



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: **25 April 2019**

Country: Republic of Moldova

Description of the assignment: National Consultant on Gender Sensitive Communication

Project name: Support to Security Sector Reform in the Republic of Moldova

Period of assignment/services: 4-6 June 2019, up to 4 working days

Proposals should be submitted online by pressing the "Apply Online" button, no later than 10 May 2019.

Requests for clarification only must be sent by standard electronic communication to the following e-mail: natalia.volcovschi@undp.org. UNDP will respond by standard electronic mail and will send written copies of the response, including an explanation of the query without identifying the source of inquiry, to all applicants.

1. BACKGROUND

The National Defense Strategy of the Republic of Moldova sets an objective of the integration of the gender prospective into the security and defense policy. It also talks about the need to ensure better gender balance in the human resources that would also help in implementing the commitments under the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Two complementary strategies are often used to integrate gender: gender mainstreaming across all Defence sector policies and activities, and promoting the equal representation of men and women in the sector, which includes initiatives to increase the recruitment, retention and advancement of women.¹ A particular attention shall be paid to enlarging the knowledge of gender aspects and developing specific capacities, as they are generally still inadequate to support effective gender mainstreaming in the sector. This relates to capacity in terms of skills, knowledge (legal/policy compliance requirements and theoretical frameworks) and the amount of human, financial and logistical resources devoted to the coordination of gender programming and compliance monitoring.

As the Defense reform processes are concerned with re-conceptualizing security and redesigning defense forces and structures to adjust them to the security needs of the state and its citizens, this could be accomplished only in accordance with the democratic requirements of representation, accountability and transparency. The defense force should reflect the society. It is established to protect and defend its core values such as citizenship and equality. A more balanced gender composition, in turn, favors cohesion and effectiveness in increasingly multidimensional peace operations.

It is important to note, that a gender balance alone does not guarantee that defense reform will be gender responsive. A gender perspective in defense reform shall go beyond numbers and effectively respond to the needs of all in the society. The integration of gender issues in Security and Defense Sector Reforms is important for the effective delivery of security services, and the oversight and accountability of the security sector, as men, women, boys and girls have different security needs and priorities. Integrating gender issues also highlights the need to support the establishment of the representative and non-discriminatory security sector institutions – an increased participation of women can strengthen the civilian trust and operational effectiveness. Gender responsive internal

initiatives, for instance specific policies in management, human resource management, communication, setting of codes of conduct, etc., can help prevent, address and sanction sexual harassment within the armed forces, as well as human rights violations that might be committed by security sector personnel while interacting with the civilians.

Achieving better gender equality in the Armed Forces is also important for the participation in peacekeeping operations, that has become much more complex, while peacekeepers are involved in tasks which go beyond providing traditional security. Peacekeepers often are tasked with service provision to local communities, rebuilding institutions or ensuring free elections. Diversity in forcing composition and gender mainstreaming in operations enables the defense sector to better perform such tasks.² However, even without formal barriers, in practice there are often ceilings to women's career advancement, widespread sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination. In addition, defense sector personnel themselves are often guilty of sexual harassment and Gender Based Violence (GBV), perpetrated against both their colleagues and civilians. There are no available data on the up-to-date situation in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova, though as the Army reflects the situation in the society at large, sexual harassment and sexism are present in the Army and shall be addressed.

At the request of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) the UNDP is addressing the gender issues in the Support to Security Sector Reform Project by providing the Ministry of Defence with assistance in the implementation of its plans for mainstreaming the gender related issues in MoD's and National Army's activity.

2. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ANALYTICAL WORK

The consultancy shall contribute towards the implementation by the Ministry of Defence of the Action Plan of the National Army on the National Programme for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security", and has the following objective:

1. Conducting of an interactive training "Communication sensitive to gender dimension" for the communication and public relations specialists based on case studies and group work with the aim of acquiring new knowledge on conducting gender sensitive communication campaigns, promoting visibility of the gender mainstreaming activities and the prevention of the discriminatory approaches in the media products.

For detailed information, please refer to Annex 1 – Terms of Reference.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

I. Academic Qualifications:

- University degree in Social, Human Rights, Law, Communication, Public Relations or another related field. Additional points will be granted for MA and PhD degrees in the fields mentioned above;
- Certifications in the area of gender equality and gender mainstreaming will be an asset.

