



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: **15 February 2021**

Country: Republic of Moldova

Description of the assignment: National Consultant to ensure gender aspects mainstreaming in the NAP-2 Project activities and outputs

Project name: NAP-2: Advancing Moldova's National Climate Change Adaptation Planning Project

Period of assignment/services: March 2021 – December 2023, 180 working days

Contract type: Individual Contract (IC)

Proposals should be submitted online by pressing the "Apply Online" button, no later than **the 26th of February 2021**.

Requests for **clarification only** must be sent by standard electronic communication to the following e-mail: pavel.gavrilita@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

Climate change is already profoundly impacting the conditions for resource availability and agricultural activities. Over the last decade, the country has experienced many extreme events, such as droughts and major floods, along with the cumulative effects caused by increased mean temperature and the uneven distribution of precipitation throughout the year, which have had negative consequences on the country's economy, and its population wellbeing and health. Severe droughts are recurring more frequently, causing significant economic losses. The increasing scope and intensity of extreme events have also resulted in increased frequencies of high-risk situations. By 2050, an increase of 2–3°C in the average temperature, an additional 32 days that exceed the current maximum temperature by 10%, and another 12 days with zero precipitation are projected.

The Government sees the National Adaptation Planning (NAP) process as key to achieving the adaptation objectives outlined in its 2014 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of the Republic of Moldova and its 2020 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), as well as the continued mainstreaming of climate change considerations into its policies and budgeting processes. The proposed project supports the Republic of Moldova's Government in advancing the second cycle of

its National Adaptation Planning process (known as NAP-2). The outcomes of the NAP-2 national adaptation planning processes are:

- **Outcome 1:** To strengthen and operationalize the national steering mechanism for climate change adaptation (CCA);
- **Outcome 2:** To improve the long-term capacity on planning and implementation of adaptation actions through CCA technologies;
- **Outcome 3:** To improve the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation through the increased alignment of national development priorities in the priority sectors (forestry, health, energy, and transport).

The project will contribute to UNDAF, 2018-2022 outcome #3 (The people of Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from enhanced environmental governance, energy security, sustainable management of natural resources, climate, and disaster-resilient development). Additionally, the project will contribute to the UNDP Country Programme Output 3.3 (National and sub-national governments have improved capacities to integrate resilience to climate change and disasters into development plans and practices to reduce population's vulnerability). Other than that, the project will contribute to the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030" by ensuring resilience to climate change by reducing risks related to climate change and by facilitating adaptation in six priority sectors - agriculture, water resources, health, forestry, energy, and transport.

The preliminary work under the first cycle of the NAP (known as NAP-1) supported developing a NAP as a process, conceptualizing, and developing its elements, including the national steering mechanism, and laid down the groundwork towards long-term adaptation planning. Despite the progress, significant gaps remain in integrating climate change considerations into many of the national priority sectors' development policies and their associated budget priorities. National appropriations for CCA remain limited.

The NAP-2 goals will be achieved within two parallel implementation tracks. The first track implemented by UNDP expands and deepens the national approach developed under the NAP-1 and strengthens synergies both vertically, at different levels of the governance, and horizontally, between the sectors affected by climate change to reduce duplication of efforts, pool scarce resources for efficient use, and ensure a coherent and comprehensive approach to the integration of CCA responses into development planning. In contrast, the second track will focus on adaptation in the agriculture sector and will be concurrently implemented under FAO's auspices.

The National Designated Authority has coordinated with the UNDP and the FAO country offices to ensure the complementarity and congruency of the activities and exchange, as appropriate. By its very nature, the NAP-2 will facilitate the integration of CCA into existing strategies, policies, and programmes and establish a strong foundation for the integration of methods, tools, and information systems in day-to-day planning activities to inform decision-makers on the climate risks effectively and to enable the informed formulation of resilient projects and financing strategies.

