Dear Director General,

The 88th Fellowship Programme of the World Customs Organization (WCO), intended for language English-speaking Customs officers, will be held from 12 February to 29 March 2024. As this program is now held in a blended format, it is composed of the following three components:

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| 1         | From 12 February – 1st March 2024 3 weeks | Introduction to the Programme  
Research work and modernization project  
Presentations of WCO Directorates’ and units’ activities and latest updates. | Virtual activity, daily online, self-learning through CLiKCI and remote tutoring sessions |
| 2         | From 4 to 15 March 2024 2 weeks | Roundtable with the Secretary general  
Expérience-sharing sessions  
Leadership & Management Development workshop | In-person workshop, at the WCO Secretariat |
| 3         | From 18 to 29 March 2024 2 weeks | Field study trip | In-person study visit, within a partner organization (to be confirmed) |

Total duration: 7 weeks

For more information on the new delivery format of the programme and the specific objectives of each component, please consult the Annex entitled Objectives and Work.

The holding of the practical internship consecutively to the first two parts will be confirmed at a later date.
As an integral part of the WCO’s Leadership and Management Development Programme, the Fellowship programme aims to invest in middle managers with high potential and develop their abilities, skills and knowledge to ensure that they can actively participate in their Administration’s reform and modernization processes and ongoing organizational development initiatives under the WCO Capacity Building programme.

In this regard, I kindly invite you to identify and nominate a maximum of 2 candidates who meet the following conditions:

- A thorough knowledge of one of the technical areas listed in the annex and the capacity to articulate practical recommendations for your Administration’s modernization initiatives in this field.
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English. One of the selection criteria might involve a telephone conversation between the candidate and the WCO officer in charge of the Programme.
- A mid-level manager with at least four years of service in Customs and the assessed potential for further advancement.
- Maximum age of 45 years and in good health.

The Secretariat will only be able to accept a limited number of candidates subject to the resources provided by the various donors for this Fellowship Programme. In order to promote gender balance, if you are nominating two candidates, you are advised to nominate one female candidate and one male candidate. Preference will be given to the candidates who meet these criteria.

The selected candidates will be required to produce a research paper based on the analysis of their national situation and the inventory of the operational problems that their Administration faces and to put forward recommendations to solve them. This research paper, which will be supervised online by a specialized WCO tutor, shall then be presented to the Director General and may be used by WCO experts who carry out missions within the Administration. Please note that applications for the WCO Fellowship Programme proposing a research topic that was already recently developed by a previous Fellow selected from your Administration will not be considered for selection.

Please find appended hereto documents setting out the administrative provisions, as well as a summary of the objectives of this Programme. Complete applications must be submitted by email no later than 8 November 2023 (no application will be accepted after that deadline) to helene.caux@wcoomd.org.
The WCO Secretariat reserves the right to take all future measures that will be deemed necessary, including maintaining or not this event. Should you require additional information, your staff may contact Ms. Hélène Caux, the Programme Administrator (E-mail: helene.caux@wcoomd.org), in the Capacity Building Directorate.

Yours sincerely,

Kunio Mikuriya
WCO Secretary General