AFRICAN UNION
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CALL FOR PROPOSALS - INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR STUDY ON AFRICA SOLAR ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORK

PROCUREMENT NUMBER: AUC/IED/C/002

SECTION I: LETTER OF INVITATION

27th April 2023

Dear Applicants,

Consultancy Services for study on Africa Solar Energy Policy Framework.

1. The AUC invites interested and eligible individual consultants to submit their proposals for the assignment as per attached Terms of Reference (TORS). AUC policy requires consultants to provide professional, objective, and impartial advice, and at all times hold the Client's interest's paramount, without any consideration for future work, and strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests.

2. The consultant will be selected under the Fixed Budget selection method where the Consultant who has submitted the highest ranked technical proposal within the set pass mark and within the budget will be selected for award of contract. The consultant will be paid a total amount of USD 36,000.00.

3. CVs and technical proposals must be submitted by e-mail to Tender@africa-union.org
   Cc hawib@africa-union.org

4. The title of the Procurement and procurement number must appear as subject of e-mail submissions.

5. The Deadline for submission is 12**th May 2023 at 15:00 hours Addis Ababa Time**. Late applications will not be considered.

6. This call for Proposal comprises of the following:
   - Section I – This Letter of Invitation
   - Section II - Terms of Reference

SECTION II: TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR STUDY ON AFRICA SOLAR ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORK

1. Introduction

The development and provision of sustainable, reliable, and modern energy services provide a crucial platform for Africa to enhance economic productivity, facilitate trade, and accelerate industrialisation and markets development at the local, national, regional, and continental levels. Universal modern energy access on the continent also forms the backbone of the achievement of several development objectives including the AU Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Energy sector in Africa still faces huge challenges that include low generation capacity and efficiency, high costs, unstable and unreliable energy supplies, and low access rates, among others. These challenges have culminated in extremely low levels of modern energy supply and access on the continent. In the power sector, more than 600 million people are left without access to electricity, indicating over half of the African population. The electrification rate is as low as 7 – 20% in many Sub-Saharan African countries, mainly affecting rural areas.

Accelerating modern energy access in Africa will depend on how fast the continent is able to adopt and utilise renewable energy systems such as solar, hydro and wind at the regional, national, and local levels. Almost 80% of the electricity generated on the continent is from fossil fuels, exposing the power sector to volatile oil prices and limited supply chains and infrastructure needed to adequately expand energy access. The expansion of renewable energy on the continent will be imperative to achieving sustainable energy access and energy security at all levels for reasons that include adaptability, modularity, availability, and climate change benefits.

1.1. Solar Energy in Africa

The utilisation of renewable energy systems such as solar is becoming a missed opportunity for Africa. Renewables accounted for 29.5% of total electricity consumption worldwide in 2020, mainly driven by exponential growths in wind and solar energy capacity additions. Despite being the region with one of the highest potentials in the world, solar energy only accounts for a mere 2% of electricity generation in Africa. For example, the total installed capacity of solar PV on the continent is about 5GW, accounting for less than 1% of the total installed capacity of 760GW worldwide. The growth in solar systems over the last decade is linked to the falling costs of

renewables worldwide. Solar PV generation costs have fallen by 85% over the last ten years. The falling costs of solar systems provide huge opportunities for Africa to expand modern energy access while also enhancing energy security.

1.2. Context

One of the key barriers to expanding solar energy in Africa is the absence of responsive policies and frameworks that will mobilise investments and create the conducive environment for both public and private investors to participate in solar energy markets at the continental, regional, national, and local levels. There is also weak implementation of policies and regulations, thus leading to uncoordinated markets and inefficient production that hamper the creation of sustainable solar energy markets. Regulatory barriers also hinder implementation of business models and private investment in the generation, transmission, distribution, and off-grid segments of the electricity market.

The development and implementation of coherent, consistent, and favourable policies and regulations in the solar energy sector are crucial to creating an enabling environment for investment flows and sector growth. There is also a need to develop policies and regulatory frameworks that create new markets, financing opportunities, promote trade and facilitate increased private sector investments. At the regional and continental levels, there is a need to harmonise solar energy policies and regulatory frameworks to enable the creation of larger markets and expand solar energy utilisation at scale.

The adoption of solar energy systems is also severely affected by the low levels of technical capacity and skills to build and maintain infrastructures and systems. Skills are required to manufacture, install, operate, and maintain energy infrastructure. The absence of frameworks and strategies to encourage technology innovation and transfer as well as capacity building are hampering technology absorption and uptake in this sector. There is a need for enhancing national technology adoption systems and strengthening institutional capacities to facilitate technology adoption and innovative deployment.

The AUC is establishing a programme on Solar Energy Policy Framework (SEPF) to (1) identify and promote policies and regulatory frameworks to promote solar energy access in African countries; (2) harmonise policies and regulatory frameworks to expand solar energy markets at the regional level; (3) identify relevant and adaptable solar energy technologies for Africa at the regional, national and local levels; and (4) identify capacity gaps and build technical capacities of African institutions and technical centres to adopt, adapt and accelerate uptake of solar energy systems.

2. Purpose and Activity Description

The main objective of this study is to carry out an assessment of solar energy policies and regulatory frameworks across African countries and identify gaps and best practices including the development of an Action plan to address gaps in the solar energy sector.