On the other hand, it is well-known that climate change increases gender inequality, reduces women's ability to be financially independent, and has an overall negative impact on women's social and political rights, especially in economies heavily based on agriculture. In many cases, gender inequality means that women are more vulnerable to climate change's adverse effects. Women can (and do) play a critical role in response to climate change due to their local knowledge of and

leadership in sustainable resource management or leading sustainable practices at the household and community level. Women's participation at the political level has resulted in more excellent responsiveness to citizens' needs, often increasing cooperation across party and ethnic lines and delivering more sustainable peace. At the local level, women's inclusion at the leadership level has led to improved climate-related projects and policies. On the contrary, if policies or projects are implemented without women's meaningful participation, it can increase existing inequalities and decrease effectiveness.

In this context, this assignment will contribute to enhancing the degree to which Project activities and outputs promote gender equality and equity and take into account differences in ways men and women perceive incentives linked to the climate change adaptation and how these perceptions can influence the achievement of the results specified in project objectives. For this purpose, the project will contract a national consultant to support the Project Team in mainstreaming the gender dimensions into the activities and deliverables of the National Adaptation Planning process. The consultant will work closely with the respective national partners, including state institutions, local authorities, civil society and international organizations.

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

Integrating gender dimensions into national climate changes policies, strategies, action plans, and projects or programmes has become critical for realizing Government commitments to respond to climate change impacts and vulnerabilities. This assignment's main objective is to assist the Project Team in identifying gender gaps and provide comprehensive support and guidance to the project team and ensure that gender concerns will be brought to the forefront of the national adaptation process.

Summary of key functions:

The consultant will work under the supervisor of the Project Manager's and in close cooperation with the Team Leaders and will provide comprehensive support and guidance to the project team and facilitate the efforts to integrate gender aspects into the national adaptation process. The consultant will partially work under the guidance of an International Consultant on specific assignments. All provided support, advice and recommendations should be in line with the [GCF Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan 2020-2023](#)¹, UNDP Gender Equality Strategy² and the National Strategy on Ensuring Equality between women and men (2017-2021) for the Republic of Moldova³. The specific tasks are presented below:

- Ensure that relevant gender information, especially socio-economic information, is identified and collected;
- Support International Consultant and provide national-tailored inputs to a gender action plan for the whole period of the NAP2 project implementation that will contain activities, targets, and relevant qualitative and quantitative indicators for monitoring progress;

¹ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b24-15>

² <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/undp-gender-equality-strategy-2018-2021.html>

³ https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/intr16_85.pdf

- Organize thematic training, workshop meetings for Project consultants' teams per specific components on mainstreaming gender dimension into project activities and deliverables;
- Sensitize official beneficiaries on the crucial role women are playing in society and the adaptation process and how essential it is to involve them in every aspect of this process;
- Engage women decision-makers in the training, meetings, workshops, etc.;
- Provide gender-sensitive review and inputs to the project deliverables upon request;
- Support IC in conducting an in-depth gender-disaggregated cross-sectorial analysis of the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups, with a specific focus on rural women, including the collection of initial information, surveys, analysis, etc.
- Support the organization of a consultation workshop to present the results of the cross-sectorial analysis of the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups, and update them according to the recommendations received;
- Mainstream gender sensitivity in project approaches by ensuring women participate in a meaningful way during climate change impact inventories and the identification of adaptation options, including at the local level;
- Provide gender-related inputs to the policy documents to be developed within the project, specifically the National CCA Program and its Action Plan, and to the NAP M&E framework;
- Perform the gender-review of adaptation/resilience plans for six district towns and integrate the gender aspects in a participatory manner;
- Support IC in conducting a gender gap analysis of sectorial policies and adaptation plans for five priority sectors to understand better where women and men are situated in climate change in the priority sectors, the barriers for women's empowerment and the opportunities to strengthen the integration of gender equality into NAP planning and implementation processes;
- Support the organization of the consultation workshop to present the analysis findings, ensure their consultation with the main stakeholders and update them according to the received recommendations;
- Provide other gender-related inputs as required by the Project Manager and Team Leaders.

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

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Academic Qualification:

- University degree in social sciences, human rights, women/gender-related fields, or other fields relevant to the assignment.

Experience:

- At least 6 years of progressively responsible professional experience in human rights, women/gender-related fields, preferably in gender and sustainable development, climate change, or environment
- Proven professional experience in organizing and delivering thematic training on mainstreaming gender equality;

- Proven experience in gender mainstreaming into the policy documents, Gender and Climate Change/Environment, will be an asset;
- Extensive knowledge of the country's climate-related political framework and understanding of climate change adaptation frameworks would be assets.

