Dear Director General,

The 18th Session of the Virtual Customs Orientation Academy (VCOA) of the World Customs Organization (WCO), intended for English-speaking Customs officers, will be held from **11 September to 15 December 2023**.

The VCOA aims to provide newly recruited Customs officials with basic Customs knowledge and skills through a tutored curriculum. The course introduces the core roles and functions of Customs officials, the principles and practices of Customs procedures and the main international conventions and instruments.

I kindly invite you to identify a maximum of 5 candidates who meet the following criteria:

- Newly recruited Customs official with less than 4 years of service in Customs;
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English;
- Good computer skills and access to the internet;
- Available during the whole period of the VCOA session and able to devote the necessary time (minimum of 8 hours per week); and
- Receive their Administration’s approval to enroll on the Virtual Customs Orientation Academy.

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In the appended annexes you will find a detailed brochure on the VCOA and information on the application procedure for Members.

Please note that no application via letter will be accepted. The deadline for the application process is **18 August 2023**. The selected candidates will be informed by 1 September 2023 via e-mail. Due to the limited number of available places on the programme, nominated candidates are selected based on the strength of their submitted application and are not guaranteed a place.

Should you require additional information, your staff may contact Mr. Eric Rogers, E-Learning Specialist, (Tel.: +32 (0)2 209 9223, e-mail: VCOA@wcoomd.org).

Yours sincerely,

Taeil Kang
WCO Director, Capacity Building