The specific objectives of the study include:

1. Review existing solar energy policies, institutional and regulatory arrangements for with a view to identifying gaps that are hampering solar energy development in Africa
2. Design an AU Action Plan for the Solar Energy Policy Framework (SEPF) programme outlining key activities, indicators and timeframes.
3. Develop a capacity building strategy and framework to be implemented by continental and regional institutions

3. Scope of Work

The consultant shall carry out the following tasks:

1. Extensive review of existing renewable energy and solar energy policies, institutional and regulatory frameworks with a view to addressing policy weaknesses and identifying gaps that are hampering solar energy development in African countries.
2. Identify best practices and successful models validated within Africa which can be replicated to similar contexts within Africa.
3. Identify best practices and success stories in other world regions on solar energy policies and regulatory frameworks.
4. Recommend dynamic and appropriate policies, frameworks, and strategies for accelerating solar energy deployment in African countries.
5. Design an AUC Action Plan for the SEPF programme outlining key activities, indicators, and timeframes.
6. Identify capacity gaps and develop a capacity building framework for the Solar Energy Programme.
7. Identify opportunities for synergies across expertise and capacity within Africa, economies of scale and scope achieved by pooling solar energy projects across Africa.

4. Deliverables

The consultant shall provide the following reports:

1. An inception report covering the methodology, work programme as well as tasks and

time allocation. The Inception Report will be submitted two (2) weeks after signing the contract.

2. Inception Meeting with AUC and Key Stakeholders constituting a core team responsible for steering the assignment to be held three (3) weeks after signing the contract.
3. Draft Report to be submitted fourteen (12) weeks after signing the contract.
4. Final Report that includes the policy and regulatory review, Action plan and capacity building framework sixteen (16) after signing the contract.
5. An Executive Summary of the report.

5. Expertise

The consultant shall have the following competencies:

a. A minimum of Master's Degree in a related discipline such as Engineering, Sustainable energy, Economics, Climate Change & Finance, international development, etc.
b. At least ten (10) years' experience in policy and regulatory frameworks in solar energy development, energy and climate change, and the renewable energy sector.
c. Experience in solar energy renewable energy, energy transition, green growth, Climate Change mitigation and Adaptation measures in Africa and the related international Climate fund processes.
d. Excellent analytical and reporting skills.
e. Fluency in written and spoken English. Knowledge of another AU language will be an added advantage.

6. Time Frame

The consultant is expected to finish the assignment in four (4) months.

7. Consultancy Fee

Individual Consultant will be selected under the Fixed Budget selection method where the Consultant who has submitted the highest ranked technical proposal within the set pass mark and within the fixed budget stated, will be selected for award of contract. The available budget for this assignment does not exceed thirty-six thousand United States Dollars (USD 36,000).

Any travel necessary for the successful completion of the assignment, duly authorized in advance by the Commission will be paid for at the rate of the most direct economy return flight, as well as a subsistence allowance in accordance with the AUC Rules and Regulations.

8. Schedule of Payments

The schedule of payments of the consultants is specified below:

- 30% of the amount of the contract to be paid upon submission and satisfaction by the Client of an inception report detailing how the above-mentioned deliverables will be achieved.
- 40% of the amount of the contract to be paid upon submission and satisfaction by the Client of the draft report
- 30% of the amount of the contract to be paid upon submission of the final report, after incorporating Client and Stakeholders' comments.

9. Management of the Assignment

The AUC will be the contracting agency. The assignment will be carried out under the oversight of the AUC Department of Infrastructure and Energy. The AUC will work with the consultant in organising a stakeholders' workshop, which could be held in physical, hybrid or virtual format.

10. Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

SN	Award Criteria	Allocated Points
1	**Required Qualifications and Skills**	
a	A minimum of Master's Degree in a related discipline such as Engineering, Sustainable energy, Economics, Climate Change & Finance, international development, etc.	10
2.	**Experience:**	
a.	At least ten (10) years' experience in policy and regulatory frameworks in solar energy development, energy and climate change, and the renewable energy sector.	10

b.	Experience in solar energy, renewable energy, energy transition, green growth, Climate Change mitigation and Adaptation measures in Africa and the related international Climate fund processes. Experience in similar assignments completed in Africa.	10
c.	Excellent analytical and reporting skills.	10
b.	a) Personal Capacity Statement i) Relevant experience related to the assignment (include samples of two (2) most recent similar works and/or references for the same) ii) Contacts of at least three (3) organizations previously worked for iii) Curriculum Vitae of the Consultant	10
c.	Fluency in written and spoken English. Knowledge of another AU language will be an added advantage.	5
3.	**Technical Proposal not exceeding 8 pages on:**	
a.	Understanding and interpretation of the TOR	20
b.	Methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment	15
c.	Time and activity schedule/Workplan	10
	Total Points	**100**

Minimum technical score is 70 points (pass mark).

11. Response to The Call

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following documents for AUC's consideration:

a) Technical Proposal not exceeding 8 pages on:

i) Understanding and interpretation of the TOR

ii) Methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment

iii) Time and activity schedule

b) Personal Capacity Statement

i) Relevant experience related to the assignment (include samples of two (2) most recent similar works and/or references for the same)

ii) Contacts of at least three (3) organizations previously worked for

iii) Curriculum Vitae of the Consultant