

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)**

Country: Ethiopia

Name of Project: Africa Think Tank Platform Project (ATTP)

Grant No: P179804

Assignment Title: Technical Project Advisor

Grant No: E246-3A

Reference No. ET-AUC-445178-CS-INDV

The African Union Commission has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Africa Think Tank platform Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include Consulting Services for the hiring of a Technical Project Advisor. Specific tasks include:

1. General

- Serve as a focal point and spokesperson for the project, articulating its mission, objectives, and impact to internal and external audiences.
- Enhance the visibility and credibility of the project by participating in public events, conferences, and media engagements as a thought leader in the field of public policy.
- Cultivate relationships with key stakeholders, including government officials, academic experts, and civil society organizations, to garner support and endorsement for the project's initiatives.

2. Project Oversight

- Support and guide the Think Tank Platform Project Steering Committee (TTPSC) on the project’s strategic direction and its oversight to ensure that project objectives are met.
- Regularly engage with advisory groups or steering committees to review project progress, discuss emerging issues, and seek guidance on strategic decisions and course corrections.
- Review the project progress, identify potential risks, and support the TTPSC through the Secretariat to implement mitigation strategies to ensure successful outcomes.
- Review the annual work plans, timelines, and budgets to support TTPSC decision-making.

3. Stakeholder Engagement and Networking

- Act as the main technical focal point for the project stakeholders.
- Establish and maintain networks of policy professionals, experts, and practitioners to serve as advisors and contributors to the project's research and advocacy efforts.

- Leverage existing relationships and identify new opportunities for partnerships with organizations and institutions that share common goals and interests.
- Engage and liaise with all project stakeholders to support the design and implementation of project activities.
- Act as a focal point for resource mobilization project activities included in the project; this includes activities to assess the feasibility of establishing a special fund to support the sustainability of institutions involved in policymaking.
- Facilitate regular communication and engagement with stakeholders to gather input, address concerns, and maintain alignment with project goals.
- Foster partnerships and collaborations with other organizations and institutions to amplify the impact of the project's research and advocacy efforts.

4. Research Direction

- Provide overall guidance to think tanks and the TTPSC to ensure that research activities are aligned with the project thematic areas and regional priorities;
- Review and provide feedback on selected research outputs, policy uptake activities, and institutional capacity-building efforts of think tanks.

Stay abreast of emerging trends, best practices, and debates in public policy to inform the TTPSC and other project stakeholders and ensure the ATTP project is working on priority areas.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment are attached to this Request for Expression of Interest.

The African Union Commission now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

Educational Background:

- A minimum of a Master’s degree in a relevant field (e.g., policy analysis & development, public policy, international development, political sciences, social sciences).

Professional Experience:

- At least 7 years of experience in an advisory role and/or management in a similar role.
- Strong knowledge of project management principles, tools, and techniques.
- Experience in coordinating and managing multi-stakeholder projects.
- Familiarity with World Bank project implementation procedures and reporting requirements.
- Excellent organizational and communication skills.
- Ability to work effectively in a multicultural and diverse environment.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.

- Proficiency in English (both written and spoken). A working knowledge of other official or working languages is an added advantage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" (July 2016, revised November 2020), which sets forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours *i.e. 0900 to 1700 hours*.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) by **29 November 2024**.

African Union Commission,

Attn: Head of Supply Chain Management Division

Building C, 3rd Floor,

P.O Box 3243, Roosevelt Street

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TERM OF REFERENCE ATTP PROJECT
Technical Project Advisor

Country: Ethiopia
Name of Project: “Africa Think Tank Platform Project”
Assignment Title: Technical Project Advisor
Grant No: E246-3A
Reference No. P179804

I. Background

The Africa Think Tank Platform Project’s development objective is to establish a sustainable platform to strengthen the capacity for effective policy research and policy-making on cross-boundary priorities in Africa. The project has three components which are summarized below:

Component 1 of the project aims to establish the capacity to operate a sustainable policy-making platform. This includes creating and setting up the necessary structures and systems, establishing a secretariat to manage the platform, designing, and implementing monitoring and evaluation strategies, and building and maintaining a network of think tanks, regional economic communities, and policymakers. The component also supports the competitive selection of think tanks, who will submit proposals targeting at least four of the six regional priority themes identified under the project. The selected think tanks will form a network and work on continental priority issues.

Component 2 of the project focuses on strengthening the capacity of think tanks and policy research institutions. This includes providing technical assistance and training to think tanks, supporting the quality and communication of research, providing support for resource mobilization efforts, creating a peer network for female economic researchers, and undertaking a study to research and analyze previous initiatives aimed at increasing female participation in policy research.

