

CORE VALUES: INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM, RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

**Terms of Reference for a National Consultant on
Emerging Approaches and New Tools for Preventive Diplomacy in West Africa:
The Case for International Contact Groups**

Duration: 6 months

Number of consultants: 1

Beginning: 15 September 2011

Location: West Africa with movement in the sub-region

I. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

With the growing complexity of conflicts in West Africa, traditional preventive diplomacy tools revealed unable to adequately analyze and address conflict dynamics in the sub region. In the face of this situation, it is important to question the assumptions that underlie our conflict prevention strategies and peacemaking efforts, and to reassess the paradigms that inform and guide decision-making in these areas.

Considering the urgent necessity to revisit current preventive diplomacy tools and approaches, and in line with its mandate, UNOWA has initiated for the last few years a broad process of consultations and thinking on the most effective ways to adjust United Nations preventive efforts to the new conflict environment in West Africa. This consultative process takes place essentially by means of regional consultations and conferences and through the publication of papers and reports on the concerned issues.

In this context, UNOWA has published reports and issue papers on a number of emerging critical challenges to peace and security in West Africa, including unconstitutional changes of government and their implications for governance and peace, election-related violence and its impact on stability, the role of security institutions in providing security during electoral processes, the role of women in conflict prevention and the added-value of human rights in the prevention of conflict and the strengthening of rule of law and peace.

UNOWA is currently preparing a major report on the establishment of International Contact Groups (ICGs) as one of the new approaches to conflict prevention in West Africa, especially in the contexts of governance-related crisis and unconstitutional changes of government.

ICGs have been used in the recent years, essentially to accompany the peaceful and consensual return to a normal constitutional order following an unconstitutional change of government. The rationale behind the establishment of ICGs is that, in situations of crisis managements and peacemaking, the international community is more efficient in supporting the restoration of constitutional order when it speaks with one voice and acts in a coherent and coordinated manner. One of the foundational objectives of ICGs is therefore to build synergies among stakeholders and partners and facilitate a consensual, coherent and coordinated response.

The renewed interest for *ad hoc* mechanisms for crisis management in general and ICGs in particular has been confirmed with the establishment of an ICG in Mauritania in 2008 and in Guinea in 2009. The United Nations, through UNOWA and the Special Representative of the Secretary General for West Africa, played a major role in the ICGs for Mauritania and Guinea, including facilitating collaboration between ICGs' members and building synergies within a trilateral strategic partnership for preventive action between UNOWA, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU). The contribution of these United Nations efforts to the successful and peaceful resolution of these crises was acknowledged by national stakeholders. There

is no doubt that ICGs, as emerging preventive diplomacy tools, will continue to play a critical role in crisis prevention in West Africa, with an increasingly significant contribution expected of the United Nations.

In this context, and ten years after the establishment of the first contact group on Côte d'Ivoire, followed by the ICG on Mauritania (2008) and the ICG on Guinea (2009), it is important to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the functioning of these *ad hoc* mechanisms, focusing on not only how their performance but also on ways to overcome weaknesses while strengthening progress, and to make recommendations for the future.

II. MAIN TASKS OF CONSULTANT

Under the supervision of the Senior Political Affairs Officer, the consultant is expected to produce a report on “Emerging Approaches and New Tools for Preventive Diplomacy in West Africa: the Case for International Contact Groups”, which should focus, among others, on the following issues: the conditions, environment and modalities for the establishment of ICGs in West Africa; the functioning of ICGs and their efficacy as preventive diplomacy tools; and policy recommendations on the most effective ways to use ICGs for what they are intended for.

The consultant is expected to travel in the West African sub region:

- 2 trips in countries where a crisis of governance was peacefully and consensually managed through an International Contact Group, notably Guinea and Mauritania; (as per the attached)
- 1 trip at UNOWA Headquarters in Dakar: at the end of the consultation to deliver his/her report.

III. OUTCOMES

A comprehensive report assessing the work of ICGs in West Africa, including the conditions for the establishment of these Groups, their functioning, their efficacy as preventive diplomacy tools, their weaknesses, the progress achieved and how to strengthen the latter; and, by way of conclusion, policy recommendations for a more effective use of ICGs in West Africa.

IV. PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

- The report is produced timely;
- The report conform to those quality requirements expected of UNOWA's knowledge products, including its Issue Papers;
- The policy recommendations concluding the report are helpful for the search for more informed decision-making processes on new and emerging preventive diplomacy tools and approaches in West Africa;

V. REQUIRED COMPETENCES

Professionalism:

- Excellent research, conceptual and analytical skills;
- Good knowledge of the socio-political and economic situation in West Africa;
- Good knowledge of the crisis environment in West Africa;

- Excellent knowledge of the work of the United Nations and the wider international community on preventive diplomacy and crisis management.

Planning:

- Ability to plan and organize own work, from the collection of data through other activities, 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 stakeholders, including states, the diplomatic community and civil society organizations; ability to work in a multicultural environment.

VI. QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Postgraduate education in law, political or social sciences or peace and security studies.

Professional Experience:

At least 10 years of experience in the field of political science, international relations or related field.

Languages:

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

Other skills:

Computer skills

Application

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

- 1./ Cover letter-
- 2./ Curriculum Vitae (CV) or completed P-11
3. / Certified Copy of Diplomas and Degrees

Please email your application to:

lya@un.org

or

Post it to UNOWA at: 23851 Dakar Ponty

Note: Please indicate the vacancy title

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Deadline for Submission of Applications: 9 September 2011