

AFRICAN UNION

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CALL FOR APPLICATION: INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH CONSULTANT

TERMS OF REFERENCE

AUC/PAPS/GCPD/C/015

A. BACKGROUND:

Terrorism continues to be a major threat to peace, security, stability and development of the African Union Member States (AUMS). Various factors contribute to exacerbating the nature of this threat. One such factor is the ability of terrorists to acquire a range of weapons. Others include the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and the increasing use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Whereas there is need to pay attention to all these weapons in the hands of terrorists, Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) remain the weapons of choice for terrorists and transnational organised criminals alike.

The illicit proliferation of SALWs is, therefore, perceived to be among the most significant enablers of persisting terrorism across the continent. Records available in the Africa Terrorism Database hosted by the African Union Counter Terrorism Centre (AUCTC) indicate that approximately 70% of terrorist attacks that take place annually on the continent are carried out using SALWs, with IEDs and other means accounting for the rest of 30%. The illicit proliferation and circulation of SALWs has generated concerns among stakeholders at both the continental level and the international level.

At the international level, the United Nations Security Council has recognized, and expressed concern at the connection between illicit proliferation, illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation, and misuse of small arms and light weapons in several of its resolutions: including Resolutions 2117 (2013), 2220 (2015), 2370 (2017), and more recently in Security Council Presidential Statement 5 (2020).

At the continental level, various AU Policy Organs, including the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in various meetings, have expressed concern over the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of conventional weapons, particularly SALW, as posing a serious threat to Continental security, and fuelling armed conflict including terrorism. The Protocol of the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) also expressed concern “about the impact of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of SALWs in threatening peace and security in Africa”. Additionally, the 445th, 860th, 1040th, and the 1085th meetings of the PSC all expressed concerns about the illicit proliferation and trafficking of SALW.

Historically, several initiatives and strategies have been exercised by the AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms (RMs) and AUMS with the view of regulating and controlling illicit circulation of SAWLs in Africa. Key among these efforts include the adoption of “Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of SALWs” in December 2000, in preparation for Africa’s participation at the UN

process to negotiate the “Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects” (UN-PoA), which was subsequently adopted in July 2001.

At the RECs/RMs level, AUMS have also adopted instruments that specifically provide for strengthening cooperation and collaboration among States in the fight against illicit SALWs. These include the 2001 *Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)*; the 2004 *Nairobi Protocol on the Control, Prevention and Reduction of SALW in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States*; the 2006 *Convention of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on SALW, their Ammunitions and Other Related Materials*; and the 2010 *Central Africa Convention for the Control of SALW, their Ammunition, Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair or Assembly (Kinshasa Convention)*.

Recent and on-going efforts at policy level, by the AU to address the threat posed by illicit SALW have included the *African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns*, whose implementation is now extended from 2020 to 2030. Also, the declaration of the September as the *African Amnesty Month* for the surrender and collection of illicit weapons is yet another policy initiative aimed at curbing illicit SALW in Africa, which is also a contribution to silencing the guns in the Continent. This illustrates the nature and magnitude of the threat, as well as the overarching concern of illicit SALWs in the continent.

Despite the various initiatives and measures deployed, the threat of illicit circulation of SALWs and its nexus with terrorism have remained potent. It is in this regard that the Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS), at its 12th meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 2019, requested the Commission to conduct a study on the ostensible relations between the proliferation of illicit SALWs and terrorism. The STCDSS reiterated this request at its 14th meeting held in May 2022.

Consequently, in 2023, the AUCTC and the DDR/SSR Division of the Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate (GCPD) within the Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), each commissioned a study on “*the Nexus Between Illicit Proliferation and Circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SAWLs) and the Growing Threats of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa*”. Each study was undertaken with a different methodology, and two separate reports were produced.

Against this background, the Commission intends to recruit a Consultant who will combine the two reports into one report that captures the key findings and outcomes of the studies.

B. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The consultant shall perform the following duties:

- a. Undertake an in-depth review of the two existing reports of the study conducted, combine and produce one comprehensive report that captures the methodology, key findings and outcomes as well as any relevant issues contained in the reports thereof;
- b. Enhance and update where necessary in light of new evidence that might have emerged on the subject or that were inadvertently omitted in the existing reports;
- c. Develop a continent Map showing all areas where data for the study were collected;
- d. Review the policy proposals in the existing reports and make final concrete and actionable proposals on practical steps to be taken by the AU, RECs/RMs and Member States to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons and ammunition.

C. KEY DELIVERABLES

The Consultant shall be responsible for the following tasks:

- a. Submit an inception report that includes a work plan, and the combined report outline to PAPS (AUCTC and GCPD) for consideration and approval, **within five (5) days of commencing the assignment.**
- b. Prepare an initial draft combined Report, in line with the approved report outline and based on the scope of the assignment as indicated in Section C. **This draft report will be produced within fifteen (15) days of receiving approval on the report outline.**
- c. Present the draft report to the Joint Coordination Team of AUCTC and GCPD for consideration, review and suggestions for amendments if any;
- d. Submit a final report of length **8,000 to 10,000** words including Executive Summary, references, text, all tables and figures as well as glossary. **The final report shall be submitted within ten (10) days after suggestions for amendments.**
- e. Produce a PowerPoint presentation of the research findings based on the final report. **The PowerPoint presentation shall be submitted within five (05) days after submission of final report.**

D. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

The consultancy will take thirty (30) days.

E. DUTY STATION

This is a Home-Based Assignment. The Consultant will not be required to travel to the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, or AUCTC Headquarters in Algiers, Algeria. All debriefs with the Joint Coordination team including the presentation of draft report will take place in a virtual meeting whenever necessary.

F. ASSIGNMENT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The immediate supervision of the assignment shall be done by the DDR/SSR Division, of the Directorate for Governance Prevention, as the focal point at the AU Commission, in close collaboration and coordination with the AUCTC, on the execution and delivery of the expected deliverables.

G. ENTITLEMENT

An amount of \$ 9000 honorarium will be paid to the consultant as service fee. Other incidental expenses.

H. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES

The following qualifications and experience are required:

- a. A minimum of a Master's degree in Political Science, Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, International Relations, Law, Peace and Security related studies, or other Social Science related fields. A higher qualification will be an added advantage ;

- b. Evidence of past research works and/or similar consultancies and engagement relating to SALWs, Violent Extremism, and Terrorism;
- c. At least 7 years' experience researching in the field of Security, Law Enforcement and Terrorism and violent extremism required;
- d. Experience working in the African countries where the studies were conducted would be an added advantage.

I. REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are requested to submit the following documents for PAPS's (AUCTC and GCPD) consideration:

- a. Curriculum Vitae highlighting relevant experience related to the assignment (include samples of two most recent similar works)
- b. A technical proposal of the assignment not exceeding 8 pages (Times New Roman, 12 font, single spacing) on:
 - understanding and interpretation of the TOR
 - methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment
 - time and activity Schedule
- c. Proficiency in oral and written English is required.
- d. knowledge of other working languages would be an added advantage

J. GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The AU Commission is an equal opportunity organization and qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.

1. Invitation

The African Union Commission now invites eligible Individual Consultants/ Service provider to submit their Proposals to undertake the assignment. Interested candidates must provide information demonstrating that he/she has the required qualifications and relevant experience to undertake the assignment.

Further clarifications can be obtained at : Tender@africa-union.org with Cc: TizitaT@africa-union.org during office hours 8:00-17:00 hours Local Time. Always quote the APP Reference.

Proposals should be submitted by email to the address below, no later than **22nd November 2024 at 15:00hrs local time**. Proposals received after the deadline will be rejected.

Address

:

The Head, Supply Chain Management Division
African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Building C, 3rd Floor; Tel +251115517700;
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Cc: TizitaT@africa-union.org