

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Consulting Services – Individual Consultant Selection)

Selection of Individual Consultants for Drafting of Country Notes for the ECOWAS Regional Economic Outlook: 2024 Edition

From: 04/11/2024 To: 18/11/2024

Reference No: ECW/DRS/PROC/DAGS/EREO-CN/23-10/ss

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in the framework of the execution of its 2024 Budget, intends to apply a portion of the budgeted funds for the Selection of Individual Consultants for Drafting of Country Notes for the ECOWAS Regional Economic Outlook: 2024 Edition.

- 2. Under the supervision of the Directorate of Research and Statistics in the Department of Economic Affairs and Agriculture of the ECOWAS Commission, individual consultants and researchers are required for the drafting of the Country Note and Main Theme of ECOWAS Regional Economic Outlook: 2024 Edition. The objective is to enhance the production of high-quality applied socio-economic research and policy analyses addressing the pillars of the ECOWAS Vision 2050 with the view of informing policymakers on the region's economic development. This should enable them to make informed decisions in addressing the socio-economic challenges of the region. It would also improve the efficiency and performance of the ECOWAS Commission in the management of the Member States' economies, based on effective surveillance of their economies.
- 3. The consulting services ("the Services") include both the objectives listed in Item 4 and the deliverables listed under item 5 below. The duration of the contract shall be for a period of six (6) months.
- 4. The specific Objectives of the 2024 Edition of the ECOWAS Regional Economic Outlook include:
 - I. To collate relevant data for the period of 2020 to 2027 in line with the data template developed to gather information for the development of the 2024 Edition of regional economic outlook.
 - II. To validate the collected data with relevant institutions in your respective country.
- III. To analyse the divergence or/and convergence of values of projected value of indicators in 2023 Edition of Outlook and actual value in 2023; and
- IV. To analyse policy dimension and macroeconomic justification of the divergence or/and convergence of values.
- V. To analyse the extent to which transport and communication infrastructures can be enablers of ECOWAS Regional economic Integration.
- 5. The Deliverables of the consultants shall include the submission of the following:
 - A comprehensive analysis of macroeconomic, socioeconomic, and governance indicators in the country in terms of performance and outlook, also including an overview of the current transport and communication infrastructure in the country, its possible impact on regional economic integration, challenges and gaps identified, and potential strategies for improvement.
 - Actionable recommendations for the country in line with the regional vision to enhance transport and communication infrastructure for better regional economic integration.
 - Any additional outputs, such as data analysis, maps, or visual representations, as required.

- 6. The ECOWAS Commission now invites eligible Individual Consultants and Researchers from each ECOWAS Member Country ("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.
- 7. The Eligibility criteria for selection are as follows:

I. Citizenship of ECOWAS Member State

• Must be a citizen of ECOWAS Member State

II. Education and Professional Qualifications

- Shall justify having Advanced degree (Doctoral or equivalent) in Economics, Public Policy, Social/Management Science or related fields.
- Shall justify having Professional certifications or membership of professional bodies in areas relevant to economic policy analysis.

III. Experience

- Shall justify having a Minimum of 10 years of demonstrated experience in economic policy research and analysis.
- Shall justify having successfully executed at least two (2) similar assignments in this area of specialization (drafting economic policies and reports for renowned regional or national entities)

IV. Knowledge and Skills

- Comprehensive understanding of macroeconomic principles and regional economic trends in Consultant's country and across the West African region
- Proficiency in econometric methods and statistical analysis tools.

V. Language Proficiency:

- Proficiency (written and spoken) in any one of the official languages of ECOWAS (English, French and Portuguese) is required.
- Knowledge of the any other ECOWAS Language is an added advantage.
- 8. The Consultants shall be selected in accordance with the *Selection of Individual Consultant* set out in the Consultant Guidelines. Overall, consultants will be assessed based on a combination of their professional experience, educational qualifications, the quality of their submissions, and evidence of successful past assignments executed. These criteria aim to ensure that the most qualified and capable consultants from each country are selected for the assignment.

N.B: ECOWAS Commission is under no obligation to shortlist any Consultant who expresses interest for this consultancy engagement.

- 9. The attention of interested Individual consultants is particularly drawn to **Article 118 of the ECOWAS Revised Procurement Code ("Infringements by Candidates, Bidders and Awardees")**, providing information on corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for or executing a contract. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment as per "Article 119 of the ECOWAS Revised **Procurement Code**.
- 10. **Instructions For Submission of EOI:** All submitted Expression of Interest should not be more than ten (10) Pages single-space using 12 Times New Roman font size. To be considered, it MUST include the following:
 - I. **Introduction/Background:** Provide vital information on the country's development profile, a statement of the research problem and relevance of Outlook to the country.
 - II. **Objective(s):** A brief statement of the specific objectives in line with the Terms of Reference.
 - III. **Methodology:** A detail explanation on how the research objectives is to be achieved, i.e. methods of analysis, data collection methodology, sources, and data description

- IV. **References /Bibliography**: provide list of references or bibliography that shows the sources of information.
- V. Consultant Profile: Statement of Consultant Qualification and current Curriculum Vitae.

Please note that the Expression of Interest can be made in any of the three (3) ECOWAS Community Languages (English, French & and Portuguese)

11. Interested Consultants may obtain further information from the email addresses below during office hours: **Monday** to **Friday** from **9.00** am **to 5.00** pm (GMT+1).

Email: procurement@ecowas.int; with copy to: <u>sbangoura@ecowas.int</u>; <u>ikkamara@ecowas.int</u>; <u>kolayiwola@ecowas.int</u>; <u>sshadrach@ecowas.int</u>.

12. Interested Individual Consultants/Researchers shall express their interest via email by sending relevant documents as listed above and clearly indicate the country of interest, no later than November 18th, 2024 at 11am GMT+1 to the following addresses: procurement@ecowas.int; with copy to: sbangoura@ecowas.int; ikkamara@ecowas.int; kolayiwola@ecowas.int; sshadrach@ecowas.int. The subject of the Email shall read 'Selection of Individual Consultants for Drafting of Country Notes for the ECOWAS Regional Economic Outlook: 2024 Edition'.

Please note that only electronic submissions via email addresses indicated above shall be accepted. above.

13. This REoI and TOR is also published on the ECOWAS website http://www.ecowas.int/doing-business-in-ecowas/ecowas-procurement

Prof. Nazifi Abdullahi DARMA Commissioner, Internal Services