

Terms of Reference International Consultant

«Senior Advisor on the Sahel»

Total months: 9 months

Total no. of consultants: 1

Level: P-5 (International)

Date of Assignment: 16 July 2012

End of Assignment: 15 April 2013

Duty Station: Dakar

I. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The Sahel region faces complex and severe humanitarian, security, political, development and human rights challenges. The countries of the Sahel share common structural vulnerabilities such as chronic political instability, weak state institutions, poor governance, poverty, limited effective coverage of basic social services, low rates of education, and weak economies. Human development in the Sahel is among the lowest in the world. These challenges are further compounded by high population growth, environmental degradation and the spectrum of more frequent and severe natural disasters due to the effects of climate change.

In 2012, an estimated nineteen million people are at risk of food insecurity and acute malnutrition, partially due to drought and po

or harvests. Over one million children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition. As crises in the Sahel have become increasingly more frequent and severe in the past decades, the resilience of people and ability of communities to recover from shocks have been eroded.

Conflict, weak border management and the presence of transnational criminal and terrorist organizations have also resulted in the widespread flows of arms, drug trafficking and people. Insecurity in Mauritania, Niger, Chad and Mali has become particularly acute due to the heightened activity of terrorist and other criminal networks. The crises in Cote d'Ivoire and

Libya last year further exacerbated those challenges leading to the proliferation of weapons, large number of (often armed) returnees, additional strains on already weak government capacities, and a loss of remittances. Since mid-January 2012, the complex emergency in northern Mali has led to the inflow of an estimated 168,000 refugees into Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger, in areas already severely affected by the drought. This situation has seen been further affected by the 21 March 2012 coup d'état in Mali.

National responses to the situation in the Sahel appear insufficient given the multiplicity and the trans-boundary nature of the challenges facing this vast area. Moreover, many initiatives continue to address the situation in the Sahel through a narrow “security prism”. In this context and in line with the recommendations of the UN Inter-agency mission dispatched to the Sahel in December 2011, the formulation of a comprehensive UN strategy encompassing the peace and security, development and humanitarian pillars is warranted. As part of this strategy and through its multiple programs and activities in the region, the different parts of the UN System involved in the area could assist the sub-region in more effective and coherent way in order to ensure that the international community does not approach instability in the Sahel only from a security prism. It could also serve at improving the coherence, coordination and effectiveness of the activities and programs implemented by the various parts of the UN System in the region.

II. MAIN DUTIES OF THE CONSULTANT

In this highly complex and volatile climate, UNOWA would benefit from the work of a Senior Advisor with strong knowledge of the Sahel region, as well as expertise in supporting national peace initiatives. The candidate should also possess knowledge of the working methods of the African Union and ECOWAS, both heavily involved in the region.

Under the overall guidance of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and within the framework of the Office’s existing arrangement on the Sahel, the Senior Advisor would carry out the following functions:

- (i) In the context of the Dakar-based UN Regional Inter-agency Task Force on the Sahel (IATF/Sahel), formulate a comprehensive UN strategy encompassing the peace and security, development and humanitarian dimensions of the crisis in the Sahel;
- (ii) In coordination with the members of the IATF/Sahel, as well as with relevant national/regional stakeholders, map out the current national, regional and international initiatives addressing peace and security, development and humanitarian challenges in the Sahel;
- (iii) Ensure close monitoring of and prepare regular assessments on socio-political, security and humanitarian trends in the Sahel region;

The Senior Advisor will report to the SRSG, through UNOWA's Political Director.

III. Expected Outcomes

- (i) The current national, regional and international initiatives addressing peace and security, development and humanitarian challenges in the Sahel are map out;
- (ii) A comprehensive UN strategy for the Sahel is formulated, as part of the Regional IATF/Sahel;
- (iii) Greater coordination among the UN System and national regional/between al community is achieved with the view to address short/medium/long-term challenges to the Sahel;
- (iv) Regular assessments on socio-political, security and humanitarian trends in the Sahel region to inform the SRSG's actions.

IV. PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

- (i) 3 Progress reports;
- (ii) Final report;
- (iii) Weekly assessments on socio-political, security and humanitarian trends in the Sahel region;
- (iv) 5 Field missions to the Sahel countries.

V. COMPETENCIES

Professionalism - Strong knowledge of the political, social-economic, humanitarian and security situation in the Sahel and of activities of the UN System in the region; ability to create and maintain good working relations with a wide range of partners, including governmental officials and civil society representatives as well as to foster inter-agency collaboration; good research and policy analysis skills; Ability and willingness to take responsibility for incorporating a gender perspective and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work; knowledge of the work of the UN is highly desirable.

Planning and organizing - Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work.

Communication - drafting ability and communication skills, both oral and written; ability to defend and explain difficult issues with respect to key decisions and positions to staff, senior

officials and members of inter-governmental bodies; ability to communicate complex concepts orally; ability to prepare written reports that are clear, concise and meaningful.

Teamwork – Good interpersonal skills; ability to work in a multicultural, multiethnic environment and to maintain effective working relations with people of different national and cultural backgrounds; ability to actively participate in and if need be lead and gain assistance of others in team endeavours.

VI. QUALIFICATION

Advanced university degree (Master's or equivalent) in Political Science, Humanitarian affairs, International Relations, Social Science, International Economics, Law, Public Administration or related fields. A first university degree with a relevant combination of academic qualifications and experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree. At least 10 years of progressively responsible professional experience in political analysis, international relations, security, conflict resolution, humanitarian affairs or a related field. Experience in the preparation and submission of reports on political and other relevant issues required. Fluency in French and English is essential. Fluency in spoken English and French; excellent drafting skills in English are strongly required. Drafting skills in French an asset.

Application

Applicants meeting the above qualifications are requested to submit the following document:

- Cover letter
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) or completed P-11
- Certified Copy of Diplomas and Degrees

By e-mail to: diouf5@un.org or tamakloe1@un.org

Or by postal mail to:

UNOWA, Lot 14 Almadies Ouest, BP 23851 Dakar Ponty, Dakar, Senegal

Note: Please indicate the vacancy title

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Deadline for Submission of Applications: **04 July 2012**