II. Years of experience:

- Minimum 5 years of experience in the area of gender equality and gender mainstreaming within public entities, NGOs or international organizations.
- Previous experience in organizing of the awareness campaigns for promoting the gender equality and nondiscrimination.
- Experience in conducting training for public servants on gender sensitive communication.

III. Competencies:

- In-depth knowledge of gender equality and gender mainstreaming issues pertinent to Republic of Moldova context;
- In-depth communication experience, including conducting trainings for journalists or university courses;
- Knowledge of the central public administration system of the Republic of Moldova and in drafting policy and legislation documents;
- Strong written and oral communication skills;
- Proven Report writing skills;
- Fluent in Romanian. Knowledge of English is an asset.

Proven commitment to the core values of the United Nations, in particular, respecting differences of culture, gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, language, age, HIV status, disability, and sexual orientation, or other status.

UNDP Moldova is committed to workforce diversity. Women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other ethnic or religious minorities, persons living with HIV, as well as refugees and other non-citizens legally entitled to work in the Republic of Moldova, are particularly encouraged to apply.

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

1. Proposal:

- (i) Explaining why they are the most suitable for the work;
- (ii) Provide a brief methodology on how they will approach and conduct the work (if applicable);

2. Financial proposal quoted in USD;

3. Personal CV including past experience in similar projects and at least 3 references.

5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Contracts based on daily fee

The financial proposal will specify the daily fee, travel expenses and per diems quoted in separate line items, and payments are made to the Individual Consultant based on the number of days worked.

Travel

All envisaged travel costs must be included in the financial proposal. This includes all travel to join duty station/repatriation travel. In general, UNDP should not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the IC wish to travel on a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources.

In the case of unforeseeable travel, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between the respective business unit and Individual Consultant, prior to travel and will be reimbursed.

6. EVALUATION

Initially, individual consultants will be short-listed based on the following minimum qualification criteria:

- University degree in Social, Human Rights, Law, Communication, Public Relations or another related field. Additional points will be granted for MA and PhD degrees in the fields mentioned above;
- Minimum 5 years of experience in the area of gender equality and gender mainstreaming within public entities, NGOs or international organizations;
- Experience in conducting training for public servants on gender sensitive communication.

The short-listed individual consultants will be further evaluated based on the following methodology:

Cumulative analysis

The award of the contract shall be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- a) responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- b) having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

* Technical Criteria weight – 60% (300 pts);

* Financial Criteria weight – 40% (200 pts).

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 210 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
Technical		
University degree in Social, Human Rights, Law, Communication, Public Relations or another related field. Additional points will be granted for MA and PhD degrees in the fields mentioned above	(under-Master's – 20 pts, Master's – 30 pts)	30
Minimum 5 years of experience in the area of gender equality and gender mainstreaming within public entities, NGOs or international organizations	(5 years – 30 pts, >5 years – 40 pts)	40
Experience in conducting training for public servants on gender sensitive communication	(1 training – up to 30 pts. each additional training up to 15 pts)	55
Fluent in Romanian. Knowledge of English is an asset	(Romanian – 10 pts, English – 5 pts)	15
Interview (demonstrated technical knowledge and experience; communication/ interpersonal skills; initiative; creativity/ resourcefulness)	(up to 100 – demonstrated technical knowledge and experience; up to 30 – communication/ interpersonal skills; up to 10 – initiative; up to 10 – creativity/resourcefulness)	150
Belonging to the group(s) under-represented in the UN Moldova and/or the area of assignment*		10
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300

* Under-represented group in the area of assignment (IT industry) are women. Under-represented groups in UN Moldova are persons with disabilities, LGBTI, ethnic and linguistic minorities, especially ethnic Gagauzians, Bulgarians, Roma, Jews, people of African descent, people living with HIV, religious minorities, especially Muslim women, refugees and other non-citizens.

Financial	
Evaluation of submitted financial offers will be done based on the following formula: $S = F_{min} / F * 200$ S – score received on financial evaluation; Fmin – the lowest financial offer out of all the submitted offers qualified over the technical evaluation round; F – financial offer under consideration.	200

Winning candidate

The winning candidate will be the candidate, who has accumulated the highest aggregated score (technical scoring + financial scoring).

ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)

ANNEX 2 – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS