



TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

1. Introduction

ECOWAS mandate is to promote economic cooperation and integration in all economic spheres among the Member States. The founding fathers of ECOWAS believed in this instrument because they were convinced that regional integration was the only way for member states to combine efforts towards ensuring the harmonized and sustainable development of the region. In this regard, the driving force is the full realization of the regional integration objectives and Vision 2050 that will lead to an ECOWAS of people. As is generally agreed, ECOWAS has not fully achieved the objective of establishing a borderless and integrated region, with a common market that allows free movement of persons, goods, and services. The observed slow pace of regional integration is usually attributed largely to the low visibility of ECOWAS activities and achievements.

The ECOWAS Regional Economic Outlook 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.

By using the country reports of all ECOWAS member states, the 2023 Edition of the Outlook discussed recent global and regional economic developments and their implication on ECOWAS region and the need for the region to focus on managing the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic, confronting challenges arising from the Russian-Ukraine conflict and navigate through the rising threats of instability and insecurity. It also analyzed the ECOWAS region's participation in the global environment makes it susceptible to a range of negative economic and political shocks. To address these challenges, ECOWAS should adopt a comprehensive approach to bridging development gaps in areas such as infrastructure, economics, governance, and human development. The 2023 Edition also provided an in-depth analysis of peace, political stability, and security as well as socio-economic and humanitarian impact of insecurity in recent years within the ECOWAS region. The member states most affected by terrorist activities and organized crimes are Nigeria, Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso. The state of insecurity led to psycho-sociological imbalances and negative effects on the macroeconomic performance and economic development of the region.

The 2024 Edition will therefore be a follow-up analysis of the maiden edition and various member states report. The focus is the collection and validation of data of selected

macroeconomic, socioeconomic and governance indicators **for the period of 2020 to 2027** with the view of developing the ECOWAS Regional Economic Outlook: 2024 Edition.

2. Objectives

The specific objectives are:

1. 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.
2. to validate the collected data with relevant institutions in your respective country.
3. 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
4. to analyse policy dimension and macroeconomic justification of the divergence or/and convergence of values.
5. To analyse the extent to which transport and communication infrastructures can be enablers of ECOWAS Regional economic Integration.

3. Methodology

- Conduct a review of the information (data) used to prepare the 2023 Edition of the ECOWAS Regional Economic Outlook.
- Collate relevant data to populate the data template used to gather information for the development of the 2024 Edition of regional economic outlook.
- Validate the collected data with relevant institutions in your respective country.
- Analyse the divergence or/and convergence of values of projected value of indicators in 2023 Edition of Outlook and actual value in 2023; and
- Analyse together with key stakeholders, the policy dimension and macroeconomic justification of the divergence or/and convergence of values.
- Analyse the extent to which transport and communication infrastructures could be enablers of ECOWAS Regional economic Integration.
- Produce a three-pager policy brief out of the country note.

The methodology of developing the Country Note will involve tracking and assessing progress towards an outcome through analysis and comparison of projected values of selected indicators in the 2023 Edition and the actual values. It also requires the design of a series of additional **macroeconomic and governance indicators of the 2020 to 2027** at the regional level to facilitate cross-country comparisons. The Monitoring analysis will have several component parts, including computation of indicators, trend analysis, reporting and feed-back mechanism. The country note will serve as a feedback tool. It will serve as a framework for monitoring progress towards results. It will include findings, conclusions, recommendations, and lessons from experience.

Based on the agreed methodology and in terms of modality, each country report is to be drafted by a Team of researchers and follow an agreed common outline to ensure comparability and

facilitate cross-country analysis. In addition, the report is required to be drafted only based on information and data available in official government documents.

4. Call for Expression of interest.

To develop the 2024 Edition of the ECOWAS Regional Economic Outlook, the Directorate of Research and Statistics of the ECOWAS Commission is inviting individual Consultants and Researchers (**comprising of a Social Scientist and a staff of Ministry of Finance or National Statistics Office**) from ECOWAS Member States to submit an Expression of Interest based on this TOR.

Proposals designed along the guidelines specified below should be submitted to the attention of the ECOWAS Procurement Division, at the following email address: procurement@ecowas.int and copy the following email addresses: sbangoura@ecowas.int; ikkamara@ecowas.int; kolayiwola@ecowas.int, sshadrach@ecowas.int. The deadline for submitting proposals is **on or before November 18, 2024**.

The researchers/consultants are encouraged to critically read and study the ECOWAS Regional Economic Outlook: 2023 Edition for necessary information and guidance.

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.

5. Deliverables:

- 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. Expression of interest Requirements.

All submitted Expression of Interest should not be more than ten (10) Pages single-space using 12 Times New Roman font size. It should include the following:

- **Introduction/Background:** Provide vital information on the country's development profile, a statement of the research problem and relevance of Outlook to the country.
- **Objective(s):** A brief statement of the specific objectives in line with the Terms of Reference.
- **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

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

7. Budget:

- The budget for this study is US\$ 9,000 for each country note

8. Duration of the Assignment

This assignment will be for a period of six (6) months.