

AFRICAN UNION

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CALL FOR CONSULTANCY/THEMATIC EXPERTS ON POLITICAL AND ELECTION ANALYSIS

APP REF: AUC/PAPS/CMD/C/018

ORGANIZATION:

The African Union (AU), established in 2002 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 fostering international cooperation. Its Headquarters is located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

BACKGROUND:

The Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa adopted in 2002 and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) which was adopted in 2007 and came into force in 2012 assign responsibility to the African Union to contribute and promote peaceful, democratic and credible electoral processes in Africa. Current efforts at discharging such a democracy and electoral mandate include the deployment of pre-election assessment missions, high level political missions, long and short-term election observer missions and post-election follow up missions to Member States. Additionally, Article 18 of the ACDEG provides that Member States can request for advisory and technical assistance to strengthen and develop electoral institutions and processes and that, in consultation with the Member States, the Commission may send special advisory missions to provide similar assistance.

Based on such an expand democracy and elections mandate of the AUC, it is crucial that its capacity to track and acquaint itself to political and electoral processes in the five regions of the continent is strengthened. Such strengthening of capacity has the potential to ensure that the decisions on political and electoral developments and support extended to Member States is not only informed but up to date. The technical assistance set to be provided through the consultants will therefore complement already existing mechanisms and processes that aid in data collection and analysis that feed into decisions on political affairs, peace and security at the African Union Commission.

SCOPE OF THE SERVICE:

The Political and Election Analyst will provide technical support and expertise on issues around political and electoral assistance, electoral management, voter education, voting operations, parties and candidates, inclusive electoral-processes, role of civil society in elections, amongst others, in the various ongoing processes related to peace and security, the

convening of a national dialogue process, governance etc., within and beyond the transitional period.

He/she will be responsible for the following duties:

- a) Undertake a comprehensive political analysis of the political and electoral process and assess the dynamics and genuine competitiveness and fairness of the electoral process before, during and after elections.
- b) Provide technical support in the implementation of electoral assistance programs in the following areas, including: drafting and/or reform of the electoral legal framework, complaints and dispute resolution, overall process management, civic and voter education, and support to political parties and civil society in the electoral process;
- c) Constantly monitor, evaluate, analyze and report on the political developments, stabilization, humanitarian and socio-economic issues, with the view to identifying potential conflict drivers, and make recommendations to Directorate of Governance and Conflict Prevention (DGCP) and the Directorate of Conflict Management (CMD) of the Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) Department at the AUC and its mechanisms (including the conflict prevention, mediation and dialogue structures) on relevant conflict mitigation and mediation strategies that can be undertaken;
- d) Support the relevant government officials or offices in carrying out their electoral mandate based on international best practices, including as outlined in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). This will include providing technical support in the implementation of strategies and programs to build or strengthen the capacity of the Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs);
- e) Analyze political and electoral events with a view to provide early warning advice to the relevant government officials and EMBs, anticipate their effect on the electoral process, and proposes solutions, based on comparative experience and international best practices, to any issues that may arise in the conduct of the process;
- f) Conduct (or support) capacity building and training programmes for national and/or regional stakeholders, including the civil society, in order to disseminate knowledge and guidance related to elections and electoral processes;
- g) Provide technical support and expertise on the effective management of public information, outreach and media relations, relating to the organizing of the electoral process, in order to ensure that the electorate is well and regularly informed, and that transparency is maintained throughout the process;
- h) Assist the PAPS Department, in designing, managing and evaluating inclusive long-term conflict prevention, mitigation and peacebuilding processes relevant to the country;
- i) Assess the inclusivity of the electoral process and ensure systematic gender, youth and marginalized/minorities/vulnerable groups mainstreaming in all aspects, including in their access to the ballot;
- j) Develop statistical and analytical tools for analysis of collected data as well as for comparative election results analysis, including good practices and lessons learned;

- k) Assess the legal, regulatory and administrative framework for political competition and election campaigning, including political parties, media, CSO and NGO registration as well as adherence to campaign finance regulations. Assess whether the framework allows for a genuine competition, level playing field and political pluralism;
- l) Contribute to the assessment on the human rights situation, in particular related to the freedom of association and assembly;
- m) Assess the role of the state security bodies during the whole electoral process;
- n) Assess the capacity of political parties and candidates to use the existing mechanism for redressing of electoral complaints;
- o) Assess whether the independence of institutions administering the election is respected by authorities and political parties;
- p) Develop timely and efficient communication mechanisms with, and provides regular reports to, the DGCP/CMD PAPS Department at the AUC;
- q) Assist in collecting and coordinating information/inputs from RECs/RMs, the UN, and other concerned stakeholders
- r) Assist in drafting various documents such as report, background notes and briefing notes to the management and senior officials as directed by the DGCP/CMD PAPS Department;
- s) Develop and maintain relations with government officials, political actors, EMBs and national stakeholders, as well as regional and international organizations engaged in the election process;
- t) Consider host country specific culturally sensitive issues and appropriate behavior to observe as an AU Expert/Analyst in the course of performing duty activities;
- u) Perform any other related duties as may be assigned by the DGCP/PAPS Department.

