



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN)

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA) SECRETARIAT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRM SELECTION)

PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF PROTOCOLS, COMPLETE OUTSTANDING NEGOTIATIONS, UNDERTAKE STUDIES AND REVIEWS (AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW), PROVIDE TRAININGS ON PROTOCOLS TO RMCs TO SUPPORT NEGOTIATIONS IN TRADE IN GOODS, PROTOCOL ON TRADE IN SERVICES, PHASE II PROTOCOLS [INVESTMENT; COMPETITION POLICY; IPR; DIGITAL TRADE; WOMEN AND YOUTH IN TRADE, TRADE FACILITATION; CUSTOMS HARMONISATION; QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE; DISPUTE SETTLEMENT] AND OTHER SERVICES THAT STRENGTHEN THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY (ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL) OF THE SECRETARIAT (SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISORS TO THE AfCFTA SECRETARY-GENERAL - RESEARCH & STATISTICS, SPECIAL PROJECTS AND DELIVERY, TRADE AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION, GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE COORDINATOR) AND RECs

COUNTRIES : Multinational – African Union Member Countries

NAME OF PROJECT: Institutional Support Project to the AfCFTA Secretariat for an Effective AfCFTA Implementation (Phase II)

SECTOR : Regional

PROJECT ID NO. : P-Z1-KF0-073

GRANT NO. : 2100155041679

CONTRACT NAME: Procurement of Consultancy Services to Support Implementation of Protocols, Complete Outstanding Negotiations, Undertake Studies and Reviews (AfCFTA Implementation Review), Provide Trainings on Protocols to RMCs to Support Negotiations in Trade in Goods, Protocol on Trade in Services, Phase II Protocols [Investment; Competition Policy; IPR; Digital Trade; Women and Youth in Trade, Trade Facilitation; Customs Harmonisation; Quality Infrastructure; Dispute Settlement] and other Services that Strengthen the Institutional Capacity (Administrative and Financial) of the Secretariat (Senior Technical Advisors to the AfCFTA Secretary-General - Research & Statistics, Special Projects and Delivery, Trade and Regional Integration, Guided Trade Initiative Coordinator) and RECs

IFB NO. : GHA/AfDB/AfCFTA/SERV/QCBS/01/2024

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1 The **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat** has received financing from the African Development Fund in the form of a “Grant” toward the cost of the **Institutional Support Project to the AfCFTA Secretariat for an Effective AfCFTA Implementation (ISP Phase II)** and intends to apply part of the agreed amount of this grant to payments under the contract for **Recruitment of a Consulting Firm** to Support Implementation of Protocols, Complete Outstanding Negotiations, Undertake Studies and Reviews (AfCFTA Implementation Review), Provide Trainings on Protocols to RMCs to Support Negotiations in Trade in Goods, Protocol on Trade in Services, Phase II Protocols [Investment; Competition Policy; IPR; Digital Trade; Women and Youth in Trade, Trade Facilitation; Customs Harmonisation; Quality Infrastructure; Dispute Settlement] and other Services that Strengthen the Institutional Capacity (Administrative and Financial) of the Secretariat (Senior Technical Advisors to the AfCFTA Secretary-General - Research & Statistics, Special Projects and Delivery, Trade and Regional Integration, Guided Trade Initiative Coordinator) and RECs.

1.2 The principal objectives of the ISP Phase II are to enhance sustainable intra-Africa trade and African Union Member States’ share of intra-Africa trade by scaling up the effective implementation of the AfCFTA. The Project will enable the AfCFTA Secretariat and African Union Member States (with particular focus on transition countries) to streamline and embed national and regional trade policy-related initiatives, and move forward the African trade integration agenda through the effective implementation of the AfCFTA.

1.3 The Project includes the following components: (a) Strengthening governance and institutional frameworks for effective AfCFTA implementation; (b) Enhancing inclusive participation of Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and informal cross-border traders in the AfCFTA implementation and (c) Enhancing private sector competitiveness through development of inclusive and pro-green growth regional and continental value chains to contribute to industrial development and boosting intra-Africa trade.

2. SERVICES INCLUDED UNDER THIS ASSIGNMENT

2.1 There is an urgent need to accelerate ongoing processes to facilitate the rolling out of the AfCFTA Secretariat’s implementation support to State Parties of the Agreement so that they can meet their obligations under the Agreement, as well as for the Secretariat to continue engaging in concerted dialogue with non-State Parties to address hindrances to ratification of the Agreement, and concluding the negotiations on outstanding areas. The main services included under the current assignment are as follows:

- a) Development and implementation of strategies for the effective implementation of Protocols to the Agreement (Annex 1);
- b) Completion of outstanding negotiations (Annex 2);
- c) Development and implementation of the AfCFTA Implementation Review Mechanism (Annex 3);
- d) Providing training on Protocols to AU Member States to support negotiations and implementation of the Protocols and accompanying Annexes on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Competition Policy, Intellectual Property Rights, Digital Trade,

Women and Youth in Trade, and Dispute Settlement, as well as Trade Facilitation and Customs Harmonisation (Annex 4);

- e) Strengthening the institutional capacity (administrative and financial) of the Secretariat (Annex 5);
- f) Provision of high-level technical advisory services to the Secretary-General (Annex 6);
- g) Enhancing coordination between the AfCFTA Secretariat and the RECs on the AfCFTA implementation (Annex 7);
- h) Quarterly progress reports, and overall/final report on the assignment (Annex 8).

2.2 The duration of the assignment is two (2) years. The expected start date of the assignment is **November 2024**.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1 The AfCFTA Secretariat now invites eligible Consultants (Firms) to indicate their interest in providing these services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

3.2 Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the **African Development Bank's "Rules and Procedures for the use of Consultants"** October 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at www.afdb.org.

3.3 Interested eligible consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding public holidays): afdbisp2@au-afcfta.org.

4. SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

4.1 Expressions of interest (soft or hard copy) must be delivered to the address below in person or by e-mail, and clearly marked AfCFTA ISP Phase II **Recruitment of a Consulting Firm** to Support Implementation of Protocols, Complete Outstanding Negotiations, Undertake Studies and Reviews (AfCFTA Implementation Review), Provide Trainings on Protocols to RMCs to Support Negotiations in Trade in Goods, Protocol on Trade in Services, Phase II Protocols [Investment; Competition Policy; IPR; Digital Trade; Women and Youth in Trade, Trade Facilitation; Customs Harmonisation; Quality Infrastructure; Dispute Settlement] and other Services that Strengthen the Institutional Capacity (Administrative and Financial) of the Secretariat (Senior Technical Advisors to the AfCFTA Secretary-General - Research & Statistics, Special Projects and Delivery, Trade and Regional Integration, Guided Trade Initiative Coordinator) and RECs (GHA/AfDB/AfCFTA/SERV/QCBS/01/2024) on or before **6th November 2024**. **If you do not hear from us within three (3) weeks after the deadline, please consider your application as unsuccessful.**

Attn: The Project Coordinator
ISP Phase II for an Effective AfCFTA Implementation
AfCFTA Secretariat
Africa Trade House

Ambassadorial Enclave

Liberia Road, Accra, Ghana

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