



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



## **SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN)**

### **AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA) SECRETARIAT**

#### **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – QUALITY AND COST BASED SELECTION)**

PROCUREMENT OF A FIRM FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AfCFTA ACADEMY FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (WITH A GREATER EMPHASIS ON WOMEN AND YOUTH)

<b>COUNTRIES</b>	:	Multinational – African Union Member Countries
<b>NAME OF PROJECT:</b>	:	Institutional Support Project to the AfCFTA Secretariat for an Effective AfCFTA Implementation (Phase II)
<b>SECTOR</b>	:	Regional
<b>PROJECT ID No.</b>	:	P-Z1-KF0-073
<b>GRANT NO.</b>	:	2100155041679
<b>CONTRACT NAME:</b>	:	Procurement of a firm for Consultancy Services to develop a framework toward establishment of an AfCFTA Academy for capacity development (with a greater emphasis on women and youth)
<b>IFB NO.</b>	:	GHA/AfDB/AfCFTA/SERV/QCBS/02/2024

#### **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 cover consulting services (“the Services”) for the recruitment of a Consultancy Firm to support the *Development of a Framework for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Academy*.

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 Institutional Support 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) Strengthen governance and institutional frameworks for effective AfCFTA implementation; (b) Enhance inclusive participation of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and informal cross-border traders in AfCFTA implementation; and (c) Enhance private sector competitiveness through development of inclusive and pro-green growth regional and continental value chains to contribute to industrial development and boost intra-Africa trade.

## **2. SERVICES INCLUDED UNDER THIS ASSIGNMENT**

2.1 The services included under this assignment are as follows:

- a. Review the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA, including the mandate and functions of the AfCFTA institutions, and assess the capacity and institutional development needs of the AfCFTA institutions, the State Parties, non-State Parties, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as other critical stakeholders – drawing from previous reports on the task;
- b. Review AfCFTA implementation progress reports concerning the preparedness of the State Parties for the AfCFTA implementation to ascertain their institutional development and capacity building on the long-term, sustainable basis;
- c. Review the frameworks of training and capacity building organs of inter-continental and global trade and development bodies, such as the WTO's ITTC, UNCTAD, UNECA's IDEP, TRALAC, TRAPCA, ADI of AfDB, and WBI of the World Bank Group, and others, to get an insight on the organizational set-ups, operational mechanisms, tools and services and other arrangements employed to deliver training and capacity building;
- d. Assess the training and capacity building programs currently available and initiatives of a similar nature that are planned for the continent, and determine the potential niche areas of the Secretariat's AfCFTA Academy; the possible collaborators and partners, including the private sector, the scope and operational nature of the Academy (e.g., should it be a stand-alone entity or embedded in a number of existing, elite academic and professional institutions on the continent); the tools and technologies appropriate for the scope of the Secretariat's mandate, including virtual and physical delivery modes; and avenues for AfCFTA Secretariat to pursue in-house professional skills upgrade, etc.;
- e. Prepare a draft framework document of the Academy, laying out the form and shape of the envisaged Academy and charting a well-designed format (inclusive of private sector capacity needs), path, processes and technologies that the AfCFTA Secretariat can use in establishing a solid training and capacity building arm;

- f. Propose possible funding options, including partnerships with existing and planned initiatives that are similarly focused;
- g. Provide a framework for monitoring and periodic evaluation of the performance of the Academy in the delivery of its programs against its mandate;
- h. Organize a review meeting on the draft framework document for the Academy;
- i. Prepare a final report – Framework for Development of the AfCFTA Academy.

### **3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

3.1 The **AfCFTA Secretariat** now invites eligible Consultancy Firms to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultancy firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the required services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).

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](http://www.afdb.org).

3.3 Interested eligible consultancy firms 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](mailto:afdbisp2@au-afcfta.org).

### **4. SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

4.1 Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below in person, or by e-mail and clearly marked ‘AfCFTA ISP Phase II – *Development of a Framework for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Academy*’ (GHA/AfDB/AfCFTA/SERV/QCBS/02/2024), on or before **19<sup>th</sup> March 2025** at 17:00 Local Time. **If you do not hear from us 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  
**Digital Address:** GA 077 0585  
**Tel:** (+233) 596-921-130 **Ext:** 1552  
**Email:** [afdbisp2@au-afcfta.org](mailto:afdbisp2@au-afcfta.org)