ORGANIZATIONAL SETTING AND REPORTING:

Working within the framework of the African Union, the **Political and Election Analyst** will be under the direct supervision of the Democracy and Elections Unit (DEU) of the Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate (DGCP)-Political Affairs Peace and Security Directorate (PAPS); and will also work closely with the AU Liaison Offices, Coordinators of each specific Regional Desk of the PAPS at the AUC Headquarters.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCES REQUIRED:

The qualified candidate should have:

- a) A Master's university Degree in Political Sciences, Law, Peace & Security Studies, International Studies, Public Policy, Public Administration, Social Studies, or other related disciplines, with at least 5 years relevant experience. A Bachelor degree in the above-mentioned fields with at least 7 years relevant experience will be considered in lieu of a Master's degree;

- b) Experience in a related field, especially in political analysis, monitoring and reporting, with Government, CSO, NGO, think tank, or similar multilateral, regional or international institution would be desirable;
- c) Additional trainings or certification in the field of election management, electoral assistance, or related areas would be an added advantage;
- d) Previous experience in implementing, supporting or advising on electoral processes is required;
- e) Electoral experience in a field operation of the AU, other Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) or the UN would be desirable;
- f) Knowledge or experience in the conflict prevention and management efforts of the AU, other Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) or the UN would be an added advantage;
- g) Experience in the promotion of institutional gender and youth mainstreaming in electoral related issues would be desirable.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES REQUIRED:

The qualified candidate should have:

- a) Good comparative knowledge and understanding of the national political landscape, stakeholders and developments in the host country, as well as the regional political dynamics influencing/impacting the country;
- b) Demonstrate in-depth understanding of and ability to evaluate electoral processes, and knowledge of all aspects of electoral processes, as well as their technical and political implications;
- c) Strong analytical and evaluative skills;
- d) Ability to process large amounts of data, prepare on-demand analytical reports and formulate evidence-base recommendations to stakeholders;
- e) Ability to work closely with the governments, CSO, NGOs and multi-lateral institutions in complex political affairs, electoral related issues, peace and security;
- f) Ability to foresees risks, identify issues, analyze, allows for contingencies when planning, monitor and adjust plans and actions as necessary and participate in the resolution of problems;
- g) Ability to develop clear goals, establish priorities and to plan work assignments;
- h) Excellent communication and writing skills, including sound reporting skills;
- i) Computer literate and well versed in the use of the Internet, Power Point, Excel and Word;
- j) Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment.

DELIVERABLES:

A weekly and monthly Reports of activities undertaken to be submitted to the DEU for administrative purposes. Substantive reports will be submitted on a need basis.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT:

Proficiency in one working AU language is required. Knowledge and ability to be fluent in English and French at least, would be an added advantage.

DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

The appointment shall be for a period of three (3) months, from 18 November 2024 to 17 February 2025.

DUTY STATION:

The duty station for each expert shall be at the AU Commission Headquarters or at the AU Liaison Offices or Missions.

REMUNERATION:

The compensation is a lump-sum of **\$29,721.92, inclusive** of all expenses to be incurred by the Consultant towards the implementation of its mandate.

EVALUATION AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA:

The African Union Commission now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested candidate must provide information demonstrating that he/she has the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

For evaluation the following criteria will be applied:

- a) General Education Qualification and Relevant Training (40)
- b) Experience Related to the Assignment (60)

Interested candidates should **submit Cover letter/Expression of Interest** - Understanding of the assignment / TOR and their **Personal Curriculum Vitae (CV)**, indicating all past experience for similar projects, as well as their contact details (email and telephone numbers).

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 8:00 - 13:00hrs and 14:00-17:00 hours, Local Time.

CVs must be delivered in a written form to the address below not later than 21 October 2024 by 15:00 hours local time.

**African Union Commission,
Head, Supply Chain Management Division
Building C, 3rd Floor; Tel +251 11 551 7700;
P.O. Box 3243, Roosevelt Street.**

or email: Tender@africa-union.org Copy: TizitaT@africa-union.org