

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UMOJA WA AFRIKA



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

UNIÓN AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 115 517 700 Fax: +251 115 517 844
Website: www.au.int

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A COLLABORATIVE WEB PORTAL APPLICATION FOR
THE AFRICAN UNION NETWORK OF SCIENCES (AUNS)**

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Section 1: LETTER OF INVITATION

5 February, 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

REF: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COLLABORATIVE WEB PORTAL APPLICATION FOR THE AFRICAN UNION NETWORK OF SCIENCES

1. The African Union Scientific, Technical and Research commission (AU-STRC) would like to engage the services of a consulting firm to provide services for the development of a collaborative web portal application for the African Union Network of Sciences. The AU-STRC invites interested and eligible bidders to submit technical and financial proposals for the assignment as per the requirement of the request for proposal.

2. A firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection Method procedures. The technical and financial proposals must be delivered in two separate envelopes enclosed in an OUTER envelope to the address below. The minimum technical score required to pass is 70% to proceed for further financial evaluation.

3. The deadline for submission of proposal is 29 March, 2024 at 1600 hrs (GMT +1). Late bids will be rejected. The Outer envelope should bear the name and address of the bidder. Language of the bid or proposal should be in English.

4. Bidders may request for clarifications no less than 7 days from the deadline for submission, from the following email address:

Email address: SebleA@africa-union.org

Copied to: GilbertB@africa-union.org

5. Bidders must provide the following documents: (i) Certificate of Incorporation (Company Registration in their respective Member States) (ii) At least 3 contactable references (former clients) in the last five (5) years (iii) Company profile demonstrating activities of at least five (5) years.

6. The address for deposit or courier of bids is:

**The Local Procurement Committee
African Union Scientific Technical and Research Commission
Plot 114 Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro
Abuja, Nigeria
PMB 5368 Wuse Zone 2, Abuja Nigeria**

Yours sincerely,

Chairman, Local Procurement Committee

Note: No applications submitted by electronic mail will be accepted.

Section 2: INFORMATION TO CONSULTANTS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Client named in the Data Sheet will select a firm from those listed in the Letter of Invitation, in accordance with the method of selection specified in the Data Sheet.
- 1.2 The consultants are invited to submit a Technical Proposal and a financial proposal, or a Technical Proposal only, as specified in the Data Sheet for consulting services required for the assignment named in the Data Sheet. The proposal will be the basis for contract negotiations and ultimately for a signed contract with the selected firm.
- 1.3 The assignment shall be implemented in accordance with any phasing indicated in the Data Sheet. When the assignment includes several phases, the performance of the consultant under each phase must be to the Client's satisfaction before work begins on the next phase.
- 1.4 The consultants must familiarise themselves with local conditions and take them into account in preparing their proposals. To obtain firsthand information on the assignment and on the local conditions, consultants are encouraged to visit the Client before submitting a proposal and to attend a pre-proposal conference if one is specified in the Data Sheet. Attending any specified pre-proposal conference is optional. The consultants' representative should contact the officials named in the Data Sheet to arrange for their visit or to obtain additional information on any pre-proposal conference. Consultants should ensure that these officials are advised of the visit in adequate time to allow them to make appropriate arrangements.
- 1.5 The Client will provide the inputs specified in the Data Sheet, assist the firm in obtaining licenses and permits needed to carry out the services, and make available relevant project data and reports.
- 1.6 Note that: (i) the costs of preparing the proposal and of negotiating the contract, including a visit to the Client, are not reimbursable as a direct cost of the assignment; and (ii) the Client is not bound to accept any of the proposals submitted.
- 1.7 African Union policy requires consultants to provide professional, objective, and impartial advice, and at all times hold the Client's interests paramount, without any consideration for future work, and strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own corporate interests. Consultants shall not be hired for any assignment that would be in conflict with their prior or current obligations to other clients, or that may place them in a position of not being able to carry out the assignment in the best interests of the Client.
 - 1.7.1 Without limitation on the generality of this rule, consultants shall not be hired under the circumstances set forth below:
 - (a) Conflict between consulting activities and procurement of goods, works or services: A firm that has been engaged to provide goods, works, or services for a project, and each of its affiliates, shall be disqualified from providing consulting services related to those goods, works or services. Conversely, a firm hired to provide consulting services for the preparation or implementation of a project, and each of

	<p>its affiliates, shall be disqualified from subsequently providing goods, works or services resulting from or directly related to the firm's consulting services for such preparation or implementation (other than a continuation of the firms earlier consulting services for the same project).</p> <p>(b) Conflict among consulting assignments: Neither consultants (including their personnel and sub-consultants) nor any of their affiliates shall be hired for any assignment that, by its nature, may be in conflict with another assignment of the consultants.</p> <p>(c) Relationship with AUC staff: Consultants (including their personnel and sub-consultants) that have a business or family relationship with a member of AUC staff (or of the Client staff, or of a beneficiary of the assignment) who are directly or indirectly involved in any part of: (i) the preparation of the TOR of the contract, (ii) the selection process for such contract, or (iii) supervision of such contract may not be awarded a contract.</p> <p>1.7.2 As indicated in paragraph 1.7.1 (a) above, consultants may be hired for downstream work, when continuity is essential, in which case this possibility shall be indicated in the Data Sheet and the factors used for the selection of the consultant should take the likelihood of continuation into account. It will be the exclusive decision of the Client whether or not to have the downstream assignment carried out, and if it is carried out, which consultant will be hired for the purpose.</p> <p>1.7.3 In the event of 1.7.2. and in order to ensure fairness and transparency in the selection process, it is required that consultants or their affiliates competing for a specific assignment do not derive a competitive advantage from having provided consulting services related to the assignment in question. To that end, all information that would in that respect give a consultant a competitive advantage shall be made available to all the short-listed consultants together with the request for proposals.</p> <p>1.8 The African Union requires that Officers of the AU, as well as Bidders/ Suppliers/ Contractors/ Consultants, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts.¹ In pursuance of this policy the AU:</p> <p>(a) defines, for the purposes of this provision, the terms set forth</p>
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¹ In this context, any action taken by a bidder, supplier, contractor, sub-contractor or consultant to influence the procurement process or contract execution for undue advantage is improper.

	<p>below as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) “corrupt practice”² is the offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party; (ii) “fraudulent practice”³ is any act or omission including a misrepresentation that knowingly or recklessly misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party to obtain a financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation; (iii) “collusive practice”⁴ is an arrangement between two or more parties designed to achieve an improper purpose, including to influence improperly the actions of another party; (iv) “coercive practice”⁵ is impairing or harming or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property of the party to influence improperly the actions of a party; (v) “obstructive practice” is deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering or concealing of evidence material to any investigation or making false statements to investigators in order to materially impede any investigation into allegations of a corrupt, fraudulent, coercive or collusive practice; and/or threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) will reject a recommendation for award of contract if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices in competing for the contract in question; (c) will declare a firm ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to be awarded an African Union financed contract if it at any time determines that the firm has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices in competing for, or in executing, an African Union financed contract. <p>1.9 Consultants shall not be under a declaration of ineligibility for corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices issued by the AUC in accordance with the above sub-paragraph 1.8.</p> <p>1.10 Consultants shall furnish information as described in the Financial</p>
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² “another party” refers to an officer of the AU acting in relation to the procurement process or contract execution. In this context, “officer of the AU” includes staff and employees of other organisations taking or reviewing procurement decisions.

³ a “party” refers to any officer of the AU; the terms “benefit” and “obligation” relate to the procurement process or contract execution; and the “act or omission” is intended to influence the procurement process or contract execution.

⁴ “parties” refers to any participants in the procurement process (including officers of the AU) attempting to establish bid prices at artificial, non competitive levels.

⁵ a “party” refers to any participant in the procurement process or contract execution.

	<p>Proposal submission form (Section 4A) on commissions and gratuities, if any, paid or to be paid to agents relating to this proposal, and to execute the work if the firm is awarded the contract.</p> <p>1.11 Consultants shall be aware of the provisions on fraud and corruption stated in the Standard Contract under the clauses indicated in the Data Sheet.</p>
<p>2. Clarification and Amendment of RFP Documents</p>	<p>Consultants may request a clarification of any of the RFP documents up to the number of days indicated in the Data Sheet before the proposal submission date. Any request for clarification must be sent in writing by mail, facsimile, or electronic mail to the Client's address indicated in the Data Sheet. The Client will respond by facsimile, courier or electronic mail to such requests and will send written copies of the response (including an explanation of the query but without identifying the source of inquiry) to all invited consultants who intend to submit proposals.</p> <p>At any time before the submission of proposals, the Client may, for any reason, whether at its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by an invited firm, amend the RFP. Any amendment shall be issued in writing through addenda. Addenda shall be sent by mail, facsimile, or electronic mail to all invited consultants and will be binding on them. The Client may at its discretion extend the deadline for the submission of proposals.</p>
<p>3. Preparation of Proposal</p>	<p>Consultants are requested to submit a proposal (paragraph 1.2) written in the language(s) specified in the Data Sheet.</p>
<p>Technical Proposal</p>	<p>In preparing the Technical Proposal, consultants are expected to examine the documents constituting this RFP in detail. Material deficiencies in providing the information requested may result in rejection of a proposal.</p> <p>While preparing the Technical Proposal, consultants must give particular attention to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) If a consultant considers that it does not have all the expertise for the assignment, it may obtain a full range of expertise by associating with individual consultant(s) and/or other consultants or entities in a joint venture or sub-consultancy, as appropriate. Consultants may associate with the other consultants invited for this assignment only with approval of the Client as indicated in the Data Sheet. Consultants must obtain the approval of the Client to enter into a joint venture with consultants not invited for this assignment. The consultants are encouraged to seek the participation of local consultants by entering into a joint venture with, or subcontracting part of the assignment to consultants who are Nationals of African Union Member States. (ii) For assignments on a staff-time basis, the estimated number of professional staff-months is given in the Data Sheet. The proposal shall, however, be based on the number of professional staff-months estimated by the firm. For fixed-

