



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 FOR TARGETED CAPACITY BUILDING TO SMES (PARTICULARLY WOMEN AND YOUTH-LEAD) ON THE AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP, TRAINING OF A2F FIRMS AND SMES TO ACCESS TRADE FINANCE TO SUPPORT TRADE UNDER THE AfCFTA, STRENGTHENING NATIONAL AfCFTA COMMITTEES, DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS, AND DEVELOPMENT OF EFFICIENT TRADE CORRIDORS, INCLUDING CUSTOMS COOPERATION, TRANSIT AND TRADE FACILITATION MEASURES

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 for Targeted Capacity Building of SMEs (Particularly Women and Youth-lead) on the AfCFTA Implementation Roadmap, Training of A2F Firms and SMEs to Access Trade Finance to Support Trade Under the AfCFTA, Strengthening National AfCFTA Committees, Development of Regional Value Chains, and Development of Efficient Trade Corridors, Including Customs Cooperation, Transit and Trade Facilitation Measures.

IFB NO. : GHA/AfDB/AfCFTA/SERV/QCBS/03/2024

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** for Targeted Capacity Building to SMEs (Particularly Women and Youth-lead) on the AfCFTA

Implementation Roadmap, Training of A2F Firms and SMEs to Access Trade Finance to Support Trade Under the AfCFTA, Strengthening National AfCFTA Committees, Regional Value Chain Mappings, Development of Key Priority Value Chains in the Continent, and Development of Efficient Trade Corridors, Including Customs Cooperation, Transit and Trade Facilitation Measures (Automation, Connectivity, Harmonization, Corridor Management).

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 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) Delivering targeted capacity building support to SMEs (particularly women and youth-lead) on the AfCFTA Implementation Roadmap (Annex 1);
- b) Training of A2F firms and SMEs to access trade finance under the AfCFTA (Annex 2);
- c) Strengthening National AfCFTA Committees (Annex 3);
- d) Mapping regional value chains and developing key priority value chains (Annex 4);
- e) Development of efficient trade corridors, including customs cooperation, transit and trade facilitation measures (automation, connectivity, harmonization, Corridor management) (Annex 5); and,
- f) Preparing quarterly progress reports on the assignment.

2.2 The duration of the assignment is six (6) months. The expected start date of the assignment is **January 2026**.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1 The AfCFTA Secretariat now invites eligible Consultants (Firms only) 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** for Targeted Capacity Building to SMEs (particularly women and youth-lead) on the AfCFTA Implementation Roadmap, Training of A2F firms and SMEs to access trade finance to support trade under the AfCFTA, Strengthening National AfCFTA Committees, Development of regional value chains, and Development of efficient trade corridors, including customs cooperation, transit and trade facilitation measures (GHA/AfDB/AfCFTA/SERV/QCBS/03/2024) on or before **Thursday, 27th November 2025**. **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
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