

JOB DESCRIPTION

Junior Professional Officer, Sustainable Fashion: Advocacy and ESG Frameworks

Category / Staff Rules	Junior Professional Officer / P-2
Division / Section	Division of Sustainable and Inclusive Trade / Women, Youth and Vulnerable Communities (DSIT/WYVC)
Duty station	Geneva
Comments	1 Year with possible extension

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT AND ORGANISATIONAL SETTING

The International Trade Centre (ITC) assists developing and transition economy countries to take advantage of expanding trade opportunities in an increasingly complex global environment. ITC supports Trade Impact for Good, promoting sustainable and inclusive development goals through trade.

ITC places a premium on ensuring trade supports the economic empowerment of marginalised and vulnerable people. ITC understands that inclusion is essential to bridge economic, social and environmental gaps. ITC emphasizes initiatives that create opportunities for women, youth and other people in vulnerable situations, such as the poor, refugees, internally displaced persons, people with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and other often marginalized groups. The Women, Youth and Vulnerable Communities (WYVC) Section delivers on its mandate by:

- Improving the trade policy and regulatory environment in which marginalised and vulnerable people operate
- Strengthening the institutional framework of trade related support to marginalised and vulnerable people
- Enhancing marginalised and vulnerable people's capacity and competitiveness
- Making markets more accessible to marginalised and vulnerable people
- Providing thought leadership and advocacy to make value chains, the business environment and the trading system more inclusive and a catalyst for the empowerment of vulnerable communities like Indigenous Peoples
- Mainstreaming inclusivity in all of ITC's projects and solutions

The Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI) has developed a powerful business model to intervene in the fashion industry. Since 2008, EFI has developed a framework that includes the tools needed to create sustainable value. This includes know-how in green processes and materials, the capacity to generate and manage locally owned product development and production management facilities, and a large portfolio of international and regional trade and investment partners. The elements above form a competitive advantage that is unique among development agencies and at the level of trade support institutions (TSI) and similar institutions. Through its environmental social and governance (ESG) due diligence, performance monitoring and reporting systems framework -- developed in collaboration with Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana and piloted with brands including Versace, Armani, Gucci and Chloé -- EFI ensures respect for human and environmental rights along global value chains that surpass national regulatory mechanisms.

Currently, EFI manages operations in East and West Africa on fashion production in collaboration with major luxury brands, oversees an accelerator for emerging African designers and has developed an ESG framework for the fashion industry.

EFI is also a founding member of the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion (the Alliance), a working group of eleven organizations from the United Nations family working in fashion. The Alliance serves as a coordination platform to ensure strong communication, technical know-how, and collaboration within the UN system on issues related to fashion. Representatives from the Alliance network regularly meet (online and in-person), jointly organize workshops, discussion panels and events to cross-fertilize know-how and ensure the approach to sustainability for the fashion industry is of the upmost quality and coordinated.

The goal of this job function is to assist EFI with the continuous development of its ESG framework and advocacy work in moving the fashion industry on its sustainability trajectory, support EFI in its role as the Secretariat of the Alliance and developing new partnerships between international brands and producers in the Global South, and all related activities / events.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the overall guidance of the Chief WYVC and the EFI Chief Technical Adviser, and the direct supervision of the EFI Senior Programme Officer, the Junior Professional Officer will

- Assist in the activities of the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion by contributing to policy research, advocacy efforts, and sustainability projects in the fashion sector
- Work with key clients (national and international trade institutions, fashion brands, academia) to facilitate the design, development and implementation of interventions related to sustainable fashion and trade – including preparation and management of budgets, and monitoring and reporting of results;
- Provide guidance on ESG due diligence frameworks and their application by industry experts and producers in the Global South;
- Support the organisation of global events related to sustainable fashion and trade;
- Participate in industry-related conferences and workshops and carry out research on fashion industry policy, technology and market trends and provide inputs that can inform policymakers, academia, advocacy groups and businesses;
- Contribute to the preparation of various written outputs on sustainable fashion and trade, including draft background papers, analytical notes, web stories, sections of reports and studies, inputs to publications, etc.
- Support communication work on new policies, partnerships, tools and activities related to sustainable fashion and trade, and ESG Due Diligence frameworks;
- Support corporate knowledge management and communication by reviewing existing practices across ITC's portfolio, raising awareness, identifying good practices and areas of improvement, facilitating exchanges with technical colleagues and country offices;
- Perform other related duties as required.

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES AND KNOWLEDGE

ITC'S VALUES are: Integrity, Professionalism, Respect for Diversity

ITC'S CORE COMPETENCIES are: Communication, Teamwork, Planning & Organizing, Accountability, Creativity, Client Orientation, Commitment to continuous learning, Technological awareness.

CRITICAL JOB-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES

Professionalism: Understanding of partnership development. Knowledge of project management methodologies. Knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts relevant to the fashion sector and sustainable trade. Ability to identify issues, analyse and participate in the resolution of issues/problems. Ability to assist with data collection using various methods. Conceptual analytical and evaluative skills to conduct independent research and analysis, including familiarity with and experience in the use of various research sources, including electronic sources on the internet, intranet and other databases. Ability to apply judgment in the context of assignments given, plan own work and manage conflicting priorities. Shows pride in work and in achievements; demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results. Motivated by professional rather than personal concerns. Shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges. Remains calm in stressful situations. Takes responsibility for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work.

Communication: Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others; correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; tailors language, tone, style and format to match audience; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed.

Planning& Organizing: Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Education

Advanced university degree in business, sustainable trade, international development, political science.

Note: A first level university degree with a relevant combination of academic qualifications and professional experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Experience

A minimum of two years of relevant experience in project management, administration, or related area. Experience in fashion and / or sustainable trade desirable.

Languages

Advanced knowledge of English. Intermediate knowledge of French is an asset.

LEARNING ELEMENT

The Junior Professional Officer will learn about sustainable trade, fashion, partnership development, project design, development and management in complex settings, stakeholder engagement, leveraging public private partnerships to maximise resources and impact. This position will also provide a unique opportunity to interact closely with the private sector and while working directly with producer groups in the Global South.

On completion of the assignment, the Junior Professional Officer is expected to:

- Experience working with /supporting and learning directly from beneficiaries and partners through field visits and other stakeholder engagement activities;
- Have a strong understanding of inclusive trade, with relation to inter alia, the Global Goals, business, and policy issues;

- Have experience in how policies and frameworks can be applied in-situ;
- Have project management experience and skills.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The WYVC Section covers programmes related to youth, women, indigenous people, creative industries and refugees. The section contributes significantly to the Global Goals 5 (achieving gender equality and empowering women), 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth), Global Goal 13 (climate action) and Global Goal 1 (No poverty). WYVC is at the cutting edge of inclusive trade - a junior professional officer experience with this programme will provide a unique opportunity for a junior professional to gain exposure in this field.

CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SDGs)

The JPO will contribute, through the WYVC section, to ITC's commitment to the Global Goals, particularly Global Goal 5 (achieving gender equality and empowering women), Global Goal 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth), Global Goal 13 (Climate Change) and Global Goal 1 (No poverty).

For more information: <http://www.intracen.org/itc/goals/Global-Goals-for-Sustainable-Development/>