Component 3 of the project aims to support the sustainability of the platform and policy research over the long term. This includes developing the capacity of the African Union Commission (AUC) to mobilize resources and establish facilities to crowd funds from various stakeholders. It explores the establishment of a special fund and an endowment fund to pool resources from African governments, the private sector, foundations, individuals, and institutional donors. The funds will be used to finance further research and capacity-building efforts.

The African Union Commission (AUC) is implementing this project and is seeking a qualified and experienced Project Adviser to provide overall guidance and strategic direction to the Think Tank Project Steering Committee (TTPSC) and the project's secretariat. The Project Adviser will work closely with the Project Coordinator to manage the overall project and ensure its successful implementation.

II. Responsibilities and Duties

The Project Advisor is responsible for performing project advisory to the project management and support activities to contribute to the development and delivery of the project in line with established organizational objectives.

The Project Advisor will be responsible for the following tasks:

A. General

- Serve as a focal point and spokesperson for the project, articulating its mission, objectives, and impact to internal and external audiences.
- Enhance the visibility and credibility of the project by participating in public events, conferences, and media engagements as a thought leader in the field of public policy.
- Cultivate relationships with key stakeholders, including government officials, academic experts, and civil society organizations, to garner support and endorsement for the project's initiatives.

B. Project Oversight

- Support and guide the TTPSC on the project's strategic direction and its oversight to ensure that project objectives are met.
- Regularly engage with advisory groups or steering committees to review project progress, discuss emerging issues, and seek guidance on strategic decisions and course corrections.
- Review project progress, identify potential risks, and support the TTPSC through the Secretariat to implement mitigation strategies to ensure successful outcomes.
- Review work plans, timelines, and budgets to support TTPSC decision-making.

C. Stakeholder Engagement and Networking

- Act as the main technical focal point for project stakeholders.
- Establish and maintain networks of policy professionals, experts, and practitioners to serve as advisors and contributors to the project's research and advocacy efforts.
- Leverage existing relationships and identify new opportunities for partnerships with organizations and institutions that share common goals and interests.
- Engage and liaise with all project stakeholders to support the design and implementation of project activities.
- Act as a focal point for resource mobilization activities included in the project including activities to assess the feasibility of establishing a special fund to support the sustainability of institutions involved in policymaking
- Facilitate regular communication and engagement with stakeholders to gather input, address concerns, and maintain alignment with project goals.
- Foster partnerships and collaborations with other organizations and institutions to amplify the impact of the project's research and advocacy efforts.

D. Research Direction

- Provide overall guidance to think tanks and the TTPSC to ensure that research activities are aligned with the project thematic areas and regional priorities;
- Review and provide feedback on selected research outputs, policy uptake activities, and institutional capacity-building efforts of think tanks.
- Stay abreast of emerging trends, best practices, and debates in public policy to inform the TTPSC and other project stakeholders and ensure the ATTP project is working on priority areas.

III. Qualifications and Experience

The ideal candidate for the Technical Project Advisor position should possess the following qualifications and experience:

- A minimum of a Master’s degree in a relevant field (e.g., policy analysis & development, public policy, international development, political sciences, social sciences).
- At least 7 years of experience in an advisory role and/or management in a similar role.
- Strong knowledge of project management principles, tools, and techniques.
- Experience in coordinating and managing multi-stakeholder projects.
- Familiarity with World Bank project implementation procedures and reporting requirements.
- Excellent organizational and communication skills.
- Ability to work effectively in a multicultural and diverse environment.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Proficiency in English (both written and spoken). A working knowledge of other official or working languages is an added advantage.

IV. Duration and Remuneration

The Technical Project Advisor position is a full-time role for the duration of the project. The selected candidate shall be based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the AU Headquarters. The initial contract amount shall be for one year. The contract may be renewed based on satisfactory performance.

The remuneration package will be commensurate with the candidate's qualifications and experience.

V. Evaluation Criteria

The eligibility criteria, the establishment of a shortlist, and the selection procedure shall conform with the WBG’s Rules and Procedure for the Selection of Consultants. Interested individuals should provide information on their qualifications and experience demonstrating their ability to undertake the assignment (CV, reference to similar services, experience in similar assignments, etc.). The consultants shall be evaluated based on the following criteria.

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| General Education, Qualification and Relevant Training | 40% |
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|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Experience and Technical Expertise | 50% |
| Proficiency in Language | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

VI. Fees and Payments

Remuneration is payable every month. It is negotiable but based on qualifications, experience, and the applicable AU rates for the level of the consultancy. Fees payable do not include costs associated with project-related travels, coordination/organization of project-related activities and events, stakeholder dialogues, consultations, and workshops. The AU will meet these costs.

VII. Services /facilities to be provided by the client

The AU shall make the following available:

- Office accommodation;
- Computer, Photocopying, Stationary;
- Facilitation of Visa and
- Internet Access