



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: UNOWA/HRS/VA/015/14

The Office of the Special Envoy for Sahel (OSSES) is looking for a highly motivated, team player and result oriented person

To serve as: Consultant to Enhance the Role of Women in the Implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel

Title Consultant	Consultant to Enhance the Role of Women in the Implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel
Number of posts	01
Type of contract	Consultant
Category	International Consultant
Duration	Three months
Monthly payment	Between USD 7,328.00 to USD 10,572.00 per month
Duty station	Dakar
Unit/Section	OSSES
Issuing date	28/11/2014
Closing date	05/12/2014

BACKGROUND

The Sahel region in West Africa has suffered for years from acute poverty and instability, with three major droughts in less than a decade. Estimates show that more than 11 million people are at risk of hunger, and political instability has brought significant negative economic and social consequences.

Women in the troubled Sahel region are often the first to experience the devastation of food and financial crises, armed conflict, and natural disaster. Immediately following the start of hostilities in northern Mali in April 2012, women and girls were subject to public rape and sexual violence. During repeated droughts in Niger and elsewhere, women and their children are there for the majority of those displaced and suffering a lack of access to water and food. Women are caught up in vicious cycles of chronic poverty, environmental stress and deprivation, denial of their basic rights and different forms of violence are compounded by the overlap of harmful traditional practices, social constructs and religious fundamentalism.

Amongst the indicators set out in the **UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel** are the following:-

1. Support programmes aimed at empowering political parties in Sahelian countries to promote peaceful politics and the political participation of women, including through the establishment of inclusive inter-party dialogue frameworks;



2. Promote the exchange of knowledge and the sharing of experiences among electoral management bodies in the Sahel on issues pertaining to the prevention of election-related conflicts, including gender-based violence;
3. Foster the active, meaningful and free participation of civil society members, including young people, women and minority groups, and the media, in the political life of the respective countries;
4. Promote greater participation of women from the Sahel region in all international forums and peace talks to resolve the crises in the Sahel, building on the European Union/United Nations high-level conference on women's leadership in the Sahel, held on 9 April 2013, and on other relevant international and regional frameworks;
5. Build the capacity of governmental and non-governmental national and regional actors, including regional economic communities, on issues relating to facilitation, dialogue and mediation, to foster peace and reconciliation, manage political risks and promote collaborative processes;
6. Build the capacity of local authorities and institutions to establish and implement mechanisms for broader and more inclusive participation of the community and vulnerable groups, including women, in local development;
7. Support the development of a community security and social cohesion strategy, through participatory and inclusive dialogue, for Sahel countries;
8. Support increased participation of young people, women and gender experts in peace talks, negotiations of peace agreements and efforts at national reconciliation.

The UN Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel (**OSES**) is hiring a Consultant to carry out missions in Sahel core countries, discuss with most stakeholders and come back with concrete proposition enabling the operationalization of the above key indicative actions contained in the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

DUTIES AND RESPONSABILITY

Under the direct supervision of Senior Program Management Officer, the incumbent will be responsible for the following duties:

- Carry out missions to Sahel countries and hold discussions with women leaders and organizations, as well as other stakeholders to review and exchange on how to reinforce the role of women in local, national and regional governance;
- In each country, organize a national forum of women to discuss their participation in local, national and regional governance, including how to enhance their role in the identification of regional priorities, as well as the definition and the implementation of Sahel strategies and initiatives;
- Facilitate the designation by the national fora of two participants per country who will participate in a regional forum;



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- Draft country missions' and national women fora reports;
 - Travel to HQs of regional organizations including ECOWAS and UEMOA, ECCAS, CEMAC;
 - Support the organization of a regional forum to enhance the role of women in the regional and international strategies and initiatives for the Sahel;
 - Compile countries' report to be present at the regional forum; this compile report will be titled: enhancing the participation of women in the Implementation of the UNISS;
 - Draft the report of the regional women's forum;
 - Consolidated report on enhancing the role of women in the Implementation of the UNISS; and
 - Draft Formal Articles of Association for the establishment of a Women Contact Group in line with Brussels recommendations;
 - Perform other r duties as may be necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the consultancy.

Output

- a. Reports of five national women's fora;
- b. Report of the regional women's forum;
- c. Formal Articles of Association for the establishment of a Women Contact Group for security, good governance and resilience in the Sahel region, approved by the inaugural forum
- d. Consolidated report on enhancing the role of women in decision making process and the implementation of Sahel initiatives and strategies

Methodology

The methodology to be used by the consultant will include: (i) Briefing with OSES team and other Sahel task force members in Dakar; (ii) Discussions with women leaders and other stakeholders; (iii) Interviews; (iv) Workshops as needed; (v) National forum; and Telephone calls..



COMPETENCIES

- **Professionalism** – Thorough knowledge of and practical experience women mobilization and gender affairs including the full range of advocacy and communication tools, and methodologies essential to sensitizing and mobilizing people around social and political issues. Capacity to develop strategies for nurturing effective issue-based social movements and facilitating regional multi-stakeholders processes. Ability to rapidly analyze and integrate diverse information from varied sources; up-to-date knowledge of ECOWAS, AU, UN, especially on its interventions in West Africa peace and security; political awareness and ability to diplomatically handle sensitive situations. Fully proficient in computer skills and use of relevant software and other applications, e.g. word processing, PowerPoint or equivalent, graphics software, internal databases, Internet and social media. Shows pride in work and in achievements; demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; remains calm in stressful situations. Take responsibility for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work.
- **Communication:** Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; tailors language, tone, style and format to match audience; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed.
- **Planning & 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; foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education: Advanced University degree in political science, international relations, programme management, business administration or equivalent in any other related field. A first-level university degree in combination with qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Experience: Ten years (10) experience in the areas of gender programming, including mainstreaming, or development programming with a strong bias on gender and woman's empowerment. Experience in the West Africa. Work experience or knowledge of the Sahel is desirable.



Language: Fluency in French and English, (both oral and written) is required; Working knowledge in Arabic is of added value.

APPLICATION:

This announcement is available on UNOWA: Website: www.unowa.unmissions.org

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

- Motivation letter
- Completed P-11 form (please note that the P11- Form is available on UNOWA Website)
- Copy of Diplomas and Degrees
- Work certificate from former employers

You can send your application by e-mail at unowa-cnmc-hr@un.org or via postal mail at the following address: United Nations Office for West Africa - UNOWA - 23851 Dakar Ponty Senegal by indicating clearly the vacancy number and title of post.

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.