

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Cluster Evaluation of UNDP Country Programmes in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Independent Evaluation Office



United Nations Development Programme

15 October, 2018

Section 1. Letter of Invitation

New York
October 15, 2018

RE: Request for Proposals- Cluster Evaluation of UNDP Country Programmes in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Dear Sir/ Madam:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) hereby invites you to submit a Proposal to this Request for Proposal (RFP) for the above-referenced subject.

This RFP includes the following documents:

- Section 1 – This Letter of Invitation
- Section 2 – Instructions to Proposers (including Data Sheet)
- Section 3 – Terms of Reference
- Section 4 – Proposal Submission Form
- Section 5 – Documents Establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Proposer
- Section 6 – Technical Proposal Form
- Section 7 – Financial Proposal Form
- Section 11 – Contract for Professional Services, including General Terms and Conditions

Your offer, comprising of a Technical and a Financial Proposal, in separate email messages, should be submitted in accordance with Section 2 by **Sunday, 04 November 2018** (Midnight, US Eastern Standard Time).

Should you require further clarifications, kindly communicate with the contact person identified in the attached Data Sheet as the focal point for queries on this RFP.

UNDP looks forward to receiving your Proposal and thanks you in advance for your interest in UNDP procurement opportunities.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Fox
Chief- Corporate Evaluation Section
Independent Evaluation Office

Section 2: Instruction to Proposers¹

Definitions

- a) “*Contract*” refers to the agreement that will be signed by and between the UNDP and the successful proposer, all the attached documents thereto, including the General Terms and Conditions (GTC) and the Appendices.
- b) “*Country*” refers to the country indicated in the Data Sheet.
- c) “*Data Sheet*” refers to such part of the Instructions to Proposers used to reflect conditions of the tendering process that are specific for the requirements of the RFP.
- d) “*Day*” refers to calendar day.
- e) “*Government*” refers to the Government of the country that will be receiving the services provided/rendered specified under the Contract.
- f) “*Instructions to Proposers*” (Section 2 of the RFP) refers to the complete set of documents that provides Proposers with all information needed and procedures to be followed in the course of preparing their Proposals
- g) “*LOI*” (Section 1 of the RFP) refers to the Letter of Invitation sent by UNDP to Proposers.
- h) “*Material Deviation*” refers to any contents or characteristics of the proposal that is significantly different from an essential aspect or requirement of the RFP, and : (i) substantially alters the scope and quality of the requirements; (ii) limits the rights of UNDP and/or the obligations of the offeror; and (iii) adversely impacts the fairness and principles of the procurement process, such as those that compromise the competitive position of other offerors.
- i) “*Proposal*” refers to the Proposer’s response to the Request for Proposal, including the Proposal Submission Form, Technical and Financial Proposal and all other documentation attached thereto as required by the RFP.
- j) “*Proposer*” refers to any legal entity that may submit, or has submitted, a Proposal for the provision of services requested by UNDP through this RFP.
- k) “*RFP*” refers to the Request for Proposals consisting of instructions and references prepared by UNDP for purposes of selecting the best service provider to perform the services described in the Terms of Reference.
- l) “*Services*” refers to the entire scope of tasks and deliverables requested by UNDP under the RFP.

¹ Note: this Section 2 - Instructions to Proposers shall not be modified in any way. Any necessary changes to address specific country and project information, shall be introduced only through the Data Sheet..

- m) *“Supplemental Information to the RFP”* refers to a written communication issued by UNDP to prospective Proposers containing clarifications, responses to queries received from prospective Proposers, or changes to be made in the RFP, at any time after the release of the RFP but before the deadline for the submission of Proposals.
- n) *“Terms of Reference”* (TOR) refers to the document included in this RFP as Section 3 which describes the objectives, scope of services, activities, tasks to be performed, respective responsibilities of the proposer, expected results and deliverables and other data pertinent to the performance of the range of duties and services expected of the successful proposer.

