

**UNOWA Terms of Reference National Consultant**  
**« Justice, Human Rights, Peace, Security and Development in West Africa »**

**Duration:** 30 days spread out over 3 months  
**Number of consultants:** 1  
**Level:** NOC  
**Beginning:** 16 May 2011  
**End:** 16 September 2011  
**Location:** Dakar with movement in the sub-region

## **I. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION**

On 10 Mai 1999 the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government signed the Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security. An additional Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance was adopted later. In the latter protocol the respect for human rights and justice are featured as the founding elements for the prevention of conflicts and the preservation and consolidation of peace and security as well as for the consolidation of democratic governance, thus political, social and economic stability. The ECOWAS protocol vibrantly envisions the idea that peace and security are connected to the protection of fundamental human rights and justice.

The role of justice in political, social and economic governance is decisive. In fact, in the absence of a good judicial administration it is difficult, even close to impossible to get out of the vicious cycle of bad governance. An independent, free and effective justice system is also a condition sine qua none for transparent, free, peaceful and calm elections. The effectiveness of international instruments ensuring the protection of human rights, ratified by the different countries of the sub-region, equally depends on that.

Therefore justice constitutes a key element in the prevention of conflicts and the construction and consolidation of peace. As a result for peace's sake justice needs to be cared for because the temptation to respond with violence to lacks of fair justice that is accessible to all capable of ensuring the effective realization of fundamental human rights and acknowledging its citizens' human dignity is too big. The feeling of impunity often creates a feeling of insecurity which then causes violence. This is certainly one of the reasons for reform processes of the justice sectors started by many countries in the sub-region. These initiatives come alongside programs of good governance supported by technical and financial partners. Nevertheless, the efforts taken at this level have not yet been able to satisfy the expectations of citizens, development partners and investors. The perception that many people have about justice in their country is not always conforming with the ideal of an impartial, independent justice that

is free to all. Facing those challenges, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who put questions of justice and the state of law at the center of their action in order to prevent conflicts, consolidate peace and security as well as reconstruct the countries in the sub-region that were destroyed by war, hope to engage reflections on **“What needs to be done to assure a justice that directly guarantees a state of law in a pluralistic democratic context on the political, economic as well as social and cultural plan in order to construct durable peace in the sub-region?”**

In anticipation of this conference that is planned for the second half of 2011, it is useful to conduct a comprehensive study on the issues, opportunities and challenges related to the fight against impunity and the administration of justice in West Africa taking into account sociological, political and pluralistic cultural contexts as well as security concerns.

## **II. MAIN TASKS OF CONSULTANT**

Under the supervision of the Head of UNOWA’s Human Rights and Gender section, the consultant will conduct a comprehensive study on the problems, opportunities and challenges linked to the fight against impunity and the administration of justice in West Africa taking into account sociological, political and pluralistic cultural contexts as well as security concerns.

For this, the consultant will:

- Make an overview of problems, opportunities and challenges linked to the fight against impunity and the administration of justice in West Africa;
- Analyze the links between justice, peace, security, development and the fight against impunity in the countries of West Africa;
- Make recommendations for the strengthening of the fight against impunity and the promotion of justice, peace and reconciliation both at national and sub-regional levels.

## **III. REQUIRED COMPETENCES**

### **Professionalism:**

- Strong theoretic and practical knowledge on questions of human rights, justice, peace and security in West Africa;
- Good knowledge of the socio-political and economic situation in West Africa.

### **Leadership:**

- Good interpersonal skills;
- Good research skills, solid experience in policy analysis, report writing and the formulation of proposals and intervention strategies.

### **Planning:**

- Ability to plan and organize the work, from the collection of data through field missions to the final report in compliance with deadlines.

### **Communication:**

- Ability to communicate clearly and concisely both orally and in writing.

**Teamwork:**

- Ability to interact and develop good working relationships with collaborators and to work in a multicultural environment.

**IV. QUALIFICATIONS**

**Education:**

Postgraduate training in law, political or social sciences or defense and security.

**Professional Experience:**

At least 10 years of experience in the field of justice and human rights.

**Languages:**

Excellent spoken and written French. Knowledge of English is an advantage.

**Other skills:**

Computer skills.

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**Application**

**Applicants meeting the above qualifications are requested to submit the following before **5 May 2011****

- 1. Cover letter, a one-page Statement of Interest explaining why you consider yourself qualified and motivated for this particular position**
- 2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) or completed P-11**
- 3. Certified Copy of Diplomas and Degrees**

**Note: Before applying for the post, we kindly request candidates to carefully review the VA to ensure that they meet the Minimum requirement**

**Please email your application to:**

**[lya@un.org](mailto:lya@un.org) or [unowao@un.org](mailto:unowao@un.org)**

**Post it to UNOWA at  
23851 Dakar Ponty**

**Note: Please indicate the vacancy title & number**

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