

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

REoI No. *BCCI/GAD/AFD/ (PRO)-01/2021/77*

Project Name: “United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)”

Procuring Agency: Bhutan Chamber for Commerce and Industry (BCCI) in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC)



Title of Consulting Services:

**CONSULTANCY FOR CONDUCTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROGRAMME:
GENDER EQUALITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR..**

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

BCCI/GAD/AFD/(PRO)-01/2021/77

August 4, 2021

The *Research & Planning Department, BCCI Secretariat* invites expression of interest to provide the following consulting services: Private sector plays a key role in addressing gender disparities in the business world. The Sustainable Development Service (SDS) Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion supports companies to go from commitment to action and provide hard evidence of gender mainstreaming efforts to tackle the most pressing gender inequalities.

Through the SDS programmed, private sector companies can promote gender equality, address gender-based discrimination and contribute towards advancing the sustainable development agenda by reducing gender gaps and promoting gender equality and competitiveness simultaneously, for an inclusive and sustainable growth.

The SDS programmed is an innovative approach to help private sector companies increase employee satisfaction, realize the full potential of all workers regardless of sex) and have a more inclusive, healthier and equal work environment. The SDS framework is based on ILO conventions, international regulations on human rights, the Women's Empowerment Principles, and sustainable business practices. The programmed also fosters accountability and provides private sector companies with hard evidence to demonstrate results to employees, shareholders, and other stakeholders in line with sustainable corporate practices.

Furthermore, the 12FYP of the RGoB spells out Gender Mainstreaming as cross cutting sectors. the SDS program presents an opportunity to the private sector to support and contribute to the overarching goals of the 12th FYP of Just Harmonious and Sustainable Society. This programmed is aligned to Internal Framework to Address Gender Issues at Workplace implemented by all the 20 Districts and Ministries/Agencies/corporations.

Gender Equality is not only a fundamental right human right but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous sustainable world. Over the past decades' achievement on gender equality has been made, however despite these progress, challenges remain. The limited progress is at risk of being reversed due to the effects of the COVID -19 pandemic. The outbreak has exacerbated existing inequality for women and girls across every sphere- from health and the economy, to security and social protection. Women play a disproportionate role in responding to the virus, including as frontline health care workers and cares at home. Women's unpaid care work has increased significantly as a result of school closures and the increased needs of older people. The pandemic has also led to a steep increase in violence against women and girls with lockdown measures in places, many women are trapped with their abusers. Women are also harder hit by the economic impact of COVID-19, as they disproportionately work in insecure labour markets. Globally, 58% of employed women work in the informal employment and estimates suggest that during the first month of the pandemic, informal workers globally lost an average of 60% of their income.

The global trend resonates with Bhutan, as emerging evidences suggest adverse impacts of

COVID, compounding gender disparities. Since Bhutan's development philosophy of Gross National Happiness is a human centered approach promoting equality and equity, hence closing gender gaps not only makes sense but is key in living up to the ideals of GNH.

Based on the backdrop of growing disparities caused by COVID, the BCCI, NCWC and UNDP are partnering to initiate the SDS gender inclusion and diversity program. The partnership is grounded on the common goals of contributing to SDG 5 and NKRA 10 "Gender Equality". More details on the services are provided in the Terms of Reference.

An Individual Consultant will be selected as per the procedures described in this REoI, in accordance with Procurement Rules and Regulations in force of the Royal Government of Bhutan

The EoIs are to be submitted at the latest by **August 17, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.**

The procedural requirements for responding to this invitation are provided in the complete REoI document, which includes the following:

Section 1: Instructions to Consultants

Section 2: Standard Forms

Section 3: Terms of Reference

Address for response/ Address of Procuring Agency:

Chief
Research & Planning Department (RPD)
BCCI Secretariat
Deobum Lam, Chubachu, Thimphu.

Yours sincerely,



Head, Administrative & Finance Division
BCCI Secretariat
Deobum Lam, Chubachu

SECTION 1: INSTRUCTIONS TO CONSULTANT

- 1. Scope of assignment** 1.1 The Employer has received a budget from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Project and intends to select an Individual Consultant for the specific assignment as specified in the Terms of Reference in Section 4.
- 2. Qualifications of the Consultant** 2.1 Prospective Individuals shall demonstrate in their EoI that they meet the required qualifications and experiences and are fully capable of carrying out the assignment.
- 3. Conflict of Interest** 3.1 The Consultant shall hold the Procuring Agency's interests paramount, without any consideration for future work, and strictly avoid conflict with other assignments or its own corporate interests. For this purpose, the provisions of the Procurement Rules and Regulations on Conflict of Interest shall apply.
- 4. Unfair Advantage** 4.1 If a Consultant could derive a competitive advantage from having provided Consulting Services related to the assignment in question, the Procuring Agency shall make available to all Consultants together with this REoI all information that would in that respect give such Consultant any competitive advantage over competing Consultants.
- 5. Fraud and Corruption`** 5.1 It is RGOB policy to require that consultants, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts. In addition, as a condition of admission to eligibility, the consultant shall execute and attach to their Proposals an Integrity Pact Statement in the form provided in **Form 4 of Section 3**.
- 6. Preparation of EoI** 6.1 EoI shall be typed or written in indelible ink in English language and shall be signed by the Consultant. Consultants are required to complete the following Forms:
(a) Form 1: Submission of Expression of Interest;
(b) Form 2: CV of the Consultant; and
(c) Form 3: Integrity Pact
- 7. Submission of EoI** 7.1 The prospective Consultant can deliver their EoI by hand or courier service to the address mentioned in the REoI. The consultant is advice that the EoI shall be properly sealed in envelopes addressed to the Procuring Agency as mentioned in the REoI advertisement and bear the name & address of the consultant as well as the name of the assignment.
- 7.2 The closing date for submission of EoI is *August 17, 2021 up to 3:00 p.m.* EoI must be submitted within this deadline. Any EoI received after the deadline for submission of EoI shall be declared late, and returned unopened to the Consultant.

7.3 EoI may be modified or substituted before the deadline for submission

7.4 The Procuring Agency may at its sole discretion, extend the deadline for submission of EoI.

7.5 At any time prior to the deadline for submission of EoI the Procuring Agency for any reason or on its own initiative may revise the REoI Document by issuing an Addendum which shall form an integral part of the Document.

8. Evaluation of EoI

8.1 Suitability of the Consultants shall be evaluated on the basis of criteria specified in the sub clause 8.2

8.2 The points to be given under each of the evaluation Criteria are:

Criteria	Weight	Max. Point
Total Points	100	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic background		15
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in the area of Gender Empowerment and Equality.		30
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in project management		20
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in public consultation (participatory and inclusive process),		15
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong understanding of Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks.		20

8.3 Immediately after the closing date and time for submission the Procuring Agency shall open all EoI documents, including any substitutions accompanied by a properly authorized substitution notice.

8.4 Following the opening of the EoI, and until the Contract is signed, no Consultant shall make any unsolicited communication to the Procuring Agency. Such an attempt to influence the Procuring Agency in its decisions on the examination, evaluation, and comparison of either the EoI or Contract award may result in the rejection of the EoI.

8.5 After the evaluation, the highest-ranked Consultant shall be asked to submit a financial proposal, which shall be subject to negotiation. The financial proposal shall be Submitted as per the Form 3 provided in Section 3.

9. Negotiations 9.1 The first-ranked Consultant shall then be invited for negotiations. If negotiations fail, the Procuring Agency shall inform the Consultant in writing of the reasons for termination of the negotiations and then shall invite the Consultant who's EoI was ranked second to negotiate a Contract. Once negotiations commence with the second ranked Consultant the Procuring Agency shall not reopen the earlier negotiations.

92 During negotiations, the Procuring Agency and the Consultant shall finalize the "Terms of Reference", work schedule, logistics and reporting schedule etc. These documents shall then be incorporated into the Contract as Description of Services"

93 The Financial negotiations will involve the remuneration and other reimbursable cost to be paid to the Consultant.

94 Negotiation will conclude with a review of the draft Contract. To complete negotiations, the Procuring Agency and the Consultant will finalize the agreed Contract.

10. Award of Contract

10.1 The Procuring Agency shall award the Contract to the selected Consultant, and:

- (a) as soon as possible notify unsuccessful Consultants, and
- (b) publish a notification of award on the Employer's website.

10.2 The notifications to all unsuccessful Consultants, and the notification on the Employer's website, shall include the following information:

- a. the assignment reference number;
- b. the name of the winning Consultant and total price it offered; and
- c. the date of the award decision.

10.3 Following the decision to award the Contract to the selected Consultant, the parties shall enter into a written Contract binding on both parties. The Contract shall be compatible with the Applicable Laws of Bhutan. The Contract shall be signed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties and shall bear the date of signature.

10.4 Where both the parties do not sign the Contract simultaneously,

(a) The Procuring Agency shall send to the selected Consultant two original copies of (1) the full agreed Contract and (2) the letter of acceptance (notification of award), each signed by its duly authorized representative together with the date of signature;

(b) The letter of acceptance shall indicate the deadline by which it must be accepted, which shall not be more than 15 days from the date of its receipt by the Consultant;

(c) The Consultant, if he agrees to conclude the Contract, shall sign and date all original copies of the Contract and the letter of acceptance and return one copy of each to the Procuring Agency before the expiry of the deadline indicated in the letter of acceptance;

(d) In case the selected Consultant fails to sign the Contract agreement within the deadline specified in the letter of acceptance the Procuring Agency may negotiate with the second ranked Consultant.