A. GENERAL

1. UNDP hereby solicits Proposals in response to this Request for Proposal (RFP). Proposers must strictly adhere to all the requirements of this RFP. No changes, substitutions or other alterations to the rules and provisions stipulated in this RFP may be made or assumed unless it is instructed or approved in writing by UNDP in the form of Supplemental Information to the RFP.
2. Submission of a Proposal shall be deemed as an acknowledgement by the Proposer that all obligations stipulated by this RFP will be met and, unless specified otherwise, the Proposer has read, understood and agreed to all the instructions in this RFP.
3. Any Proposal submitted will be regarded as an offer by the Proposer and does not constitute or imply the acceptance of any Proposal by UNDP. UNDP is under no obligation to award a contract to any Proposer as a result of this RFP.
4. UNDP implements a policy of zero tolerance on proscribed practices, including fraud, corruption, collusion, unethical practices, and obstruction. UNDP is committed to preventing, identifying and addressing all acts of fraud and corrupt practices against UNDP as well as third parties involved in UNDP activities. (See http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Transparency/UNDP_Anti_Fraud_Policy_English_FINAL_june_2011.pdf and <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/protestandsanctions/> for full description of the policies)
5. In responding to this RFP, UNDP requires all Proposers to conduct themselves in a professional, objective and impartial manner, and they must at all times hold UNDP’s interests paramount. Proposers must strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests, and act without consideration for future work. All Proposers found to have a conflict of interest shall be disqualified. Without limitation on the generality of the above, Proposers, and any of their affiliates, shall be considered to have a conflict of interest with one or more parties in this solicitation process, if they:
 - 5.1 Are or have been associated in the past, with a firm or any of its affiliates which have been engaged UNDP to provide services for the preparation of the design, specifications, Terms

- of Reference, cost analysis/estimation, and other documents to be used for the procurement of the goods and services in this selection process;
- 5.2 Were involved in the preparation and/or design of the programme/project related to the services requested under this RFP; or
 - 5.3 Are found to be in conflict for any other reason, as may be established by, or at the discretion of, UNDP.

In the event of any uncertainty in the interpretation of what is potentially a conflict of interest, proposers must disclose the condition to UNDP and seek UNDP's confirmation on whether or not such conflict exists.

- 6. Similarly, the Proposers must disclose in their proposal their knowledge of the following :
 - 6.1 That they are owners, part-owners, officers, directors, controlling shareholders, or they have key personnel who are family of UNDP staff involved in the procurement functions and/or the Government of the country or any Implementing Partner receiving services under this RFP; and
 - 6.2 All other circumstances that could potentially lead to actual or perceived conflict of interest, collusion or unfair competition practices.

Failure of such disclosure may result in the rejection of the proposal or proposals affected by the non-disclosure.

- 7. The eligibility of Proposers that are wholly or partly owned by the Government shall be subject to UNDP's further evaluation and review of various factors such as being registered as an independent entity, the extent of Government ownership/share, receipt of subsidies, mandate, access to information in relation to this RFP, and others that may lead to undue advantage against other Proposers, and the eventual rejection of the Proposal.
- 8. All Proposers must adhere to the UNDP Supplier Code of Conduct, which may be found at this link: http://www.un.org/depts/ptd/pdf/conduct_english.pdf

B. CONTENTS OF PROPOSAL

9. Sections of Proposal

Proposers are required to complete, sign and submit the following documents:

- 9.1 Proposal Submission Cover Letter Form (see RFP Section 4);
- 9.2 Documents Establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Proposer (see RFP Section 5);
- 9.3 Technical Proposal (see prescribed form in RFP Section 6);
- 9.4 Financial Proposal (see prescribed form in RFP Section 7);
- 9.5 Any attachments and/or appendices to the Proposal.

10. Clarification of Proposal

- 10.1 Proposers may request clarifications of any of the RFP documents no later than the date indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 16) prior to the proposal submission date. Any request for clarification must be sent in writing via courier or through electronic means to the UNDP address indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 17). UNDP will respond in writing, transmitted by electronic means and will transmit copies of the response (including an explanation of the query but without identifying the source of inquiry) to all Proposers who have provided confirmation of their intention to submit a Proposal.
- 10.2 UNDP shall endeavor to provide such responses to clarifications in an expeditious manner, but any delay in such response shall not cause an obligation on the part of UNDP to extend the submission date of the Proposals, unless UNDP deems that such an extension is justified and necessary.

11. Amendment of Proposals

- 11.1 At any time prior to the deadline of Proposal submission, UNDP may for any reason, such as in response to a clarification requested by a Proposer, modify the RFP in the form of a Supplemental Information to the RFP. All prospective Proposers will be notified in writing of all changes/amendments and additional instructions through Supplemental Information to the RFP and through the method specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS No. 18).
- 11.2 In order to afford prospective Proposers reasonable time to consider the amendments in preparing their Proposals, UNDP may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for submission of Proposals, if the nature of the amendment to the RFP justifies such an extension.

C. PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

12. Cost

The Proposer shall bear any and all costs related to the preparation and/or submission of the Proposal, regardless of whether its Proposal was selected or not. UNDP shall in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the procurement process.

13. Language

The Proposal, as well as any and all related correspondence exchanged by the Proposer and UNDP, shall be written in the language (s) specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS No 4). Any printed literature furnished by the Proposer written in a language other than the language indicated in the **Data Sheet**, must be accompanied by a translation in the preferred language indicated in the **Data Sheet**. For purposes of interpretation of the Proposal, and in the event of discrepancy or inconsistency in meaning, the version translated into the preferred language shall govern. Upon conclusion of a contract, the language of the contract shall govern the relationship between the contractor and UNDP.

