

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post : **Technical Officer**
 Research and Policy Unit (Office of the Secretary General)

Grade : **A3**

The Office of the Secretary General is responsible for supporting the Secretary General in implementing his mandate at the World Customs Organization (WCO). Within the Office, the Research and Policy Unit (RPU) develops and publishes work on innovative issues, produces evidence based knowledge for the development of policy and operational recommendations, supports the activities of other Directorates, in particular capacity building activities, and ensures the link with other governmental organizations, academia, and the private sector to promote a Customs perspective on the high priority topics of the international political agenda.

Within this agenda, the WCO Members focus on digitalization, data, and environment issues ("Green Customs") and their implication on Customs. These topics place the Customs community in an essential time of transition, which is stimulating for research and policy actions. There are many challenges to be taken up, such as the role of Customs in the reflection on and implementation of environmental policies, the conditions for data sharing, the support for Customs in their transition to new forms of data-driven organization, as well as the Customs response to global demands for more open governance and open data.

The responses to these challenges articulate policy and technique; they require the implementation of in-depth research, making use of data analytics to issue evidence-based recommendations and assessment applied to the large scope of Customs functions.

The Unit wishes to integrate a Technical Officer to contribute to research and policy reflection, particularly on the WCO focus areas. Within the RPU, in constant contact with the WCO Directorates, the Technical Officer will be fully mobilized on these issues. He or she will play a leading role in conducting the reflection and coordination within the Secretariat, with Members and the working bodies of the Organization.

Main functions

- Participate in the implementation of the WCO Data Strategy, ensuring its timely update and promotion to relevant international actors, academia and the private sector, and ensuring the support to WCO working group on data and statistics, including coordination with the Chairperson of the working group, Members, and the other working bodies of the Organization;
- Coordinate and conduct research activities in the potential fields of environment, digitalization and data, which includes - but is not limited to - pilot projects involving Members, universities and the private sector within a hub for innovation;
- Advise WCO Directorates in the development of their data analyses;
- Ensure an active monitoring on technologies and scientific advances related to data and their potential applications to Customs, taxation, environment and international trade;

Annex I

- Contribute to the work of WCO working bodies, including committees, sub-committees and various working groups;
- Prepare and edit reports and research papers;
- Carry out other tasks as requested by the Secretariat, in connection with data and other research topics treated by the RPU;
- The person appointed will also be required to perform such other duties as may be assigned, and may be subject to reassignment within the WCO Secretariat.

Profile

This position requires a balance between domain knowledge, data skills, a wish to be part of innovation, as well as a capacity to animate and support the institutional reflection conducted in WCO working bodies. The following skills are therefore required :

- An academic degree in science or economics and demonstrated ability in the use of R, Python or other statistical or data science software/language, and a proven capacity to mobilize data to solve practical problems;
- Good knowledge of - or commitment to learn about - Customs data, operations and Customs information systems;
- Excellent writing skills in at least one of the two official languages of the WCO (English or French) and a capacity to communicate in the other language;
- A proven ability to work in a team, as well as independently with minimal supervision;
- Skills to initiate and maintain partnership with the relevant stakeholders;
- A capacity to communicate and share knowledge on different levels, and ability to explain complicated technical matters to non-specialist audiences.

Application

The application must include a cover letter and a description of the vision for the position. The candidate can attach to his/her application two samples or description of work related to data he or she conducted. The process of selection may include an interview and written tasks.

July 2022.