

JOB DESCRIPTION

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

The Office of the Secretary General is responsible for supporting the Secretary General in implementing his mandate. 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, and ensures the link with other governmental organizations to promote a Customs perspective on the high priority topics of the international political agenda.

The rise of data in societies places the Customs community in an essential time of transition, which is stimulating for research. There are many challenges to be taken up, such as the global exchange of Customs data, support for Customs in their transition to new forms of organization, training and recruitment, but also, more generally, the Customs response to global demands for more open governance and open data.

The responses articulate policy and technique; they require the implementation of in-depth research and experimentation on the anonymization of data, the methods of data sharing that preserve data integrity and confidentiality, as well as a better understanding of the organizational conditions and effects of the data development in Customs.

The Unit wishes to integrate a Technical Attaché to contribute to research and policy reflection on the use of Customs data and the construction of a global ecosystem of data for Customs, bringing together the World Customs Organization (WCO), its Members, the private sector and universities.

Within the RPU, in constant contact with the WCO Directorates, the Technical Attaché will be fully mobilized on these issues. He or she will play a leading role in conducting the reflection within the Secretariat, with Members, academia and the private sector.

Main functions

- Conduct research activities in the field of data, which includes - but is not limited to - pilot projects with Members and universities;
- Participate in the implementation and updating of the WCO Data Strategy, including its promotion to other international actors;
- Advise and assist other Directorates in the development of their data analyses;
- Ensure an active monitoring on technologies and scientific advances relating to data and their potential applications to Customs, taxation and international trade;
- Contribute to the work of WCO committees and working groups;
- Prepare and edit reports and research papers;
- Carry out other tasks as requested by the Secretariat, in connection with data.

Annex I

Profile

This position requires a balance between Customs domain knowledge and data skills. The most suitable profile is a Customs officer who has worked with data on a daily basis and has sufficient technical knowledge to conduct studies and contribute to strategic thinking. 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;
- Very good knowledge of Customs data and Customs information system;
- A good knowledge of Customs issues and a proven capacity to mobilize data to solve the practical problems of administrations in the field;
- 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 would be an asset;
- An ability to work in a team;
- A capacity for communicating with non-specialist audiences and sharing knowledge.

Application

The application must include a cover letter and a description of the vision for the position. The candidate can attach to his or her application two samples or description of work related to data he or she conducted.

October 2021.