14. Proposal Submission Form

The Proposer shall submit the Proposal Submission Form using the form provided in Section 4 of this RFP.

15. Technical Proposal Format and Content

Unless otherwise stated in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 28), the Proposer shall structure the Technical Proposal as follows:

15.1 Expertise of Firm/Organization – this section should provide details regarding management structure of the organization, organizational capability/resources, and experience of organization/firm, the list of projects/contracts (both completed and on-going, both domestic and international) which are related or similar in nature to the requirements of the RFP, and proof of financial stability and adequacy of resources to complete the services required by the RFP (see RFP clause 18 and DS No. 26 for further details). The same shall apply to any other entity participating in the RFP as a Joint Venture or Consortium.

15.2 Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation Plan – this section should demonstrate the Proposer's response to the Terms of Reference by identifying the specific components proposed, how the requirements shall be addressed, as specified, point by point; providing a detailed description of the essential performance characteristics proposed; identifying the works/portions of the work that will be subcontracted; and demonstrating how the proposed methodology meets or exceeds the specifications, while ensuring appropriateness of the approach to the local conditions and the rest of the project operating environment. This methodology must be laid out in an implementation timetable that is within the duration of the contract as specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS nos. 29 and 30).

Proposers must be fully aware that the products or services that UNDP requires may be transferred, immediately or eventually, by UNDP to the Government partners, or to an entity nominated by the latter, in accordance with UNDP's policies and procedures. All proposers are therefore required to submit the following in their proposals :

- a) A statement of whether any import or export licences are required in respect of the goods to be purchased or services to be rendered, including any restrictions in the country of origin, use or dual use nature of the goods or services, including any disposition to end users; and
- b) Confirmation that the Proposer has obtained license of this nature in the past, and have an expectation of obtaining all the necessary licenses, should their Proposal be rendered the most responsive.

15.3 Management Structure and Key Personnel – This section should include the comprehensive curriculum vitae (CVs) of key personnel that will be assigned to support the implementation of the proposed methodology, clearly defining the roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the proposed methodology. CVs should establish competence and demonstrate qualifications in areas relevant to the TOR.

In complying with this section, the Proposer assures and confirms to UNDP that the personnel being nominated are available for the Contract on the dates proposed. If any of the key personnel later becomes unavailable, except for unavoidable reasons such as death or medical incapacity, among other possibilities, UNDP reserves the right to consider the proposal non-responsive. Any deliberate substitution arising from unavoidable reasons, including delay in the implementation of the project of programme through no fault of the Proposer shall be made only with UNDP's acceptance of the justification for substitution, and UNDP's approval of the qualification of the replacement who shall be either of equal or superior credentials as the one being replaced.

15.4 Where the **Data Sheet** requires the submission of the Proposal Security, the Proposal Security shall be included along with the Technical Proposal. The Proposal Security may be forfeited by UNDP, and reject the Proposal, in the event of any or any combination of the following conditions:

- a) If the Proposer withdraws its offer during the period of the Proposal Validity specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 11), or;
- b) If the Proposal Security amount is found to be less than what is required by UNDP as indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 9), or;
- c) In the case the successful Proposer fails:
 - i. to sign the Contract after UNDP has awarded it;
 - ii. to comply with UNDP's variation of requirement, as per RFP clause 35; or
 - iii. to furnish Performance Security, insurances, or other documents that UNDP may require as a condition to rendering the effectivity of the contract that may be awarded to the Proposer.

16. Financial Proposals

The Financial Proposal shall be prepared using the attached standard form (Section 7). It shall list all major cost components associated with the services, and the detailed breakdown of such costs. All outputs and activities described in the Technical Proposal must be priced separately on a one-to-one correspondence. Any output and activities described in the Technical Proposal but not priced in the Financial Proposal, shall be assumed to be included in the prices of other activities or items, as well as in the final total price.

17. Currencies

All prices shall be quoted in the currency indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 15). However, where Proposals are quoted in different currencies, for the purposes of comparison of all Proposals:

- a) UNDP will convert the currency quoted in the Proposal into the UNDP preferred currency, in accordance with the prevailing UN operational rate of exchange on the last day of submission of Proposals; and
- b) In the event that the proposal found to be the most responsive to the RFP requirement is quoted in another currency different from the preferred currency as per **Data Sheet** (DS no. 15), then UNDP shall reserve the right to award the contract in the currency of UNDP's

preference, using the conversion method specified above.

