building efforts to assist WCO Members in combatting specific crime sets in those regions. This effort also involves the collaboration of INTERPOL and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs).

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 span 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 illicit proceeds connected to transnational organized crime groups and terrorist/insurgent organizations. The project also provides mentorship and operational training support to designated customs service, through the global WCO AML-CTF expert network.

4. OBJECTIVES

The Programme objectives are envisioned to be achieved mainly through:

- Delivering technical assistance and capacity building;
- Researching customs crime sets across the globe that are specific to individual sub-regions;
- Generating an annual report on customs crime threats across ten (10) different sub-regions;
- 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 academic partners;
Vacancy Notice – Project Manager OCTAGON

- Developing and updating training curriculum and materials including e-learning modules;
- 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 over 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 membership; 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 supervision of the OCTAGON Project Coordinator, the Project Manager has oversight responsibility to plan, direct and monitor the Project, from implementation to close-down. In particular, the Project Manager shall be accountable for the expected Project results and perform the following highly developed Project management duties:

- Implementing, managing and monitoring of the Programme and Project plan under the WCO Strategic Plan;
- Organizing, managing and conducting diagnostic and technical assistance missions, including regional and national workshops based on Members’ needs;
- Liaising effectively with the beneficiary countries’ Customs administrations, participants, and key stakeholders in relation to WCO missions;
- Guiding and managing the activities of WCO experts in AML-CTF;
- Organizing and managing forums, conferences and meetings and the capacity building workshops in support of Project OCTAGON;
- Designing materials for instruction, seminars and training courses organized/supported by the WCO;
- Producing and continuously updating training materials and e-learning modules;
- Promoting the Project, including liaising effectively with other programme/projects managers and the WCO international partners such as INTERPOL and the Egmont Group;
- Advising WCO’s management in relation to the project activities;
- Maintaining account of all expenses and accounting in support of Project OCTAGON;
- Writing a comprehensive annual report regarding prevalent Customs crime sets and money laundering challenges particular to ten (10) sub-regions across the globe.
- Writing 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 a relevant field of study, or an equivalent combination of education, skills and experience.

7. **EXPERIENCE**

- Minimum seven (7) years’ experience in Customs law enforcement, with sound strategic and operational experience in combatting and investigating money laundering and terrorism financing in the Customs arena;
- At least four (4) years’ management experience in the law enforcement field;
- At least four (4) years’ experience in conducting international law enforcement trainings to audiences of more than 24 individuals per engagement;
- Extensive experience in international capacity building and training, as well as outstanding competence and experience in international project management.

8. **LANGUAGES**

- Strong command of English language, both written and spoken; and
- Good knowledge and command of 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 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);
- 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 from 7,500 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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