	<p>budget-based assignments, the available budget is given in the Data Sheet, and the Financial Proposal shall not exceed this budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iii) It is desirable that the majority of the key professional staff proposed be permanent employees of the firm or have an extended and stable working relationship with it. (iv) Proposed professional staff must, at a minimum, have the experience indicated in the Data Sheet, preferably working under conditions similar to those prevailing in the Country specified for Performance of the Services. (v) Alternative professional staff shall not be proposed, and only one curriculum vitae (CV) may be submitted for each position. (vi) Reports to be issued by the consultants as part of this assignment must be in the language(s) specified in the Data Sheet. <p>3.4 The Technical Proposal shall provide the following information using the Standard Forms attached in Section 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A brief description of the firm's organisation and an outline of recent experience on assignments (Section 4B) of a similar nature. For each assignment, the outline should indicate, inter-alia, the profiles of the staff proposed, duration of the assignment, contract amount, and the firm's involvement. (ii) Any comments or suggestions on the Terms of Reference and on the data, a list of services, and facilities to be provided by the Client (Section 4C). (iii) A description of the methodology and work plan for performing the assignment (Section 4D). (iv) The list of the proposed staff team by specialty, the tasks that would be assigned to each staff team member, and their timing (Section 4E). (v) CVs recently signed by the proposed professional staff and the authorized representative submitting the proposal (Section 4F). Key information should include number of years working for the firm/entity and degree of responsibility held in various assignments during the last ten (10) years. (vi) Estimates of the total staff input (professional and support staff; staff time) needed to carry out the assignment, supported by bar-chart diagrams showing the time proposed for each professional staff team member (Sections 4E and 4G). (vii) A detailed description of the proposed methodology, staffing, and monitoring of training, if the Data Sheet specifies training as a major component of the assignment. (viii) Any additional information requested in the Data Sheet.
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	<p>The Technical Proposal shall not include any financial information.</p>
<p>Financial Proposal</p>	<p>In preparing the Financial Proposal, consultants are expected to take into account the requirements and conditions outlined in the RFP documents. The Financial Proposal should follow the Standard Forms in Section 5. These list all costs associated with the assignment, including (a) remuneration for staff, (foreign and local, in the field and at headquarters); and (b) reimbursable expenses such as subsistence (per diem, housing), transportation (international and local, for mobilisation and demobilisation), services and equipment (vehicles, office equipment, furniture, and supplies), office rent, insurance, printing of documents, surveys, and training, if it is a major component of the assignment. Where appropriate, these costs should be broken down by activity, and, if appropriate, into foreign and local expenditures.</p> <p>The Financial Proposal shall include all the costs the consultant incurs to provide the services (including travel expenses, translation, printing and the taxes the consultant pays for its business requirements by the law of the domicile country of the consultant), but shall exclude all local taxes levied within African Union Member States on the invoice issued by the consultant (such as local sales tax, services tax or withholding tax).</p> <p>Consultants may express the price of their services in any freely convertible currency. The consultants may not use more than three foreign currencies. The Client may require consultants to state the portion of their price representing local costs in the Currency of the Country specified for performance of the Services if so indicated in the Data Sheet.</p> <p>Commissions and gratuities, if any, paid or to be paid by consultants and related to the assignment will be listed in the Financial Proposal submission form (Section 5A).</p> <p>The Data Sheet indicates how long the proposals must remain valid after the submission date. During this period, the consultant is expected to keep available the professional staff proposed for the assignment. The Client will make its best effort to complete negotiations within this period. If the Client wishes to extend the validity period of the proposals, the consultants who do not agree have the right not to extend the validity of their proposals.</p>
<p>4. Submission, Receipt, and Opening of Proposals</p>	<p>The original proposal (Technical Proposal and, if required, Financial Proposal; see paragraph 1.2) shall be prepared in indelible ink. It shall contain no interlineations or overwriting, except as necessary to correct errors made by the firm itself. Any such corrections must be initialled by the persons or person signing the proposal.</p> <p>An authorised representative of the firm initials all pages of the proposal. The representative's authorisation is confirmed by a written power of attorney accompanying the proposal.</p> <p>For each proposal, the consultants shall prepare the number of copies</p>

	<p>indicated in the Data Sheet. Each Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal shall be marked “Original” or “Copy” as appropriate. If there are any discrepancies between the original and the copies of the proposal, the original will govern.</p> <p>The original and all copies of the Technical Proposal shall be placed in a sealed envelope clearly marked “Technical Proposal,” and the original and all copies of the Financial Proposal in a sealed envelope clearly marked “Financial Proposal” and warning: “Do Not Open with the Technical Proposal.” Both envelopes shall be placed into an outer envelope and sealed. This outer envelope shall bear the submission address and other information indicated in the Data Sheet and be clearly marked, “Do Not Open, Except in Presence of the Tender Opening Committee.”</p> <p>The completed Technical and Financial Proposals must be delivered at the submission address on or before the time and date stated in the Data Sheet. Any proposal received after the closing time for submission of proposals shall be returned unopened.</p> <p>After the deadline for submission of proposals, the Technical Proposal shall be opened immediately by the Bid Opening Committee. The Financial Proposal shall remain sealed and retained securely until all submitted proposals are opened publicly.</p> <p>The Firm may withdraw its Proposal after the Proposal’s submission, provided that the written notice of the withdrawal is received by the Client prior to the deadline prescribed for submission of Proposals. The Firms’ withdrawal notice shall be prepared, sealed, marked, and dispatched in accordance with the provisions of clause Deadline for Submission of Proposals. The withdrawal notice may also be sent by telex or fax but followed by a signed confirmation copy. No Proposal may be modified subsequent to the deadline for submission of proposals. No Proposal may be withdrawn in the Interval between the deadline for submission of proposals and the expiration of the period of proposal validity specified by the firm on the Proposal Submission Form.</p>
<p>5. Proposal Evaluation</p>	
<p>General</p>	<p>From the time the bids are opened to the time the contract is awarded, if any consultant wishes to contact the Client on any matter related to its proposal, it should do so in writing at the address indicated in the Data Sheet. Any effort by the firm to influence the Client in proposal evaluation, proposal comparison or contract award decisions may result in the rejection of the consultant’s proposal.</p> <p>Evaluators of Technical Proposals shall have no access to the Financial Proposals until the technical evaluation is completed.</p>
<p>Evaluation of Technical Proposals</p>	<p>The evaluation committee appointed by the Client, as a whole, and each of its members individually, will evaluate the proposals on the basis of their responsiveness to the Terms of Reference, applying the evaluation criteria, sub-criteria (typically not more than three per criteria), and point system specified in the Data Sheet. Each responsive proposal will be given a technical score (St). A proposal</p>

	<p>shall be rejected if it does not respond to important aspects of the Terms of Reference or if it fails to achieve the minimum technical score indicated in the Data Sheet.</p> <p>In the case of Quality-Based Selection, Selection Based on Consultant's Qualifications, and Single-Source Selection, the highest ranked firm, or the firm selected on a single-source basis, is invited to negotiate a contract on the basis of the Technical Proposal and the Financial Proposal submitted in accordance with the instructions given in paragraph 1.2 and the Data Sheet.</p>
<p>Public Opening and Evaluation of Financial Proposals: Ranking (QCBS, Fixed-Budget, and Least-Cost Selection Methods Only)</p>	<p>After the evaluation of technical quality is completed, the Client shall notify those consultants whose proposals did not meet the minimum qualifying score or were considered non-responsive to the RFP and Terms of Reference, indicating that their Financial Proposals will be returned unopened after completing the selection process. The Client shall simultaneously notify the consultants that have secured the minimum qualifying score, indicating the date and time set for opening the Financial Proposals. The opening date shall not be sooner than two weeks after the notification date. The notification may be sent by registered letter, facsimile, or electronic mail.</p> <p>The Financial Proposals shall be opened publicly in the presence of the consultants' representatives who choose to attend. The name of the consultant, the technical scores, and the proposed prices shall be read aloud and recorded as the Financial Proposals are opened. The Client shall prepare minutes of the public opening.</p> <p>The evaluation committee will determine whether the Financial Proposals are complete (i.e., whether they have costed all items of the corresponding Technical Proposals; if not, the Client will cost them and add their cost to the initial price), correct any computational errors, and convert prices in various currencies to the single currency specified in the Data Sheet. The official selling rates used, provided by the source indicated in the Data Sheet, will be those in effect on the date indicated in the Data Sheet. The evaluation shall exclude those taxes, duties, fees, levies, and other charges imposed that are subject to the African Union exemption on the payment of taxes and duties, and estimated as per paragraph 3.7.</p> <p>In case of QCBS, the lowest priced Financial Proposal (F_m) will be given a financial score (S_f) of 100 points. The financial scores (S_f) of the other Financial Proposals will be computed as indicated in the Data Sheet. Proposals will be ranked according to their combined technical (S_t) and financial (S_f) scores using the weights (T = the weighting for the Technical Proposal; P = the weighting for the Financial Proposal as indicated in the Data Sheet. $T + P = 1$); The firm achieving the highest combined technical and financial score using the formula:</p> $S = S_t \times T\% + S_f \times P\%$ <p>will be invited for negotiations.</p> <p>In the case of Fixed-Budget Selection, the Client will select the firm</p>

	<p>that submitted the highest ranked Technical Proposal within the indicated budget price. Proposals that exceed the indicated budget will be rejected. In the case of the Least-Cost Selection, the Client will select the lowest evaluated cost proposal among those that passed the minimum technical score. The selected firm will be invited for negotiations.</p>
<p>6. Negotiations</p>	<p>Negotiations will be held at the address indicated in the Data Sheet. The aim is to reach agreement on all points and sign a contract.</p> <p>Negotiations will include a discussion of the Technical Proposal, the proposed methodology (work-plan), staffing, and any suggestions made by the firm to improve the Terms of Reference. The Client and firm will then agree final Terms of Reference, staffing, and bar charts indicating activities, staff, periods in the field and in the home office, staff-months, logistics, and reporting. The agreed work plan and final Terms of Reference will then be incorporated in the “Description of Services” and form part of the contract. Special attention will be paid to getting the most the firm can offer within the available budget and to clearly defining the inputs required from the Client to ensure satisfactory implementation of the assignment.</p> <p>Financial negotiations will reflect agreed technical modifications in the cost of the services, and will include a clarification of the firm’s tax liability (if any) in the Country specified for performance of the Services, and the manner in which it will be reflected in the contract. The financial negotiations will not normally involve either the remuneration rates for staff (no breakdown of fees), or other proposed unit rates under QCBS, Fixed-Budget Selection, or the Least-Cost Selection methods. For other methods of selection, an Appendix will be provided for the firm to explain the required information on remuneration rates.</p> <p>Having selected the firm on the basis including an evaluation of proposed key professional staff, the Client expects to negotiate a contract on the basis of the experts named in the proposal. Before contract negotiations, the Client will require assurances that the proposed experts will be actually available. The Client will not consider substitutions during contract negotiations unless both parties agree that undue delay in the selection process makes such substitution unavoidable or that such changes are critical to meet the objectives of the assignment. If this is not the case and if it is established that key staff were offered in the proposal without confirming their availability, the firm may be disqualified.</p> <p>The negotiations will conclude with a review of the draft form of the contract. On completion of negotiations, the Client and the firm will initial the agreed contract. If negotiations fail, the Client will invite the firm whose proposal received the second highest score to negotiate a Contract.</p>