10.5 The Consultant is expected to commence the assignment soon after signing of contract agreement at Thimphu. The duration of the contract shall be for 90 *[calendar] days* from the date of commencement.

SECTION II: STANDARD FORMS

The standard forms are provided to guide the Consultant to prepare for the submission of the Expression of Interest:

FORM-1	Expression of Interests submission form
FORM-2	Consultant's Curriculum Vitae
FORM-3	Remuneration and Reimbursable
FORM-4	Integrity Pact

FORM 1A: Expression of Interest Submission Form

Date:

To:

[Address of Procuring Agency]

Dear Sir/Madam:

I, hereby submit my EoI to provide the consulting Services for [Insert title of assignment] in strict accordance with your Request for EoI dated [dd/mm/yy].

I declare that I was not associated, nor have been associated in the past, directly or indirectly, with a Consultant or any other entity that has prepared the design, specifications and others documents in accordance with Clause 3.

I have not been declared ineligible by the Royal Government of Bhutan on charges of engaging in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices in accordance with Clause 5.

If selected, I undertake to commence the consulting Services for the assignment not later than the date indicated in Clause 10.5.

I understand that the Procuring Agency reserves the right to accept or reject any EoI at any time prior to contract award.

Yours Sincerely,

Signature:

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Attachment: *[List attachments]*

Form 1B- Consultant's Information Sheet

A. Consulting Services Data

<i>Name of the consulting services</i>	
<i>Assignment (Brief Description)</i>	

B. Consultant Data

<i>Name</i>	
<i>Country of Nationality</i>	
<i>Address of consultant</i>	
<i>E-mail and contact No. of consultant</i>	

C. Assignment Specific Qualifications and Experience

<p><i>* Assignment Specific Experience (Provide information demonstrating your ability, skills and experience to undertake advertised assignment and deliver inputs/ outputs required under the TOR-add additional sheet if required)</i></p>
<p><i>* Please provide summary of your qualifications and attach your Curriculum Vitae (CV)***</i></p>

D. Eligibility Declaration

I, the undersigned, certify to the best of my knowledge and belief

- The CV I attached correctly describes my qualifications and my experience
- I am not part of the team who wrote the terms of reference for this consulting services assignment.
- I have not been convicted of an offense or crime related to theft, corruption or fraud.
- I understand that it is my obligation to notify Procuring Agency should I become ineligible to work with.
- I understand that it is my obligation to notify the Procuring Agency, or should I be convicted of an offense related to theft, corruption or fraud.

Completed by (Name)	
Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	

FORM 2- Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the Consultant

1. Name [Insert full name]:

2. Date of Birth: Nationality:

3. Education [Indicate college/university and other specialized education of staff member, giving names of institutions, degrees obtained, and dates of obtainment]:

4. Membership of Professional Associations:

5. Other Training [Indicate professional training relevant to the project]:

6. Countries of Work: [List countries where staff has worked in the last ten years]:

7. Languages [For each language indicate proficiency: good, fair, or poor in speaking, reading, and writing]:

8. Employment Record [Starting with present position, list in reverse order every employment held by staff member since graduation, giving for each employment (see format here below): dates of employment, name of employing organization, positions held.]:

From [Year]:

To [Year]:

Employer:

Positions held:

9. Work Undertaken that Best Illustrates Capability to Handle the Tasks Assigned
[Among the assignments in which the staff has been involved, indicate the following information for those assignments that best illustrate staff capability to handle the tasks listed under point 11.

Name of assignment or project:

Year:

Location:

Procuring Agency or Procuring Agency:

Main project features:

Positions held: Activities performed.

Note: Attach the work experience certificates.

10. Declaration:

I, the undersigned, declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this CV correctly describes me, my qualifications and my experience. I understand that any willful misstatement herein may lead to my disqualification or dismissal, if engaged.

Date:

[Name & Signature of the consultant]

Day/Month/Year

FORM 3- Remuneration and Reimbursable

The highest ranked Consultant shall be asked to submit this form after the evaluation of the EoI. After negotiations, Remuneration & Reimbursable will be part of the total cost as per agreed deliverables in the contract.

(1) Remuneration

Rate (per month/ per day)	Time spent (person-months)	Total
		Sub-Total (1)

(2) Reimbursable

Item	Unit	Qty	Rate	Total
(a) Per diem				
(a) Travel cost				
(c) Visas, resident permits, airport taxes and incidental travel costs (at cost)				
				Sub-total (2)

Total Cost: Sub-Total (1) + Sub-Total (2) =...

Consultants' Representations Regarding Costs and Charges

I, hereby confirm that the basic salary indicated in the contract are taken from my payroll records and reflect the current salary rate exempt taxes and which have not been raised other than within the normal annual salary increase anticipated due to inflation, etc. If required I can provide the relevant copies of the latest contract papers upon which the rates are based.

(Name, Signature and date)

SECTION 3: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference (ToR) is attached separately.