Proposals submitted by two (2) or more Proposers shall all be rejected if they are found to have any of the following :

- a) they have at least one controlling partner, director or shareholder in common; or
- b) any one of them receive or have received any direct or indirect subsidy from the other/s; or
- c) they have the same legal representative for purposes of this RFP; or
- d) they have a relationship with each other, directly or through common third parties, that puts them in a position to have access to information about, or influence on the Proposal of, another Proposer regarding this RFP process;
- e) they are subcontractors to each other's Proposal, or a subcontractor to one Proposal also submits another Proposal under its name as lead Proposer; or
- f) an expert proposed to be in the team of one Proposer participates in more than one Proposal received for this RFP process. This condition does not apply to subcontractors being included in more than one Proposal.

18. Documents Establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Proposer

The Proposer shall furnish documentary evidence of its status as an eligible and qualified vendor, using the forms provided under Section 5, Proposer Information Forms. In order to award a contract to a Proposer, its qualifications must be documented to UNDP's satisfaction. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) That, in the case of a Proposer offering to supply goods under the Contract which the Proposer did not manufacture or otherwise produce, the Proposer has been duly authorized by the goods' manufacturer or producer to supply the goods in the country of final destination;
- b) That the Proposer has the financial, technical, and production capability necessary to perform the Contract; and
- c) That, to the best of the Proposer's knowledge, it is not included in the UN 1267/1989 List or the UN Ineligibility List, nor in any and all of UNDP's list of suspended and removed vendors.

19. Joint Venture, Consortium or Association

If the Proposer is a group of legal entities that will form or have formed a joint venture, consortium or association at the time of the submission of the Proposal, they shall confirm in their Proposal that : (i) they have designated one party to act as a lead entity, duly vested with authority to legally bind the members of the joint venture jointly and severally, and this shall be duly evidenced by a duly notarized Agreement among the legal entities, which shall be submitted along with the Proposal; and (ii) if they are awarded the contract, the contract shall be entered into, by and between UNDP and the designated lead entity, who shall be acting for and on behalf of all the member entities comprising the joint venture.

After the Proposal has been submitted to UNDP, the lead entity identified to represent the joint venture shall not be altered without the prior written consent of UNDP. Furthermore, neither the lead entity nor the member entities of the joint venture can:

- a) Submit another proposal, either in its own capacity; nor
- b) As a lead entity or a member entity for another joint venture submitting another Proposal.

The description of the organization of the joint venture/consortium/association must clearly define the expected role of each of the entity in the joint venture in delivering the requirements of the RFP, both in the Proposal and the Joint Venture Agreement. All entities that comprise the joint venture shall be subject to the eligibility and qualification assessment by UNDP.

Where a joint venture is presenting its track record and experience in a similar undertaking as those required in the RFP, it should present such information in the following manner:

- a) Those that were undertaken together by the joint venture; and
- b) Those that were undertaken by the individual entities of the joint venture expected to be involved in the performance of the services defined in the RFP.

Previous contracts completed by individual experts working privately but who are permanently or were temporarily associated with any of the member firms cannot be claimed as the experience of the joint venture or those of its members, but should only be claimed by the individual experts themselves in their presentation of their individual credentials.

If a joint venture's Proposal is determined by UNDP as the most responsive Proposal that offers the best value for money, UNDP shall award the contract to the joint venture, in the name of its designated lead entity. The lead entity shall sign the contract for and on behalf of all other member entities.

20. Alternative Proposals

Unless otherwise specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS nos. 5 and 6), alternative proposals shall not be considered. Where the conditions for its acceptance are met, or justifications are clearly established, UNDP reserves the right to award a contract based on an alternative proposal.

21. Validity Period

Proposals shall remain valid for the period specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 8), commencing on the submission deadline date also indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 21). A Proposal valid for a shorter period shall be immediately rejected by UNDP and rendered non-responsive.

In exceptional circumstances, prior to the expiration of the proposal validity period, UNDP may request Proposers to extend the period of validity of their Proposals. The request and the responses shall be made in writing, and shall be considered integral to the Proposal.

22. Proposer's Conference

When appropriate, a proposer's conference will be conducted at the date, time and location specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 7). All Proposers are encouraged to attend. Non-attendance, however, shall not result in disqualification of an interested Proposer. Minutes of the proposer's conference will be either posted on the UNDP website, or disseminated to the individual firms who have registered or expressed interest with the contract, whether or not they attended the conference. No verbal statement made during the conference shall modify the terms and conditions of the RFP unless such statement is specifically written in the Minutes of the Conference, or issued/posted as an amendment in the form of a Supplemental Information to the RFP.

D. SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF PROPOSALS

23. Submission

- 23.1 The Financial Proposal and the Technical Proposal **MUST BE COMPLETELY SEPARATE (PDF Files) and each of them must be submitted individually in an electronic message** sent to ieo.procurement@undp.org and clearly marked on the subject as either “TECHNICAL PROPOSAL” or “FINANCIAL PROPOSAL”, as appropriate.
- 23.2 Proposers must submit their Proposals in the manner specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS nos. 22 and 23). When the Proposals are expected to be in transit for more than 24 hours, the Proposer must ensure that sufficient lead time has been provided in order to comply with UNDP’s deadline for submission. UNDP shall indicate for its record that the official date and time of receiving the Proposal is the actual date and time when the said Proposal has arrived at our Inbox indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 20).
- 23.3 Proposers must be aware that the mere act of submission of a Proposal, in and of itself, implies that the Proposer accepts the General Contract Terms and Conditions of UNDP as attached hereto as Section 11.

24. Deadline for Submission of Proposals and Late Proposals

Proposals must be received by UNDP at the address and no later than the date and time specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS nos. 20 and 21).

UNDP shall not consider any Proposal that arrives after the deadline for submission of Proposals. Any Proposal received by UNDP after the deadline for submission of Proposals shall be declared late, rejected, and returned unopened to the Proposer.

25. Withdrawal, Substitution, and Modification of Proposals

- 25.1 Proposers are expected to have sole responsibility for taking steps to carefully examine in detail the full consistency of its Proposals to the requirements of the RFP, keeping in mind that material deficiencies in providing information requested by UNDP, or lack clarity in the description of services to be provided, may result in the rejection of the Proposal. The Proposer shall assume the responsibility regarding erroneous interpretations or conclusions made by the Proposer in the course of understanding the RFP out of the set of information furnished by UNDP.
- 25.2 A Proposer may withdraw, substitute or modify its Proposal after it has been submitted by sending a written notice in accordance with Clause 23.1, duly signed by an authorized representative, and shall include a copy of the authorization (or a Power of Attorney). The corresponding substitution or modification of the Proposal must accompany the respective written notice. All notices must be received by UNDP prior to the deadline for submission and submitted in accordance with RFP Clause 23.1 (except that withdrawal notices do not require copies). The respective envelopes shall be clearly marked “WITHDRAWAL,” “SUBSTITUTION,” or “MODIFICATION”.

25.3 Proposals requested to be withdrawn shall be returned unopened to the Proposers.

25.4 No Proposal may be withdrawn, substituted, or modified in the interval between the deadline for submission of Proposals and the expiration of the period of proposal validity specified by the Proposer on the Proposal Submission Form or any extension thereof.

26. Proposal Opening

UNDP will open the Proposals in the presence of an ad-hoc committee formed by UNDP of at least two (2) members. If electronic submission is permitted, any specific electronic proposal opening procedures shall be as specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 23).

The Proposers' names, modifications, withdrawals, the condition of the envelope labels/seals, the number of folders/files and all other such other details as UNDP may consider appropriate, will be announced at the opening. No Proposal shall be rejected at the opening stage, except for late submission, for which the Proposal shall be returned unopened to the Proposer.

27. Confidentiality

Information relating to the examination, evaluation, and comparison of Proposals, and the recommendation of contract award, shall not be disclosed to Proposers or any other persons not officially concerned with such process, even after publication of the contract award.

Any effort by a Proposer to influence UNDP in the examination, evaluation and comparison of the Proposals or contract award decisions may, at UNDP's decision, result in the rejection of its Proposal.

In the event that a Proposer is unsuccessful, the Proposer may seek a meeting with UNDP for a debriefing. The purpose of the debriefing is discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the Proposer's submission, in order to assist the Proposer in improving the proposals presented to UNDP. The content of other proposals and how they compare to the Proposer's submission shall not be discussed.

E. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

28. Preliminary Examination of Proposals

UNDP shall examine the Proposals to determine whether they are complete with respect to minimum documentary requirements, whether the documents have been properly signed, whether or not the Proposer is in the UN Security Council 1267/1989 Committee's list of terrorists and terrorist financiers, and in UNDP's list of suspended and removed vendors, and whether the Proposals are generally in order, among other indicators that may be used at this stage. UNDP may reject any Proposal at this stage.

29. Evaluation of Proposals

29.1 UNDP shall examine the Proposal to confirm that all terms and conditions under the UNDP General Terms and Conditions and Special Conditions have been accepted by the Proposer without any deviation or reservation.

29.2 The evaluation team shall review and evaluate the Technical Proposals on the basis of their responsiveness to the Terms of Reference and other documentation provided, applying the evaluation criteria, sub-criteria, and point system specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 32). Each responsive Proposal will be given a technical score. A Proposal shall be rendered non-responsive at this stage if it does not substantially respond to the RFP particularly the demands of the Terms of Reference, which also means that it fails to achieve the minimum technical score indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 25). Absolutely no changes may be made by UNDP in the criteria, sub-criteria and point system indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 32) after all Proposals have been received.

29.3 In the second stage, only the Financial Proposals of those Proposers who achieve the minimum technical score will be opened for evaluation for comparison and review. The Financial Proposal Envelopes corresponding to Proposals that did not meet the minimum passing technical score shall be returned to the Proposer unopened. The overall evaluation score will be based either on a combination of the technical score and the financial offer, or the lowest evaluated financial proposal of the technically qualified Proposers. The evaluation method that applies for this RFP shall be as indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS No. 25).

When the Data Sheet specifies a combined scoring method, the formula for the rating of the Proposals will be as follows:

Rating the Technical Proposal (TP):

TP Rating = (Total Score Obtained by the Offer / Max. Obtainable Score for TP) x 100

Rating the Financial Proposal (FP):

FP Rating = (Lowest Priced Offer / Price of the Offer Being Reviewed) x 100

Total Combined Score:

(TP Rating) x (Weight of TP, e.g. 70%)

+ (FP Rating) x (Weight of FP, e.g., 30%)

Total Combined and Final Rating of the Proposal

29.4 UNDP reserves the right to undertake a post-qualification exercise aimed at determining, to its satisfaction the validity of the information provided by the Proposer. Such post-qualification shall be fully documented and, among those that may be listed in the **Data Sheet**

(DS No.33), may include, but need not be limited to, all or any combination of the following :

- a) Verification of accuracy, correctness and authenticity of information provided by the Proposer on the legal, technical and financial documents submitted;
- b) Validation of extent of compliance to the RFP requirements and evaluation criteria based on what has so far been found by the evaluation team;
- c) Inquiry and reference checking with Government entities with jurisdiction on the Proposer, or any other entity that may have done business with the Proposer;
- d) Inquiry and reference checking with other previous clients on the quality of performance on ongoing or previous contracts completed;
- e) Physical inspection of the Proposer's offices, branches or other places where business transpires, with or without notice to the Proposer;
- f) Quality assessment of ongoing and completed outputs, works and activities similar to the requirements of UNDP, where available; and
- g) Other means that UNDP may deem appropriate, at any stage within the selection process, prior to awarding the contract.

30. Clarification of Proposals

To assist in the examination, evaluation and comparison of Proposals, UNDP may, at its discretion, ask any Proposer for a clarification of its Proposal.

UNDP's request for clarification and the response shall be in writing. Notwithstanding the written communication, no change in the prices or substance of the Proposal shall be sought, offered, or permitted, except to provide clarification, and confirm the correction of any arithmetic errors discovered by UNDP in the evaluation of the Proposals, in accordance with RFP Clause 32.

Any unsolicited clarification submitted by a Proposer in respect to its Proposal, which is not a response to a request by UNDP, shall not be considered during the review and evaluation of the Proposals.

31. Responsiveness of Proposal

UNDP's determination of a Proposal's responsiveness will be based on the contents of the Proposal itself.

A substantially responsive Proposal is one that conforms to all the terms, conditions, TOR and other requirements of the RFP without material deviation, reservation, or omission.

If a Proposal is not substantially responsive, it shall be rejected by UNDP and may not subsequently be made responsive by the Proposer by correction of the material deviation, reservation, or omission.

32. Nonconformities, Reparable Errors and Omissions

Provided that a Proposal is substantially responsive, UNDP may waive any non-conformities or omissions in the Proposal that, in the opinion of UNDP, do not constitute a material deviation.

Provided that a Proposal is substantially responsive, UNDP may request the Proposer to submit the necessary information or documentation, within a reasonable period of time, to rectify nonmaterial nonconformities or omissions in the Proposal related to documentation requirements. Such omission shall not be related to any aspect of the price of the Proposal. Failure of the Proposer to comply with the request may result in the rejection of its Proposal.

Provided that the Proposal is substantially responsive, UNDP shall correct arithmetical errors as follows:

- a) if there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the line item total that is obtained by multiplying the unit price by the quantity, the unit price shall prevail and the line item total shall be corrected, unless in the opinion of UNDP there is an obvious misplacement of the decimal point in the unit price, in which case the line item total as quoted shall govern and the unit price shall be corrected;
- b) if there is an error in a total corresponding to the addition or subtraction of subtotals, the subtotals shall prevail and the total shall be corrected; and
- c) if there is a discrepancy between words and figures, the amount in words shall prevail, unless the amount expressed in words is related to an arithmetic error, in which case the amount in figures shall prevail subject to the above.

If the Proposer does not accept the correction of errors made by UNDP, its Proposal shall be rejected.

F. AWARD OF CONTRACT

33. Right to Accept, Reject, or Render Non-Responsive Any or All Proposals

UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposal, to render any or all of the Proposals as non-responsive, and to reject all Proposals at any time prior to award of contract, without incurring any liability, or obligation to inform the affected Proposer(s) of the grounds for UNDP's action. Furthermore, UNDP shall not be obliged to award the contract to the lowest price offer.

UNDP shall also verify, and immediately reject their respective Proposal, if the Proposers are found to appear in the UN's Consolidated List of Individuals and Entities with Association to Terrorist Organizations, in the List of Vendors Suspended or Removed from the UN Secretariat Procurement Division Vendor Roster, the UN Ineligibility List, and other such lists that as may be established or recognized by UNDP policy on Vendor Sanctions. (See <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/protestandsanctions/> for details)

34. Award Criteria

Prior to expiration of the period of proposal validity, UNDP shall award the contract to the qualified Proposer with the highest total score based on the evaluation method indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS nos. 25 and 32).

35. Right to Vary Requirements at the Time of Award

At the time of award of Contract, UNDP reserves the right to vary the quantity of services and/or goods, by up to a maximum twenty five per cent (25%) of the total offer, without any change in the unit price or other terms and conditions.

36. Contract Signature

Within fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of the Contract, the successful Proposer shall sign and date the Contract and return it to UNDP.

Failure of the successful Proposer to comply with the requirement of RFP Clause 35 and this provision shall constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment of the award, and forfeiture of the Proposal Security if any, and on which event, UNDP may award the Contract to the Proposer with the second highest rated Proposal, or call for new Proposals.

37. Performance Security

A performance security, if required, shall be provided in the amount and form provided in Section 9 and by the deadline indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 14), as applicable. Where a Performance Security will be required, the submission of the said document, and the confirmation of its acceptance by UNDP, shall be a condition for the effectivity of the Contract that will be signed by and between the successful Proposer and UNDP.

38. Bank Guarantee for Advanced Payment

Except when the interests of UNDP so require, it is the UNDP's preference to make no advanced payment(s) on contracts (i.e., payments without having received any outputs). In the event that the Proposer requires an advanced payment upon contract signature, and if such request is duly accepted by UNDP, and the said advanced payment exceeds 20% of the total proposal price, or exceed the amount of USD 30,000, UNDP shall require the Proposer to submit a Bank Guarantee in the same amount as the advanced payment. A bank guarantee for advanced payment shall be furnished in the form provided in Section 10.

39. Vendor Protest

UNDP's vendor protest procedure provides an opportunity for appeal to those persons or firms not awarded a purchase order or contract through a competitive procurement process. In the event that a Proposer believes that it was not treated fairly, the following link provides further details regarding UNDP vendor protest procedures:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/protestandsanctions/>

Instructions to Proposers

DATA SHEET

The following data for the services to be procured shall complement, supplement, or amend the provisions in the Instruction to Proposers. In the case of a conflict between the Instructions to Proposers, the Data Sheet, and other annexes or references attached to the Data Sheet, the provisions in the Data Sheet shall govern.

DS No. ²	Cross Ref. to Instructions	Data	Specific Instructions / Requirements
1		Project Title :	Cluster Evaluation of UNDP Country Programmes in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States
2		Title of Services/Work:	Cluster Evaluation of 11 UNDP Country Programmes in RBEC Region
3		Country / Region of Work Location:	Home based with country missions
4	C.13	Language of the Proposal:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Others (pls. specify) _____
5	C.20	Conditions for Submitting Proposals for Parts or sub-parts of the TOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allowed <i>[RBEC region is divided into three sub-regions (please refer to the TORs). The external consulting team(s) have the option to submit their proposal for any specific RBEC sub-region or more than one RBEC sub-regions demonstrating their relevant technical expertise and country experience]</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Not allowed

² All DS number entries in the Data Sheet are cited as reference in the Instructions to Proposers. All DS nos. corresponding to a Data must not be modified. Only information on the 3rd column may be modified by the user. If the information does not apply, the 3rd column must state "N/A" but must not be deleted.

