

CONSULTANT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Issued on: 01.09.2014

ORGANIZATIONAL LOCATION:	UN-HABITAT
DUTY STATION:	Nairobi
FUNCTIONAL TITLE:	HOUSING EXPERT, CONSULTANT
DURATION:	01 November 2014 – 31 April 2015 (6 months) with possibility of extension
CLOSING DATE:	30th September 2014

BACKGROUND

Recently, the Governing Council, in its resolution 24/9 has endorsed the Global Housing Strategy (GHS), which inter alia, calls for a paradigm shift from output-based towards results-based policies and strategies to promote access to adequate housing for all.

The GHS encourages the formation and participatory management of multilateral partnerships at the national and local level to ensure a “level playing field” of negotiations; the enrichment of the global strategy by localised, contextualised successful projects, programmes and strategies (depending on the needs of the country) and; more importantly, the promotion of inclusive, gender based, rights based equity measures for the urban poor.

In addition, one of the key expected outcomes of the GHS is to contribute to reviewing and/or redefining the role of governments beyond enablement, towards reassuming a leadership role in: (a) encouraging pro-poor performance of the markets, (b) facilitating and supporting demand capabilities of economically weakest sectors of the society; and (c) promoting a variety of housing solutions matching the different demands. While elaborating national housing policies, strategies and programmes governments should consider the links with economic development, employment generation and poverty reduction policies, and through promoting sustainable and more cost-effective building technologies and materials.

In the sequence of the GC 24/9 Resolution Approval, steps were made to mobilize resources and UN-Habitat's Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch is now in the process of implementing the GHS at national level, starting with six pilot countries. This consultancy is aimed at supporting the implementation of the GHS, in line with UN-Habitat's core principles of housing sustainability, inclusiveness and adequacy.

RESPONSIBILITIES and DELIVERABLES

The consultant, in collaboration with the unit coordinator and the team will:

1. Provide technical support and contribute to the implementation to the Global Housing Strategy, including through assessing what is lacking in terms institutional, regulatory and financial frameworks, facilitating and assisting in the process of capacity building of government to develop strategies for implementing policies directives, action plans and specific programmes to address country priorities in terms of housing, specially for the most poor;
2. Assist in the GHS programme management, following up on schedules and work progress, TORs, contracts and payments for consultants, correspondence/coordination with major partners, UN-Habitat field offices/regional offices /headquarters branches and other UN agencies;
3. Provide general support to the team in work planning and coordination of the Housing Policy portfolio, including research/normative papers and reports in best-practice tools and principles related to sustainable affordable housing; publications and technical notes on sustainable affordable housing;
4. Contribute to reviewing current good practices and innovations in the housing policy sector, developing/managing new projects, and exploring ways forward for UN-Habitat to enhance the impact of the Global Housing Strategy and the country and regional levels;
5. Review national housing policies, national housing sector profiles, partners' and UN-Habitat project

proposals/publication drafts as requested.

TIMEFRAME

The assignment will be undertaken for a total of 6 months, during the period of November 01st 2014 to April 31st 2015, with possibility of extension.

COMPETENCIES

- Thorough understanding of the dynamics of the human settlements sector in developing countries, including the constraints posed to housing delivery and institutional requirements best applicable to the given context; knowledge of concepts and approaches relevant to housing policy development, specifically in the areas of low-income housing and related, as well as good understanding of practice in the housing policy sector in developing countries.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills and ability to articulate complex ideas in a clear and accurate manner including the ability to present the content of the thematic area in a clear and concise manner.
- Planning and management skills: ability to co-ordinate programme delivery, establish priorities and plan, coordinate own work plan and projects, use time efficiently and apply judgment in the context of competing deadlines.
- Adaptability, flexibility and resourcefulness in terms of working in a complex and dynamic environment, which may be faced with resource constraints at times; flexibility and ability to think “outside the box”, and offer new and different options to solve problems or meet client needs.

EDUCATION

- Advanced university degree (masters or similar) in a field relevant to housing and urban planning, public policy, social sciences, international development, political sciences, or similar.
- Demonstrated level experience in housing sector or previous consultancies in this area.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Expert knowledge of the housing sector in developing countries;
- Minimum of 5 years’ experience in research and policy development related to sustainable urban development, housing, policy design preferably in developing country contexts and within international organizations.
- Experience in housing policy formulation and programme management in developing countries

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- English and French are the working languages of the United Nations. For the consultancies advertised, excellent proficiency in spoken and written English is required. Strong working knowledge in spoken and written French and/or Spanish will be regarded as a considerable advantage.

OTHER SKILLS

- Experience in the formulation of strategic plans at the organizational and sector levels and giving policy advice and capacity-building recommendations to human settlements institutions in developing countries
- Demonstrated ability in housing sector development and facilitation of capacity development processes involving individuals, groups and institutions, in particular in multi-cultural environments
- Specific experience in supporting local or national governments or private sector in developing countries in developing policies/programmes and implementation strategies
- Project management skills

REMUNERATION

A monthly fee rate will be determined by functions performed and experience of the consultant. Where applicable, travel costs (airplane ticket economy class), transfers, and daily allowance as per the UN rate is payable in addition to the monthly fee.

Applications should include:

- Cover memo (maximum 1 page)
- CV in the PHP format, accessible through the INSPIRA website (inspira.un.org) Please note, if using INSPIRA for the first time, you need to register in order to activate your account, which will allow you to log in and create a personal History Profile.
- The PHP should be attached to the application as a PDF file.
- Summary CV (maximum 2 pages), indicating the following information:
 1. Educational Background (incl. dates)
 2. Professional Experience (assignments, tasks, achievements, duration by years/ months)
 3. Other Experience and Expertise (e.g. Internships/ voluntary work, etc.)
 4. Expertise and preferences regarding location of potential assignments
 5. Expectations regarding remuneration
- Cover memo (maximum 1 page)

Please also be advised that since April 15th 2010, applicants for consultancies must be part of the UN-HABITAT e-Roster in order for their application to be considered. You can reach the e-Roster through the following link: <http://e-roster.unhabitat.org>

All applications should be submitted in electronic format (using MS Word) by email to Christophe.Lalande@unhabitat.org and Fernanda.Lonardoni@unhabitat.org

UN-HABITAT
P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Email:
Fax: + 254 20

Deadline for applications:

UN-HABITAT does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process. If you have any questions concerning persons or companies claiming to be recruiting on behalf of these offices and requesting the payment of a fee, please contact: recruitment@unon.org