<p>7. Award of Contract</p>	<p>The contract will be awarded following negotiations. After negotiations are completed, the Client will promptly notify other consultants on the shortlist that they were unsuccessful and return the unopened Financial Proposals of those consultants who did not pass the technical evaluation (paragraph 5.3).</p> <p>The firm is expected to commence the assignment on the date and at the location specified in the Data Sheet.</p>
<p>8. Confidentiality</p>	<p>Information relating to the evaluation of proposals and recommendations concerning awards shall not be disclosed to the consultants who submitted the proposals or to other persons not officially concerned with the process, until the winning firm has been notified that it has been awarded the contract.</p>

Section 3: DATA SHEET

ITC Clause Reference	Information to Consultants (ITC)
ITC Clause 1.1	<p>The name of the Client is: African Union Scientific Technical and Research Commission</p> <p>The method of selection is: Quality and Cost Based Selection Method</p>
ITC Clause 1.2	<p>Financial Proposal shall be submitted together with the Technical Proposal, in separate sealed envelopes</p> <p>CONSULTANCY SERVICES OF A CONSULTING FIRM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COLLABORATIVE WEB PORTAL APPLICATION FOR THE AFRICAN UNION NETWORK OF SCIENCES (AUNS)</p> <p>RFP No: STRC/PRO/2024/1</p>
ITC Clause 1.5	<p>The Client will provide the following inputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background documentation for the project
ITC Clause 2.1	<p>Requests for clarification should be received by the Client no later than: Seven days to the deadline of the RFP. That is to be addressed to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Electronic mail address: SebleA@africa-union.org Copied to: GilbertB@africa-union.org</p> <p>With the subject matter: Clarification on RFP No: STRC/PRO/2024/1</p>
ITC Clause 3.1	<p>Proposals should be submitted in the English language using the standard templates provided under Section 4 and Section 5 of the RFP.</p>
ITC Clause 3.3(ii)	<p>The firm is to provide the estimated number of professional staff-months to perform the assignment within the timeframe that is spelt out in the Terms of References. The firm must clearly demonstrate the qualifications, experience and competences of the professional staff in the development of web and information management systems and platforms.</p>
ITC Clause 3.3(iv)	<p>The minimum required experience of proposed expert professional staff is: 10 years for Team Leader and 5 years for other experts.</p>
ITC Clause 3.3(vi)	<p>Reports that are required under the assignment shall be submitted in the English language.</p>
ITC Clause 3.4(viii)	<p>Additional information that maybe required in the development of the Technical Proposal are available under Section 6 “Terms of Reference (TORs)” of the RFP</p>
ITC Clause 3.10	<p>Proposals must remain valid for 90 days after the closing date</p>
ITC Clause 4.3	<p>The Consultant must submit the Technical and Financial proposals separately sealed but enclosed in one outer envelope as follows:</p> <p>(a) Technical Proposal: one (1) original and three (3) copies; (b) Financial Proposal: one (1) original and three (3) copies.</p> <p>The top left side on each envelope should be clearly labelled as Financial Proposal or Technical Proposal.</p>

ITC Clause 4.4	<p>The address for submission of proposals is:</p> <p>The Local Procurement Committee African Union Scientific Technical and Reseach Commission Plot 114 Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro Abuja, Nigeria PMB 5368 Wuse Zone 2, Abuja Nigeria</p> <p>E-mail submissions will not be allowed.</p>
ITC Clause 4.5	<p>Proposals must be submitted no later than 16:00 hours (+ 1 GMT) on 29 March, 2024</p>
ITC Clause 5.3	<p>The number of points to be given under each of the technical evaluation criteria are:</p> <p>Firm’s Strength (Operational Capacity) – 40 points</p> <p>Methodology and Work Plan (Technical Capacity) – 50 points</p> <p>General Aspects – 10 points</p> <p>Total Points – 100 points</p> <p>The minimum technical score required to pass is: 70 points.</p>
ITC Clause 5.7	<p>The single currency for the conversion of all prices expressed in various currencies into a single one is: United States Dollar (USD).</p> <p>The official source of the selling (exchange) rate is: UN Rates of Exchange</p> <p>The date of exchange rates is the deadline for the submission</p>

ITC Clause 5.8	<p>The formula for determining the financial scores is: $Sf = 100 \times Fm/F$</p> <p>Where Sf is the financial score, Fm is the lowest price and F the price of the proposal under consideration.</p> <p>The weights given to the technical and Financial Proposals are:</p> <p>Technical = 80% and</p> <p>Financial = 20%</p>
ITC Clause 6.1	<p>Negotiations will be held at:</p> <p>The Local Procurement Committee African Union Scientific Technical and Research Commission Plot 114 Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro Abuja, Nigeria</p> <p>Or virtually incase the winning bidder is outside the HQ of the AU-STRC upon the request of the bidder</p>
ITC Clause 7.2	<p>The assignment is to be commenced immediately and not later than five working days from the contract signing date.</p>

Section 4: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL - STANDARD FORMS

- 4A. Technical Proposal submission form.
- 4B. Firm's references.
- 4C. Comments and suggestions of consultants on the Terms of Reference and on data, services, and facilities to be provided by the Client.
- 4D. Description of the methodology and work plan for performing the assignment.
- 4E. Team composition and task assignments.
- 4F. Format of curriculum vitae (CV) for proposed professional staff.
- 4G. Time schedule for professional personnel.
- 4H. Activity (work) schedule.
- 4I. Audit Reports and Financial Statements

4A. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

{Location, Date}

To: {Name and address of Client}

Sir / Madam:

We, the undersigned, offer to provide the consulting services for {Title of consulting services and Procurement Number} in accordance with your Request for Proposals dated {Date} and our Proposal. We are hereby submitting our Proposal, which includes this Technical Proposal, and a Financial⁶ Proposal sealed under a separate envelope.

We declare that we have no conflict of interest as defined by Section 1.7 of the Information to Consultants in relationship to performance of this assignment.

If negotiations are held during the period of validity of the Proposal, i.e., before {Date} we undertake to negotiate on the basis of the proposed staff. Our Proposal is binding upon us and subject to the modifications resulting from Contract negotiations.

We understand you are not bound to accept any Proposal you receive.

We remain,

Yours sincerely,

Authorised Signature:

Name and Title of Signatory:

Name of Firm:

Address:

⁶ In Quality-Based Selection, the proposal may include only a Technical Proposal. If this is the case, delete "and a Financial Proposal sealed under a separate envelope."

4B. FIRM'S REFERENCES

Relevant Services Carried Out in the Last Five Years That Best Illustrate Qualifications

Using the format below, provide information on each assignment for which your firm/entity, either individually as a corporate entity or as one of the major companies within an association, was legally contracted.

Assignment Name:		Country:
Location within Country:		Professional Staff Provided by Your Firm/Entity(profiles):
Name of Client:		No. of Staff:
Address:		No. of Staff-Months; Duration of Assignment:
Start Date (Month/Year):	Completion Date (Month/Year):	Approx. Value of Services (in Current US\$):
Name of Associated Consultants, If Any:		No. of Months of Professional Staff Provided by associated Consultants:
Name of Senior Staff (Project Director/Coordinator, Team Leader) Involved and Functions Performed:		
Narrative Description of Project:		
<i>NB: For the purpose of verification, attach the link for the project</i>		
Description of Actual Services Provided by Your Staff:		

Firm's Name: _____

4C. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS OF CONSULTANTS ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ON DATA, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

On the Terms of Reference:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

On the data, services, and facilities to be provided by the Client:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

4D. DESCRIPTION OF THE METHODOLOGY AND WORK PLAN FOR PERFORMING THE ASSIGNMENT

4E. TEAM COMPOSITION AND TASK ASSIGNMENTS (FIRM'S ORGANOGRAM)

1. Technical/Managerial Staff		
Name	Position	Task

2. Support Staff		
Name	Position	Task

4F. FORMAT OF CURRICULUM VITAE (CV) FOR PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Proposed Position: _____

Name of Firm: _____

Name of Staff: _____

Profession: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Years with Firm/Entity: _____ Nationality: _____

Membership in Professional Societies: _____

Detailed Tasks Assigned: _____

Key Qualifications:

{Give an outline of staff member's experience and training most pertinent to tasks on assignment. Describe degree of responsibility held by staff member on relevant previous assignments and give dates and locations. Use about half a page.}

Education:

{Summarize college/university and other specialized education of staff member, giving names of schools, dates attended, and degrees obtained. Use about one quarter of a page.}

Languages:

{For each language indicate proficiency: excellent, good, fair, or poor in speaking, reading, and writing.}

Employment Record:

{Starting with present position, list in reverse order every employment held. List all positions held by staff member since graduation, giving dates, names of employing organizations, titles of positions held, and locations of assignments. For experience in last ten years, also give types of activities performed and client references, where appropriate. Use about two pages.}

Certification:

I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, these data correctly describe me, my qualifications, and my experience.