Competencies:

- Demonstrates excellent organizational skills and a proven ability for multi-disciplinary analysis;
- Familiarity with national and international sector-specific gender mainstreaming guidelines.

Language requirements:

- Fluency in English and Romanian is required for this assignment.
- Knowledge of Russian will be considered as an advantage for the candidate.

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 another status. Please specify in CV, in case you belong to the group(s) under-represented in the UN Moldova and/or the area of assignment.

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

Applicants shall submit the following **required documents**:

- ☒ Offeror's Letter confirming Interest and Availability, including financial offer, according to Annex 2;
- ☒ CV, including information about experience in similar assignments.
- ☒ Brief description of why the individual considers him/herself the most suitable for the assignment.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

If an applicant is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the applicant must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Lump-sum contracts

The financial proposal shall specify a total **lump sum amount**, and payment terms around specific and measurable (qualitative and quantitative) deliverables (i.e. whether payments fall in instalments

or upon completion of the entire contract). Payments are based upon output, i.e. upon delivery of the services specified in the TOR. In order to assist the requesting unit in the comparison of financial proposals, the financial proposal will include a breakdown of this lump sum amount (including fees, taxes, travel costs, accommodation costs, communication, and the number of anticipated working days).

Travel

All envisaged travel costs (if applicable) 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 sciences, human rights, women/gender-related fields, or other fields relevant to the assignment.
- At least 6 years of progressively responsible professional experience in human rights, women/gender-related fields, preferably in gender and sustainable development, climate change, or environment.

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
<u>Technical</u>		

University degree in social sciences, human rights, women/gender-related fields, or other fields relevant to the assignment	University degree – 40 pts, Master's degree – 50 pts.	50
At least 6 years of progressively responsible professional experience in human rights, women/gender-related fields, preferably in gender and sustainable development, climate change, or environment	6 years – 40 pts, each additional year 5 pts up to the max – 60 pts	60
Interview (demonstrated technical knowledge and experience; communication/ interpersonal skills; initiative; creativity/ resourcefulness). Only the first 5 applicants that have accumulated the highest technical score shall be invited to the interview.		
Proven professional experience in organizing and delivering thematic training on mainstreaming gender equality	limited – <20 pts, satisfactory – <25 pts, extensive – <45 pts	45
Proven experience in gender mainstreaming into the policy documents, Gender and Climate Change/Environment, will be an asset	limited – <20 pts, satisfactory – <30 pts, extensive – <50 pts	50
Extensive knowledge of the country's climate-related political framework and understanding of climate change adaptation frameworks would be assets	limited – <10 pts, satisfactory – <15 pts, extensive – <30 pts	30
Demonstrates excellent organizational skills and a proven ability for multi-disciplinary analysis	limited – <10 pts, satisfactory – <15 pts, extensive – <20 pts	20
Familiarity with national and international sector-specific gender mainstreaming guidelines	No – 0 pts, yes – 15 pts.	15
Fluency in English and Romanian is required for this assignment, Russian is an asset	English – max 10 pts., Romanian – max 10 pts, Russian – max 5 pts.	25
Belonging to the group(s) under-represented in the UN Moldova and/or the area of assignment ⁴ (specify in CV)	no – 0 pts., to one group – 2 pts., to two or more groups – 5 pts.	5
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300
Financial Evaluation Scoring		
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).

⁴ The under-represented group in the area of the assignment are (men/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.

Important notice:

The applicant who has the statute of Government Official / Public Servant, before appointment will be asked to submit the following documentation:

- a no-objection letter in respect of the applicant received from the government, and;
- the applicant is certified in writing by the government to be on official leave without pay for the entire duration of the Individual Contract.

A retired government official is not considered in this case a government official, and as such, may be contracted.

ANNEXES:**ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)****ANNEX 2 – OFFEROR'S LETTER TO UNDP CONFIRMING INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY,
INCLUDING FINANCIAL PROPOSAL TEMPLATE****ANNEX 3 – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**