_____ Date: _____
{Signature of staff member and authorized representative of the firm} Day/Month/Year

Full name of staff member: _____

Full name of authorised representative: _____

4G. TIME SCHEDULE FOR PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

Name	Position	Reports Due/Activities	Months (in the Form of a Bar Chart)												Number of Months	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
																Subtotal (1)
																Subtotal (2)
																Subtotal (3)
																Subtotal (4)

Full-time: {key} Part-time: {key}
 Reports Due: {key}
 Activities Duration: {key}

Signature: _____
 {Authorised representative}
 Full Name: _____
 Title: _____
 Address: _____

NB: The first six months is for inception, software development and enhancement, documentation, while the technical support and maintenance will be for the subsequent six months starting from the launching of the portal.

4H. ACTIVITY (WORK) SCHEDULE

A. Field Investigation and Study Items													
	<i>[1st, 2nd, etc. are months from the start of assignment.]</i>												
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	
Activity (Work)													

The Activities should be guided by 8.0 and 9.0 under Section 6 (Terms of Reference)

B. Completion and Submission of Reports	
Reports	Date
1. Inception Report	
2. Other reports are spelt out in 8.0 and 9.0 under Section 6 (to be listed by the firm) in addition to any other reports that may benefit the Client and/or enhance the benefits to be gained from the project.	
3. Draft Final Report	
4. Final Report	

NB: In developing the Activity (Work) Schedule, the Deliverables in the Terms of References of this Request for Proposal should be considered

4I. AUDIT REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The firm is requested to submit recent audit and financial reports and statements for the last three years

Section 5: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL - STANDARD FORMS

- 5A. Financial Proposal submission form.
- 5B. Summary of costs.
- 5C. Breakdown of price per activity.
- 5D. Breakdown of remuneration per activity.
- 5F. Miscellaneous expenses.

5A. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

{Date}

To: {Name and address of Client}

Sir / Madam:

We, the undersigned, offer to provide the consulting services for {Title of consulting services and Procurement Number} in accordance with your Request for Proposals dated {Date} and our Proposal (Technical and Financial Proposals). Our attached Financial Proposal is for the sum of {Amount in words and figures}. This amount is exclusive of the local taxes which shall be identified during negotiations and shall be added to the above amount.

Our Financial Proposal shall be binding upon us subject to the modifications resulting from Contract negotiations, up to expiration of the validity period of the Proposal, i.e., {Date*}.

Commissions and gratuities, if any, paid or to be paid by us to agents relating to this Proposal and Contract execution, if we are awarded the Contract, are listed below:

Name and Address of Agents	Amount and Currency	Purpose of Commission or Gratuity
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

We understand you are not bound to accept any Proposal you receive.

Yours sincerely,

Authorised Signature:
Name and Title of Signatory:
Name of Firm:
Address:

* Recall that the Financial Proposal must remain valid for **90 days** after the closing date

5B. SUMMARY OF COSTS

Cost Elements per Activity*	Currency(ies) ⁷	Amount(s)
Total Amount of Financial Proposal		<hr/>

The total amount of the Financial Proposal in words and in figures:

** All the activities to be performed and their lumpsum cost are to be guided by 8.0 and 9.0 under Section 6*

⁷ Maximum of three currencies in addition to the Currency of the Country specified for performance of the Services.

5C. BREAKDOWN OF PRICE PER ACTIVITY

Activity No.: _____

Description: _____

Price Component	Currency(ies)	Amount(s)
		<hr/>

** This breakdown is to be guided by the Cost per Activity in 5B*

** Please use one sheet per activity*

5D. BREAKDOWN OF REMUNERATION PER ACTIVITY

Activity No. _____

Activity Name: _____

Names	Position	Input ⁸	Remuneration Currency(ies) Rate	Amount
Regular staff				
Local staff				
Consultants				
Grand Total				_____

* This breakdown is the Cost of the needed Staffing per Activity which is identified under 5B

* Please use one sheet per activity

⁸ _____
Staff months, days, or hours as appropriate.

5F. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

Activity No. _____

Activity Name: _____

Item No.	Description	Unit	Quantity	Currency	Unit Price	Total Amount

** This table of Miscellaneous Expenses can be used if need be*

Section 6: TERMS OF REFERENCES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The African Union, established as a unique Pan African continental body, is charged with spearheading Africa's rapid integration and sustainable development by promoting unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States as well as developing a new partnership worldwide. The Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (STRC) of the African Union is a specialized technical institution of the African Union with a long history, at the vanguard of promotion of science and technology in the past 6 decades at the continental level. The STRC serves as the secretariat of the African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC).

Knowledge development and utilization is one of the strategic objectives of the STRC to achieve an African knowledge-based society, as part of the Science Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024). In accordance with the Article 7 (II) (d) of ASRIC Statute - "support and promote the establishment of pan African platforms connecting institutions networks, and other actors to strengthen synergies and scientific knowledge exchange", the African Union Network of Sciences (AUNS) is required to be established and has been recognized as an ASRIC flagship project by the ASRIC Congress and Bureau.

AUNS is a virtual network that involves a wide range of individuals working together to address the African Science and Technology challenges. It is a platform where African Scientist, Engineers, Technology Developers, Innovators and Inventors will be able to interact, cooperate, exchange information/knowledge and complement one another in research and academic work. Also, it is a breaking through to introduce the virtual lab, virtual library and open source to the African Scientists.

The goal of the network is to: (a) to enrich the African knowledge Society and to post the African Research and Innovation outputs and to uplift the intra Africa cooperation in Science, Technology and Research; and (b) to improve the quality and the application of science, technology and innovation through promoting and sharing experiences and virtual learning for development; a concept paper is attached for additional information.

Against this backdrop, the African Union STRC invites call for proposal for the services of a reputable IT Consultancy Firm for the development of a collaborative Web application portal, for the African Union Network of Sciences.

2.0 PROJECT

The project falls under AU-STRC priority action: 'The African Knowledge Bank is enriched and Intra Africa Cooperation in Science, Technology and Research is boosted' and aims to develop a collaborative Web application portal for the African Union Network of Sciences. This aligns with the overarching objective of the African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC) of mobilizing research excellence to advance Africa's development agenda and in shaping intra-Africa research collaboration.

3.1 SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENT

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the portal covers the entire system architecture and technology with emphasis on vital aspects such as security, performance, hosting, and overall design. The system to be developed will also address the challenges and shortcomings. Therefore, the following guidelines must be recognized and adopted as part of the scope of the assignment.

High Level Functionality

The system should have the following functionality:

- Signup: Integration with Oauth for single sign-on via Facebook, Google, Microsoft accounts will be highly desirable.
- Login functionality.
- Enable password reset for forgotten passwords prior to login.
- User home page or dashboard which provides access to other resources based on the users' role.
- User profile page for updating personal information including user photograph among others.
- Be able to follow users and vice-versa.
- Be able to post status updates
- Receive activity notification
- Engage in instant one-on-one chats and group chats

- Messaging capabilities.

System Architecture

The system is grouped into three (3) main categories: the database layer, the business domain and service layer and finally, the presentation layer.

1. Database layer

All textual data generated from the system must be stored on a database. Other formats of data such as images, audio and video files must be stored on a separate datastore such as AWS S3, Google Cloud Storage, Microsoft Azure and Rackspace. The choice and specifications for database technology is outlined in the Technology Requirements section under Database.

2. Business domain and service layer

This is the server side of the application which should have two components. The business domain or business logic which is responsible for the application logic and the service layer which exposes the logics as RESTful Web service endpoints. This is outlined in the Technology Requirements under RESTful Web services.

3. Presentation layer

The presentation layer should have a simple and elegant user interface and must deliver a compelling user experience. It should be highly responsive on all pages regardless of screen size it is being displayed upon and compatible with all popular Internet browser applications. It should strictly adhere to the theme, colours, fonts and capture the underlying essence of AUNS.

Technology Requirements

The system should be built using either of the following technologies:

Server / Client Side

- Java Enterprise Editions (Java EE) with Java EE or Spring Boot frameworks for Server.
- PHP with Laravel framework
- Python with Django framework
- Node JS with Express framework
- ASP.NET

Client side

- Angular 2 JS
- React JS
- Vue JS

RESTful Web services

To ensure data transfer between client and server, the following principles should be adhered to:

- Resource identification through URI
- Uniform interface. (PUT, GET, POST, DELETE)
- Self-descriptive messages
- Stateful interactions through hyperlinks

Database

- Mysql Server (latest stable version)
- Postgres SQL (latest stable version)
- MongoDB

Security

The three A's in security must be adopted as follows:

1. Authentication

Each user must have a user ID and a password to access the platform. All passwords must be at least 8 characters long, include numbers, symbols, capital letters, and lower-case letters. This should be enforced on sign-up and resetting of passwords by users.

2. Authorization

The system should have clearly defined user roles and privileges which will serve as different access levels. This should be an integral part of the design. The overall system admin should be able to create custom roles and privileges and assign to users as per the requirements of the system.

3. Accounting

This system should always store a comprehensive and activity log for auditing on operations performed on any accounts. These logs should include date time, user info, activity performed, OS type, network information, etc.

Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)

The hosted website host have an SSL certificate registered.

Data encryption

All sensitive data such user passwords, answer to security questions stored on databases must be encrypted using strong encryption techniques such as Bcrypt, etc.

2 - Layer Input validation

The system should not only have input validations on the client side, but there has to be corresponding checks on data validity at the server end. This should include access level check, data size constraints etc.

Data Backup and Recovery

There has to be an efficient data backup and recovery plan implemented.

Software Engineering Best Practices

The engineering best practices for the project include:

- Well-structured and normalized Database schema that conforms to the Third Normal Form (3NF) standard.
- A complete continuous integration and continuous delivery (CI, CD) pipeline with staging and production environments.
- Agile development methodology and a tool to manage track and assign tasks. Recommended tools are: JIRA, Trello, Bugzilla or any other tool of the same calibre.
- Source Code Management (SCM) platform for collaboration and peer reviews. Recommended platforms are Github, Bitbucket and GitLab.
- Integration of static code analysis tools for code quality. The following should be integrated:
 - Findbugs (For JAVA platforms)
 - Checkstyle (All platforms)
 - PMD (All platforms)
 - Coverity / Jacoco
 - Sonarqube

Hosting

Hosting should be on an elastic cloud platform with robust architecture for auto scaling, load balancing, health check monitoring, cost management etc. The AU-STRC is interested in reputable cloud hosting providers such as Amazon AWS, Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure, etc.

The firm will work with the AU-STRC to identify the best cloud hosting options, and the optimal hosting requirements. The firm will configure and upload the application portal on the cloud server. The firm will advise on the future requirements for hosting envisioning the increase growth in usage of the application.

Backup and Maintenance

The data will be backed up also on a cloud server. The firm is to ensure and guarantee a seamless integration of all functions of the application portal including database replication and the implementation of master-slave relationship with the Cloud server for real time/heart- beat backup of the system.

Technical support

Provide technical support and on-site assistance to resolve technical and other related problems of the web application portal to the satisfaction of the AU-STRC within four hours after it was reported by the STRC through telephone or email for the period of the maintenance (6 months starting after the official launch of the AUNS application) at no additional cost.

ADDITIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Analysis and reflection of the user requirements identified and development of a requirement document in consultation with AU-STRC;
2. Development of a systems and architectural design document the general system organization, menu structures, data structures, business scenarios, entity diagrams, the list of modules and their functionality, interface relationships, dependencies and database tables, etc.;
3. Development of the AUNS application, basing on the appropriate software engineering, scientific and mathematical models/analysis;
4. Testing the application and the delivery of test analysis reports for determining the quality assurance of the application are to be developed. The testing will be carried out in conjunction with the AU-STRC;
5. Installation and adaptation of the software application developed on to a reputable cloud hosting platform, taking into consideration aspects such as load balancing, etc.;
6. Provide installation and configuration of the hardware, software applications for the backup system and assume a primary role in the testing of the entire backup system;
7. Implement information assurance/security best practices in the development of the portal and the backup system. Ensure robust Information Security procedures and principles pertaining to relevant data protection and confidentiality aspects.
8. Provide technical knowledge and recommendations to AU-STRC as required including the evaluation of the hardware and software options that would cater for the AUNS application;
9. Develop technical reports, user manuals reports pertaining to the application.
10. Develop a technical report on the possible future architecture of the application envisioning the growth of the AUNS five years ahead.
11. Present an adequate maintenance support plan for maintenance of the application. The firm must commit to providing technical support and maintenance of the system for a period of six months starting after the launch of the AUNS application at no additional cost.
12. Perform maintenance of the application, considering the changes in technologies for upgrades and performance tuning during the maintenance period.
13. Deliver and guarantee faultless system synchronization of all aspects of the entire application portal.
14. Perform any other duties related to the scope of the assignment that will ensure the smooth running of the application portal.

4.0 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The action plan on how to achieve the tasks will be developed by the firm as part of the contract in consultation with the AU-STRC. More specific details and complimentary documents will be availed during this consultation.

5.0 TIME LINE

1. The time period of the assignment is for a period of six (6) months from the date of signing the contract
2. The maintenance of the application for six (6) months beginning from starting after the launch of the AUNS application.

6.0 EXPERTISE REQUIREMENTS

1. African owned firms with demonstrable experience in designing, developing, testing, and implementing information systems and web applications, and preference for organizations with additional proven experience implementing systems according to ISO standards and best practices pertaining to digital repositories.
2. The firm should include and illustrate the managerial and technical capacity to implement the scope of assignment including resumes of key staff, highlighting skills and experiences related to carrying out the proposal
3. The firm should submit an organizational chart (organogram) for the wider organization including the staffing structure for the implementation of the project as per the scope of assignment.
4. The firm should submit recent financial statements (within the last 3 years) and any reports to demonstrate the financial strength of the firm.
5. The firm should provide a 1–2-page executive summary from three consecutive audit years. If relevant, submit a copy of national registration, incorporation or other documentation showing legal status of operation in a Member State within the African Union.
6. Demonstrable experience working with international organizations and/or in several of the 55 Member States of Africa is an added advantage.

7.0 LICENSE AND COPYRIGHT

AU-STRC shall hold all copyrights and license(s) of the entire web application portal.

8.0 DELIVERABLES

The deliverables shall include the following:

1. Inception Report:
 - a) The inception report will indicate the requirement technical and functional specifications of the application portal.
2. Software Development and Enhancement:
 - a) A fully functional application portal including database and website, with user friendly GUI and a dashboard to provide clear data analysis and statistical reports.
 - b) A seamless integration of all functions of the application and the implementation of master-slave relationship with local server for backup purposes as per the scope of the assignment
3. Documentation:
 - a) Operational and user manual of the application portal.
 - b) All source code for the application portal in a softcopy format.
 - c) A systems, network, database administration and security management report for the application portal
 - d) Work report of the project
 - e) Change control/management procedure
 - f) Technical report on the possible future architecture the application
4. Technical Support and maintenance:
 - a) Maintenance action plan for the entire system including the application portal and backup process for the AUNS for six (6) months after the launch of the AUNS system
 - b) Training to the AU-STRC on the design and administration of the AUNS application portal

9.0 TERMS OF PAYMENT

The terms of payment will be result-based on the deliverables specified in 8.0 subject to approval by the AU-STRC project manager for the AUNS as follows:

	DELIVERABLE	PAYMENT
1	Inception Report	10%
2	Software Development and Enhancement	45%
	Development of full functional application after testing of application	25%
	Implementation of the backup mechanism with the seamless integration of the application	20%
3	Documentation	25%
4	Technical support and maintenance (To be paid 6 months after the launch of the AUNS portal)	20%
	TOTAL	100%

10.0 EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be examined and evaluated by an Evaluation Team under the authority of the African Union. All actions submitted by firms will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria.

Step 1: Opening & Administrative Checks

The following will be assessed:

1. The submission deadline has been respected. If the deadline has not been respected the application will automatically be rejected.
2. Completeness of the Application to meet all the criteria specified in 6.0 of this proposal guidelines.
3. The quality of firms' efforts to address the purpose and intent of the application.

Step 2: Evaluation of the Application

The selection and award criteria allow the quality of the applications submitted to be evaluated in relation to the set objectives and priorities. The selection of applications will be based on the firms' ability and willingness to comply with the objectives and priorities, set out in the Request for Proposal.

The bids applications will include a technical proposal and a financial proposal and the Evaluators of technical proposals shall have no access to the financial proposals until the technical evaluation is completed. The technical proposal shall not include any financial information and the financial proposal must list all costs associated with the assignment.

Evaluation Criteria for the Technical Proposal

		Score
i)	Firm's Strength (Operational capacity): Demonstrate experience in building strong web platforms and information management systems that to support information exchange including services such as reporting, monitoring and evaluation; and activities forecast?	40
1	Are the services carried in the last five years by the firm relevant to the scope of the assignment and were completed successfully	10
2	Does the services carried in the last five years by the firm (links those attached) comply with the expected quality in executing the scope of the assignment	15
3	The last 3 years audit reports and financial statements presented by the firm demonstrate the financial strength of the firm?	10
4	An organogram of the firm as specified in section 6 Para 6.3 demonstrate the relevance and competences of the staff to perform to the assignment	5
ii)	Methodology and Workplan (Technical Capacity): Demonstration of the firm's capability of executing the scope of the assignment and delivering in accordance with the time schedule	50
1	Methodology and work plan presented by the firm documenting a clear proof that the firm is capable to perform the scope of assignment?	30
2	Do the curricula vitae (CVs) of the firm's assembled team demonstrate the capability to perform the scope of the assignment and to execute successfully the methodology and work plan presented by the firm.	20
iii)	General Aspects	10
1	Does the firm document experience working with international organizations and/or working in at least two of the 55 Member States of African Union?	5
2	The clarity and organization of the documents submitted under this bid	5
	Total Score	100

The minimum technical score required to pass is: 70 points

Weights for combined evaluation

Technical Weight is 80%

Financial Weight is 20%

After the evaluation of technical quality is completed, the AU-STRC shall notify those firms whose proposals did not meet the minimum qualifying score or were considered non-responsive to the Request for Proposal. The notification may be sent by registered letter or electronic mail.

The Financial Proposals shall be opened publicly in the presence of the firm's representatives who choose to attend. The name of the consultant, the firm's scores, and the proposed prices shall be read aloud and recorded as the Financial Proposals are opened.

The Evaluation Committee will determine whether the Financial Proposals are complete (i.e., whether they have cost all items of the corresponding Technical Proposals; if not, the AU-STRC may cost them and add their cost to the initial price or may reject them).

The firm to be awarded the contract will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method as set out in the African Union Procurement Manual.

In case of QCBS, the lowest priced Financial Proposal will be given a financial score (Sf) of 100 points. The financial scores (Sf) of the other Financial Proposals will be computed by dividing the lowest price Financial proposal by the price of the specific Financial Proposal and multiplying by 100%. Proposals will be ranked according to their combined technical (St) and financial (Sf) scores using the weights (T = the weighting for the Technical Proposal; P = the weighting for the Financial Proposal as indicated in the above. T + P = 1); The firm achieving the highest combined technical and financial score using the formula below would be invited for negotiations

$Score = St \times T\% + Sf \times P\%$

Having selected a firm to be awarded, the AU-STRC expects to conduct negotiations on the aspects of the technical proposal and/or financial proposal before signing the contract. If negotiations fail, the firm whose proposal received the second highest score will be invited to negotiate a Contract.

11.0 DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

All bid applications shall include a technical proposal and a financial proposal in three hard copies (one original and two photocopies). The financial proposal MUST be enclosed in a separate sealed envelope from the technical proposal. The technical and financial proposals must be delivered in TWO SEPARATE envelopes, with each envelope clearly marked with 'Financial proposal' or 'Technical proposal'; these should be enclosed in an OUTER envelope.

All the documents must reach the African Union Scientific Technical and Research Commission not later than **29 March, 2024: 16.00 hours (+1 GMT)** on the address below.

The Local Procurement Committee
African Union Scientific Technical and Research Commission
Plot 114 Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro
Abuja, Nigeria
PMB 5368 Wuse Zone 2, Abuja Nigeria

Clarification on the Request for Proposal

Any request a clarification concerning the Request for Proposal must be sent in writing by electronic mail to the addresses below not later than seven days before the deadline for the submission of the proposals

Email address: SebleA@africa-union.org

Copied to: GilbertB@africa-union.org

Note: No applications submitted by electronic mail will be accepted.

ANNEX 1: Checklist For Technical and Financial Submission

This checklist was developed to assist the firm in the accurate submission of the bid

a) CHECKLIST FOR TECHNICAL SUBMISSION

Certificate of incorporation/registration of firm by National Registration authorities	
Sworn affidavit or certification of notary public to prove ownership of firm	
Company Profile and general information	
Technical Proposal submission form (4A)	
Firm's references (4B)	
Evidence (Links) for proof of services in the last five years	
Description of the methodology and work plan for performing the assignment (4D)	
Team composition and task assignments (Organogram) (4E)	
Curriculum vitae (CV) for proposed professional staff (4F)	
Time schedule for professional personnel (4G)	
Activity (work) schedule (4H)	
Audit Reports and Financial Statements (4I)	

b) CHECKLIST FOR FINANCIAL SUBMISSION

Financial Proposal submission form (5A)	
Summary of costs (5B)	
Breakdown of price per activity (5C)	
Breakdown of remuneration per activity (5D)	
Miscellaneous expenses (5F)	

Section 7: DRAFT CONTRACT TEMPLATE

African Union
DRAFT
FORM OF CONTRACT

Consultant Services

[Title of the Assignment]

between

[Name of the Client]

and

[Name of the Consultants]

Procurement Number: _____

Dated: _____

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1. Form of Contract

This CONTRACT (hereinafter called the “Contract”) is made the [day] day of the month of [month], [year], between, on the one hand, [name of client] (hereinafter called the “Client”) and, on the other hand, [name of consultants] (hereinafter called the “Consultants”).

[Note: If the Consultants consist of more than one entity, the above should be partially amended to read as follows: “...(hereinafter called the “Client”) and, on the other hand, a joint venture consisting of the following entities, each of which will be jointly and severally liable to the Client for all the Consultants’ obligations under this Contract, namely, [name of consultants] and [name of consultants] (hereinafter called the “Consultants”).]

WHEREAS

- (a) the Client has requested the Consultants to provide certain consulting services as defined in the General Conditions of Contract attached to this Contract (hereinafter called the “Services”);
- (b) the Consultants, having represented to the Client that they have the required professional skills, and personnel and technical resources, have agreed to provide the Services on the terms and conditions set forth in this Contract;
- (c) the Client has received funding towards the cost of the Services and intends to apply a portion of this funding to eligible payments under this Contract;

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

1. The following documents attached hereto shall be deemed to form an integral part of this Contract:

- (a) The Special Conditions of Contract;
- (b) The General Conditions of Contract;
- (c) The following Appendices: *[Note: If any of these Appendices are not used, the words “Not Used” should be inserted below next to the title of the Appendix and on the sheet attached hereto carrying the title of that Appendix.]*

Appendix A: Description of the Services

Appendix B: Reporting Requirements

Appendix C: Key Personnel and Sub-Consultants

Appendix D: Breakdown of Contract Price in Foreign Currency

Appendix E: Breakdown of Contract Price in Local Currency

Appendix F: Services and Facilities Provided by the Client

Appendix G: Form of Bank Guarantee for Advance Payments

2. The mutual rights and obligations of the Client and the Consultants shall be as set forth in the Contract, in particular:

- (a) The Consultants shall carry out the Services in accordance with the provisions of the Contract; and

- (b) the Client shall make payments to the Consultants in accordance with the provisions of the Contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Contract to be signed in their respective names as of the day and year first above written.

For and on behalf of *[name of client]*

[Authorised Representative]

For and on behalf of *[name of consultants]*

[Authorised Representative]

[Note: If the Consultants consist of more than one entity, all these entities should appear as signatories, e.g., in the following manner:]

For and on behalf of each of the Members of the Consultants

[name of member]

[Authorised Representative]

[name of member]

[Authorised Representative]

2. General Conditions of Contract

1. General Provisions

1.1 Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms whenever used in this Contract have the following meanings:

- (a) “Applicable Law” means International Law;
- (b) “Contract” means the Contract signed by the Parties, to which these General Conditions of Contract (GCC) are attached, together with all the documents listed in Clause 1 of such signed Contract;
- (c) “Contract Price” means the price to be paid for the performance of the Services, in accordance with GCC Clause 6;
- (d) “Country specified for performance of the Services” means the Country specified in the SCC;
- (e) “Effective Date” means the date on which this Contract comes into force and effect pursuant to GCC Clause 2.1;
- (f) “Foreign Currency” means any currency other than Currency of the Country specified for performance of the Services;
- (g) “GCC” means these General Conditions of Contract;
- (h) “Local Currency” means the Currency of the Country specified for performance of the Services;
- (i) “Member,” in case the Consultants consist of a joint venture of more than one entity, means any of these entities; “Members” means all these entities, and “Member in Charge” means the entity specified in the SCC to act on their behalf in exercising all the Consultants’ rights and obligations towards the Client under this Contract;
- (j) “Party” means the Client or the Consultants, as the case may be, and “Parties” means both of them;
- (k) “Personnel” means persons hired by the Consultants or by any Sub-Consultant as employees and assigned to the performance of the Services or any part thereof. “Foreign Personnel” means such persons who at the time of being so hired had their domicile outside the Country specified for the performance of the Services. “Local Personnel” means such persons who at the time of being so hired had their domicile within the Country specified for performance of the Services. “Key Personnel” means the Personnel referred to in GCC Clause 4.2(a).
- (l) “SCC” means the Special Conditions of Contract by which the GCC may be amended or supplemented;
- (m) “Services” means the work to be performed by the Consultants pursuant to this Contract, as described in Appendix A hereto;

- (n) “Sub-Consultant” means any person or entity to whom/which the Consultants subcontract any part of the Services in accordance with the provisions of GCC Clauses 3.5 and 4.
- (o) “Third Party” means any person or entity other than the Client, the Consultants or a Sub-Consultant.

1.2 Law Governing the Contract This Contract, its meaning and interpretation, and the relation between the Parties shall be governed by the Applicable Law.

1.3 Language This Contract has been executed in the language specified in the SCC, which shall be the binding and controlling language for all matters relating to the meaning or interpretation of this Contract.

1.4 Notices Any notice, request, or consent made pursuant to this Contract shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been made when delivered in person to an authorised representative of the Party to whom the communication is addressed, or when to such Party at the address specified in the SCC.

1.5 Location The Services shall be performed at such locations as are specified in Appendix A and, where the location of a particular task is not so specified, at such locations as the Client may approve.

1.6 Authorised Representatives Any action required or permitted to be taken, and any document required or permitted to be executed, under this Contract by the Client or the Consultants may be taken or executed by the officials specified in the SCC.

1.7 Taxes & Duties

1.7.1 African Union Exemption from Taxes & Duties The African Union and its organs are exempted from all direct taxes, and are exempted from customs duties in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use in conformity with the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities. Accordingly, the Consultant authorises the Commission of the African Union (AUC) to deduct from payments any amount representing such taxes or duties charged to the African Union by the Consultant. In the event that any taxing authority refuses to accept the African Union’s exemption from such taxes or duties, the Consultant shall immediately consult with the AUC.

1.7.2 Consultant Obligations on Taxes & Duties A Consultant shall be responsible for obtaining exemption for the African Union of all such taxes, duties, license fees, and other impositions incurred within African Union Member States, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the AUC.

Consultants, Sub-Consultants, and their Personnel shall pay such other taxes, duties, fees, and other impositions as may be levied by the law of their domicile country.

2. Commencement, Completion, Modification, and Termination of Contract

2.1 Effectiveness of Contract This Contract shall come into force and effect on the date (the “Effective Date”) of the Client’s Letter of Acceptance instructing the Consultants to begin carrying out the Services. This notice shall confirm that the effectiveness conditions, if any, listed in the SCC have been met.

2.2 Commencement of Services The Consultants shall begin carrying out the Services thirty (30) days after the date the Contract becomes effective, or at such other date as may be specified in the SCC.

2.3 Expiration of Contract Unless terminated earlier pursuant to Clause 2.6, this Contract shall terminate at the end of such time period after the Effective Date as is specified in the SCC.

2.4 Modification Modification of the terms and conditions of this Contract, including any modification of the scope of the Services or of the Contract Price, may only be made by written agreement between the Parties.

2.5 Force Majeure

2.5.1 Definition

- (a) For the purposes of this Contract, “Force Majeure” means an event which is beyond the reasonable control of a Party and which makes a Party’s performance of its obligations under the Contract impossible or so impractical as to be considered impossible under the circumstances. Force Majeure includes, but is not limited to, war, riots, civil disorder, earthquake, fire, explosion, storm, flood or other adverse weather conditions, strikes, lockouts or other industrial action (except where such strikes, lockouts or other industrial action are within the power of the Party invoking Force Majeure to prevent), confiscation or any other action by government agencies.
- (b) Force Majeure shall not include (i) any event which is caused by the negligence or intentional action of a Party or such Party’s Sub-Consultants or agents or employees, nor (ii) any event which a diligent Party could reasonably have been expected to both: (a) take into account at the time of the conclusion of this Contract; and (b) avoid or overcome in the carrying out of its obligations under this Contract.
- (c) Force Majeure shall not include insufficiency of funds or failure to make any payment required under the Contract.

2.5.2 No Breach of Contract

The failure of a Party to fulfill any of its obligations under the contract shall not be considered to be a breach of, or default under, this Contract insofar as such inability arises from an event of Force Majeure, provided that the Party affected by such an event: (a) has taken all reasonable precautions, due care and reasonable alternative measures in order to carry out the terms and conditions of this Contract; and (b) has informed the other Party as soon as possible about the occurrence of such an event.

2.5.3 Extension of Time

Any period within which a Party shall, pursuant to this Contract, complete any action or task, shall be extended for a period equal to the time during which such Party was unable to perform such action as a result of Force Majeure.

2.5.4 Payments

During the period of their inability to perform the Services as a result of an event of Force Majeure, the Consultants shall be entitled to continue to be paid under the terms of this Contract, as well as to be reimbursed for additional costs reasonably and necessarily incurred by them during such period for the purposes of the Services and in reactivating the Service after

the end of such period.

2.6 Termination

2.6.1 By the Client

The Client may terminate this Contract, by not less than thirty (30) days' written notice of termination to the Consultants, to be given after the occurrence of any of the events specified in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this GCC Clause 2.6.1 and sixty (60) days' in the case of the event referred to in (e):

- (a) if the Consultants do not remedy a failure in the performance of their obligations under the Contract, within thirty (30) days after being notified or within any further period as the Client may have subsequently approved in writing;
- (b) if the Consultants become insolvent or bankrupt;
- (c) if, as the result of Force Majeure, the Consultants are unable to perform a material portion of the Services for a period of not less than sixty (60) days;
- (d) if the Consultant, in the judgment of the Client has engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices in competing for or in executing the Contract. For the purpose of this clause:

“corrupt practice”¹ is the offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party;

“fraudulent practice”² is any act or omission including a misrepresentation that knowingly or recklessly misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party to obtain a financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation;

“collusive practice”³ is an arrangement between two or more parties designed to achieve an improper purpose, including to influence improperly the actions of another party;

“coercive practice”⁴ is impairing or harming or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property

¹ “another party” refers to an officer of the AU acting in relation to the procurement process or contract execution. In this context, “officer of the AU” includes staff and employees of other organisations taking or reviewing procurement decisions.

² a “party” refers to any officer of the AU; the terms “benefit” and “obligation” relate to the procurement process or contract execution; and the “act or omission” is intended to influence the procurement process or contract execution.

³ “parties” refers to any participants in the procurement process (including officers of the AU) attempting to establish bid prices at artificial, non competitive levels.

⁴ a “party” refers to any participant in the procurement process or contract execution.

of the party to influence improperly the actions of a party;

“obstructive practice” is deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering or concealing of evidence material to any investigation or making false statements to investigators in order to materially impede any investigation into allegations of a corrupt, fraudulent, coercive or collusive practice; and/or threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation;

(e) if the Client, in its sole discretion, decides to terminate this Contract.

2.6.2 By the Consultants The Consultants may terminate this Contract, by not less than thirty (30) days’ written notice to the Client, such notice to be given after the occurrence of any of the events specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this GCC Clause 2.6.2:

- (a) if the Client fails to pay any monies due to the Consultants pursuant to this Contract and not subject to dispute pursuant to GCC Clause 7 within forty-five (45) days after receiving written notice from the Consultants that such payment is overdue; or
- (b) if, as the result of Force Majeure, the Consultants are unable to perform a material portion of the Services for a period of not less than sixty (60) days.

2.6.3 Payment upon Termination Upon termination of this Contract pursuant to GCC Clauses 2.6.1 or 2.6.2, the Client shall make the following payments to the Consultants:

- (a) remuneration pursuant to GCC Clause 6 for Services satisfactorily performed prior to the effective date of termination;
- (b) except in the case of termination pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) of GCC Clause 2.6.1, reimbursement of any reasonable cost incident to the prompt and orderly termination of the Contract, including the cost of the return travel of the Personnel and their eligible dependents.

2.7 Entire Agreement This Contract contains all covenants, stipulations and provisions agreed by the Parties. No agent or representative of either Party has authority to make, and the Parties shall not be bound by or be liable for, any statement, representation, promise or agreement not set forth within the Contract or written modifications thereto pursuant to GCC Clause 2.4.

3. Obligations of the Consultants

3.1 General

3.1.1 Standard of Performance The Consultants shall perform the Services and carry out their obligations with all due diligence, efficiency, and economy, in

accordance with generally accepted professional techniques and practices, and shall observe sound management practices, and employ appropriate advanced technology and safe methods. The Consultants shall always act, in respect of any matter relating to this Contract or to the Services, as faithful advisers to the Client, and shall at all times support and safeguard the Client's legitimate interests in any dealings with Sub-Consultants or Third Parties.

3.2 Conflict of Interests

- 3.2.1 Consultants Not to Benefit from Commissions, Discounts, etc. The remuneration of the Consultants pursuant to GCC Clause 6 shall constitute the Consultants' sole remuneration in connection with this Contract or the Services, and the Consultants shall not accept for their own benefit any trade commission, discount, or similar payment in connection with activities pursuant to this Contract or to the Services or in the discharge of their obligations under the Contract, and the Consultants shall use their best efforts to ensure that the Personnel, any Sub-Consultants, and agents of either of them similarly shall not receive any such additional remuneration.
- 3.2.2 Compliance with Procurement Rules If the Consultants, as part of the Services, have the responsibility of advising the Client on the procurement of goods, works or services, the Consultants shall comply with the African Union procurement regulations and at all times exercise such responsibility in the best interest of the Client. Any discounts or commissions obtained by the Consultants in the exercise of such procurement responsibility shall be for the account of the Client.
- 3.2.3 Consultants and Affiliates Not to be Otherwise Interested in Project The Consultants agree that, during the term of this Contract and after its termination, the Consultants and their affiliates, as well as any Sub-Consultant and any of its affiliates, shall be disqualified from providing goods, works, or services (other than the Services and any continuation thereof) for any project resulting from or closely related to the Services.
- 3.2.4 Prohibition of Conflicting Activities Neither the Consultants nor their Sub-Consultants nor the Personnel shall engage, either directly or indirectly, in any of the following activities:
- (a) during the term of this Contract, any business or professional activities in the Country specified for performance of the Services which would conflict with the activities assigned to them under this Contract; or
 - (b) after the termination of this Contract, such other activities as may be specified in the SCC.
- 3.3 Confidentiality The Consultants, their Sub-Consultants, and the Personnel of either of them shall not, either during the term or within two (2) years after the expiration of this Contract, disclose any proprietary or confidential information relating to the Project, the Services, this Contract, or the Client's business or

operations without the prior written consent of the Client.

3.4 Insurance to be Taken Out by the Consultants

The Consultants (a) shall take out and maintain, and shall cause any Sub-Consultants to take out and maintain, at their own cost but on terms and conditions approved by the Client, insurance against the risks, and for the coverage, specified in the SCC; and (b) at the Client's request, shall provide evidence to the Client showing that such insurance has been taken out and maintained and that the current premiums have been paid.

3.5 Consultants' Actions Requiring Client's Prior Approval

The Consultants shall obtain the Client's prior approval in writing before taking any of the following actions:

- (a) entering into a sub-contract for the performance of any part of the Services,
- (b) appointing such members of the Personnel not listed by name in Appendix C ("Key Personnel and Sub-Consultants"), and
- (c) any other action that may be specified in the SCC.

3.6 Reporting Obligations

The Consultants shall submit to the Client the reports and documents and software specified in Appendix B in the form, in the numbers, and within the periods set forth in the said Appendix.

3.7 Documents Prepared by the Consultants to Be the Property of the Client

All plans, drawings, specifications, designs, reports, other documents and software submitted by the Consultants in accordance with Clause 3.6 shall become and remain the property of the Client, and the Consultants shall, not later than upon termination or expiration of this Contract, deliver all such documents and software to the Client, together with a detailed inventory thereof. The Consultants may retain a copy of such documents and software. Restrictions about the future use of these documents, if any, shall be specified in the SCC.

4. Consultants' Personnel

4.1 Description of Personnel

The titles, agreed job descriptions, minimum qualifications, and estimated periods of engagement in the carrying out of the Services of the Consultants' Key Personnel are described in Appendix C. The Key Personnel and Sub-Consultants listed by title as well as by name in Appendix C are hereby approved by the Client.

4.2 Removal and/or Replacement of Personnel

- (a) Except as the Client may otherwise agree, no changes shall be made in the Key Personnel. If, for any reason beyond the reasonable control of the Consultants, it becomes necessary to replace any of the Key Personnel, the Consultants shall provide as a replacement a person of equivalent or better qualifications.
- (b) If the Client finds that any of the Personnel have (i) committed serious misconduct or have been charged with having committed a criminal action, or (ii) has reasonable cause to be dissatisfied with the performance of any of the Personnel, then the Consultants shall, at the Client's written request specifying the grounds thereof, provide as a replacement a person with qualifications and experience acceptable to the Client.

- (c) The Consultants shall have no claim for additional costs arising out of or incidental to any removal and/or replacement of Personnel.

5. Obligations of the Client

5.1 Assistance and Exemptions

Unless otherwise specified in the SCC, the Client shall use its best efforts to ensure that the African Union Commission shall:

- (a) provide the Consultants, Sub-Consultants and Personnel with work permits and such other documents as shall be necessary to enable the Consultants, Sub-Consultants or Personnel to perform the Services;
- (b) arrange for the Personnel and, if appropriate, their eligible dependents to be provided promptly with all necessary entry and exit visas, residence permits, exchange permits and any other documents required for their stay in the Country specified for performance of the Services;
- (c) facilitate prompt clearance through customs of any property required for the Services and of the personal effects of the Personnel and their eligible dependents;
- (d) issue to officials, agents and representatives of the African Union Commission all such instructions as may be necessary or appropriate for the prompt and effective implementation of the Services;
- (e) exempt the Consultants and the Personnel and any Sub-Consultants employed by the Consultants for the Services from any requirement to register or obtain any permit to practice their profession or to establish themselves either individually or as a corporate entity according to the Laws of the Country specified for performance of the Services;
- (f) grant to the Consultants, any Sub-Consultants and their Personnel the privilege, pursuant to the Applicable Law, of bringing into the Country specified for performance of the Services reasonable amounts of foreign currency for the purposes of the Services or for the personal use of the Personnel and their dependents, and of withdrawing any such amounts as may be earned therein by the Personnel in the execution of the Services

5.2 Modification of Contract Sum

If, after the date of this Contract, there is any change with respect to a failure by the Client to gain exemption from taxes and duties which increases the cost of the services rendered by the Consultants, then the remuneration and reimbursable expenses otherwise payable to the Consultants under this Contract shall be increased accordingly by agreement between the Parties, and corresponding adjustments shall be made to the ceiling amounts referred to in GCC Clauses 6.1 and 6.2.

5.3 Services and Facilities

The Client shall make available to the Consultants, free of any charge, the Services and Facilities listed under Appendix F.

6. Payments to the Consultants

- 6.1 Lump-Sum Remuneration** The Consultant's total remuneration shall not exceed the Contract Price and shall be a fixed lump-sum including all staff costs, Sub-Consultants' costs, printing, communications, travel, accommodation, and the like, and all other costs incurred by the Consultant in carrying out the Services described in Appendix A. Except as provided in GCC Clause 5.2, the Contract Price may only be increased above the amounts stated in GCC Clause 6.2 if the Parties have agreed to additional payments in accordance with GCC Clause 2.4.
- 6.2 Contract Price** (a) The price payable in foreign currency is set forth in the SCC.
(b) The price payable in local currency is set forth in the SCC.
- 6.3 Payment for Additional Services** For the purpose of determining the remuneration due for additional services as may be agreed under Clause 2.4, a breakdown of the lump-sum price is provided in Appendices D and E.
- 6.4 Terms and Conditions of Payment** Payments will be made to the account of the Consultants and according to the payment schedule stated in the SCC. Unless otherwise stated in the SCC, the first payment shall be an advance payment made against the provision by the Consultants of a bank guarantee for the same amount, and shall be valid for the period stated in the SCC. Any other payment shall be made after the conditions listed in the SCC for such payment have been met, and the Consultants have submitted an invoice to the Client specifying the amount due.
- 6.5 Interest on Delayed Payments** If the Client has delayed payments beyond ninety (90) days after receipt by the Client, interest shall be paid to the Consultants for each day of delay at the rate stated in the SCC.

7. Settlement of Disputes

- 7.1 Amicable Settlement** The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably all disputes arising out of or in connection with this Contract or its interpretation.
- 7.2 Dispute Settlement** Any dispute between the Parties as to matters arising pursuant to this Contract that cannot be settled amicably within thirty (30) days after receipt by one Party of the other Party's request for such amicable settlement may be submitted by either Party for settlement in accordance with the provisions specified in the SCC.

3. Special Conditions of Contract

Number of GCC Clause	Amendments of, and Supplements to, Clauses in the General Conditions of Contract
GCC Clause 1.1 (d)	The Country specified for performance of the Services is:
GCC Clause 1.3	The language of the contract is English
GCC Clause 1.4	The addresses for notices are: Client: _____ Attention: _____ e-mail: _____ Facsimile: _____ Consultants: _____ Attention: _____ e-mail: _____ Facsimile: _____
GCC Clause 1.6	The Authorised Representatives are: For the Client: _____ For the Consultants: _____
GCC Clause 1.7	The Client warrants that the Consultants, the Sub-Consultants and the Personnel shall be exempt from any local taxes, duties, fees, levies and other impositions imposed within the Country specified for performance of the Services on the Consultants, the Sub-Consultants and the Personnel in respect of: (a) any payments whatsoever made to the Consultants, Sub-Consultants and the Personnel (other than nationals or permanent residents of the Country specified for performance of the Services), in connection with the carrying out of the Services; (b) any equipment, materials and supplies brought into the Country specified for performance of the Services by the Consultants or Sub-Consultants for the purpose of carrying out the Services and which, after having been brought into the country, will be subsequently withdrawn therefrom by them; (c) any equipment imported for the purpose of carrying out the Services and paid for out of funds provided by the Client and which is treated as property of the Client; (d) any property brought into the Country specified for performance of the Services by the Consultants, any Sub-Consultants or the Personnel (other than nationals or permanent residents of the Country specified for performance of the Services), or the eligible dependents of such Personnel

for their personal use and which will subsequently be withdrawn therefrom by them upon their respective departure from the Country specified for performance of the Services, provided that:

- (1) the Consultants, Sub-Consultants and Personnel, and their eligible dependents, shall follow the usual customs procedures in importing property into the Country specified for performance of the Services; and
- (2) if the Consultants, Sub-Consultants or Personnel, or their eligible dependents, do not withdraw but dispose of any property in the Country specified for performance of the Services upon which customs duties and taxes have been exempted, the Consultants, Sub-Consultants or Personnel, as the case may be, shall bear such customs duties and taxes in conformity with the regulations of the Country specified for the performance of the Services.

[The issue of local taxes and duties must be discussed and agreed during negotiation in respect of whether the Consultants should have to pay levies of this kind, or should be exempted from any such levies.]

GCC Clause 2.1 The effectiveness of the Contract is subject to the following conditions:
[List any conditions of effectiveness of the Contract. If there are no effectiveness conditions, delete this Clause SCC 2.1 from the SCC.]

GCC Clause 2.3 The time period for expiration of the Contract shall be *[length of time]* or such other time period as the parties may agree in writing.

GCC Clause 3.4 The risks and insurance coverage shall be:

- (a) Third Party motor vehicle liability insurance in respect of motor vehicles operated in the Country specified for performance of the Services by the Consultants or their Personnel or any Sub-Consultants or their Personnel, with a minimum coverage of *[amount]*;
- (b) Third Party liability insurance, with a minimum coverage of *[amount]*;
- (c) professional liability insurance, with a minimum coverage of *[amount]*;
- (d) employer's liability and workers' compensation insurance in respect of the Personnel of the Consultants and of any Sub-Consultant, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Applicable Law, as well as, with respect to such Personnel, any such life, health, accident, travel or other insurance as may be appropriate; and
- (e) insurance against loss of or damage to (i) equipment purchased in whole or in part with funds provided under this Contract, (ii) the Consultants' property used in the performance of the Services, and (iii) any documents prepared by the Consultants in the performance of the Services.

GCC Clause 6.2(a) The amount in foreign currency or currencies is *[insert amount]*.

GCC Clause 6.2(b) The amount in Local Currency is *[insert amount]*.

GCC Clause 6.4 The bank accounts are:

for foreign currency: *[insert account]*

for local currency: *[insert account]*

Payments shall be made according to the following schedule:

[Insert the payment schedule and conditions specifically drafted for this contract.]

Payments shall be made within *[number]* days of receipt of the invoice and the relevant documents specified in Clause 6.4 and within *[number]* days in the case of the final payment.

GCC Clause 6.5 The annual interest rate is *[percentage]*.

GCC Clause 7.2 Settlement of Disputes:

[Note: (a) should always be retained for a Contract with a foreign Supplier (b) is an alternative that may be substituted for a Contract with a Consultant who is a National of the Country specified for the performance of the Services:]

[Example Clauses:]

(a) Contract with a foreign Supplier:

Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Contract, or breach, termination or invalidity thereof, shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules as at present in force.

(b) Contracts with Consultant firm that is national of the Country specified for performance of the Services:

In the case of a dispute between the Client and a Consultant who is a national of the Country specified for performance of the Services, any dispute shall be settled in accordance with arbitration procedures as agreed between the parties during contract negotiations.

[The arbitration procedures that will apply should be agreed during contract negotiations, and only applicable clauses should be retained in the SCC.]

In any arbitration proceeding hereunder:

- (a) unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, proceedings shall be held in *[location]*;
- (b) the English language shall be the official language for all purposes, with interpretation to other AU working languages when necessary; and
- (c) the decision of the sole arbitrator or of a majority of the arbitrators (or of the third arbitrator if there is no such majority) shall be final and binding.

4. Appendices

Appendix A—Description of the Services

[Give detailed descriptions of the Services to be provided, dates for completion of various tasks, place of performance for different tasks, specific tasks to be approved by the Client, etc.]

Appendix B—Reporting Requirements

[List format, frequency, and contents of reports; persons to receive them; dates of submission; etc. If no reports are to be submitted, state here “Not applicable.”]

Appendix C—Key Personnel and Sub-Consultants

[List under:

- C-1 Titles [and names, if already available], detailed job descriptions and minimum qualifications of foreign Personnel to be assigned to work in the Country specified for performance of the Services, and staff-months for each.*

- C-2 Same as C-1 for Key foreign Personnel to be assigned to work outside the Country specified for performance of the Services.*

- C-3 Same information as C-1 for Key local Personnel.]*

- C-4 List of approved Sub-Consultants (if already available); same information with respect to their Personnel as in C-1 or C-2.*

Appendix D—Breakdown of Contract Price in Foreign Currency

[List here the elements of cost used to arrive at the breakdown of the lump-sum price—foreign currency portion:

- 1. Monthly rates for Personnel (Key Personnel and other Personnel).*
- 2. Reimbursable expenditures.*

This appendix will exclusively be used for determining remuneration for any additional services.]

Appendix E—Breakdown of Contract Price in Local Currency

[List here the elements of cost used to arrive at the breakdown of the lump-sum price—local currency portion:

- 1. Monthly rates for Personnel (Key Personnel and other Personnel).*
- 2. Reimbursable expenditures.*

This appendix will exclusively be used for determining remuneration for additional services.]

Appendix F—Services and Facilities Provided by the Client

[List Services, facilities, property and counterpart personnel to be made available to the Consultants by the Client.]

Appendix G—Form of Bank Guarantee for Advance Payments

[Note: See Clause GCC 6.4. The Client should insert here an acceptable form of a bank guarantee. An example is set forth below.]

TO: *{Name and Address of Client}*
 {Name of Contract for Consultants' Services}

Sir / Madam:

In accordance with the provisions of Clause GCC 6.4) of the above-mentioned Contract (hereinafter called “the Contract”), *{name and address of Consultant}*(hereinafter called “the Consultants”) shall deposit with *{name of Client}* a bank guarantee to guarantee their proper and faithful performance under the said provisions of the Contract in an amount of *{amount of Guarantee}*, *{amount of Guarantee in words}*.³

We, the *{bank or financial institution}*, as instructed by the Consultants, agree unconditionally and irrevocably to guarantee as primary obligor and not as Surety merely, the payment to *{name of Client}* on his first demand without whatsoever right of objection on our part and without his first claim to the Consultants, in the amount not exceeding *{amount of Guarantee}*, *{amount of Guarantee in words}*.

We further agree that no change or addition to or other modification of the terms of the Contract which may be made between *{name of Client}* and the Consultants, shall in any way release us from any liability under this guarantee, and we hereby waive notice of any such change, addition or modification.

This guarantee shall remain valid and in full effect from the date of the advance payment under the Contract until *{state conditionality for discharge of the bank guarantee as indicated in GCC Clause 6.4 and the SCC}*.

Yours truly,

Name, Signature and Seal

Name of Bank/Financial Institution

Address

Date

³ An amount is to be inserted by the bank or financial institution as specified in SCC Clause GCC 6.4.