6	C.20	Conditions for Submitting Alternative Proposals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shall not be considered <input type="checkbox"/> Shall be considered. A proposer may submit an alternative proposal, but only if it also submits a proposal that meets the base case. UNDP shall only consider the alternative proposals offered by the Proposer whose proposal for the base case was determined to be the proposal with the highest evaluated score.
7	C.22	A pre-proposal conference will be held on:	N/A
8	C.21	Period of Proposal Validity commencing on the submission date	<input type="checkbox"/> 60 days <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 90 days <input type="checkbox"/> 120 days
9	B.9.5 C.15.4 b)	Proposal Security	<input type="checkbox"/> Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required
10	B.9.5	Acceptable forms of Proposal Security ³	N/A
11	B.9.5 C.15.4 a)	Validity of Proposal Security	N/A
12		Advanced Payment upon signing of contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Allowed up to a maximum of ____% of contract ⁴ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not allowed
13		Liquidated Damages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will not be imposed <input type="checkbox"/> Will be imposed under the following conditions : Percentage of contract price per day of delay : _____ Max. no. of days of delay : _____ After which UNDP may terminate the contract.
14	F.37	Performance Security	<input type="checkbox"/> Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required

³ Surety bonds or other instruments issued by non-bank Financial Institutions are least preferred by UNDP. Unless stated otherwise, they shall be considered unacceptable to UNDP.

⁴ If the advanced payment that the Bidder will submit will exceed 20% of the Price Offer, or will exceed the amount of USD 30,000, the Bidder must submit an Advanced Payment Security in the same amount as the advanced payment, using the form and contents of the document in Section 10

15	C.17, C.17 b)	Preferred Currency of Proposal and Method for Currency conversion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United States Dollars (US\$) <input type="checkbox"/> Euro <input type="checkbox"/> Local Currency <i>Reference date for determining UN Operational Exchange Rate : 04 November 2018</i>
16	B.10.1	Deadline for submitting requests for clarifications/ questions	7 days before the submission date. Any request for clarification must be sent to ieo.procurement@undp.org . The question, and the answer will be posted on the Procurement website, http://procurement-notices.undp.org/ as a complement to this document.
17	B.10.1	Contact Details for submitting clarifications/questions ⁵	Focal Person in UNDP: Ximena Rios E-mail address dedicated for this purpose: ieo.procurement@undp.org
18	B.11.1	Manner of Disseminating Supplemental Information to the RFP and responses/clarifications to queries	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct communication to prospective Proposers by email or fax <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct communication to prospective Proposers by email or fax, and Posting on the website ⁶ http://procurement-notices.undp.org/
19	D.23.3	No. of copies of Proposal that must be submitted [if transmitted by courier]	Original : N/A Copies : N/A
20	D.23.1 D.23.2 D.24	Proposal Submission Address	Independent Evaluation Office Email: ieo.procurement@undp.org
21	C.21 D.24	Deadline of Submission	Date and Time : Sunday, 04 November 2018 (midnight US Eastern Standard Time)
22	D.23.2	Allowable Manner of Submitting Proposals	<input type="checkbox"/> Courier/Hand Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic submission of Bid ⁷

⁵ This contact person and address is officially designated by UNDP. If inquiries are sent to other person/s or address/es, even if they are UNDP staff, UNDP shall have no obligation to respond nor can UNDP confirm that the query was officially received.

⁶ Posting on the website shall be supplemented by directly transmitting the communication to the prospective offerors.

⁷ If this will be allowed, security features (e.g., encryption, authentication, digital signatures, etc.) are strictly required and must be enforced to ensure confidentiality and integrity of contents.

23	D.23.2 D.26	Conditions and Procedures for electronic submission and opening, if allowed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Official Address for e-submission: ieo.procurement@undp.org <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Free from virus and corrupted files <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Format : PDF files only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Max. File Size per transmission: 15 MB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory subject of email: RFP-RBEC Cluster Evaluation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time Zone to be Recognized: US Eastern Standard Time
24	D.23.1	Date, time and venue for opening of Proposals	Date and Time: Second week of November 2018 Venue: Independent Evaluation Office, UNDP, 1 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA
25	E.29.2 E.29.3 F.34	Evaluation method to be used in selecting the most responsive Proposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Lowest financial offer of technically qualified Proposals (i.e., offers that are rated 70% and above) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Combined Scoring Method, using the 70%-30% distribution for technical and financial proposals, respectively, where the minimum passing score of technical proposal is 70% <input type="checkbox"/> Combined Scoring Method, using 60%-40% distribution for technical and financial proposals, respectively, where minimum passing score of technical proposal is 60%.
26	C.15.1	Required Documents that must be Submitted to Establish Qualification of Proposers (In "Certified True Copy" form only)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Company/ Team Profile, which should <u>not</u> exceed fifteen (15) pages, including printed brochures and product catalogues relevant to the goods/services being procured <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statement of Satisfactory Performance from the Top 3 Clients in terms of Contract Value the past 5 Years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All information regarding any past and current litigation during the last five (5) years, in which the bidder is involved, indicating the parties concerned, the subject of the litigation, the amounts involved, and the final resolution if already concluded.
27		Other documents that may be Submitted to Establish Eligibility	The proposal should provide details of the personnel to be assigned to the assignment (per country), including their professional qualifications and specific thematic and country experience and language proficiency. It should include a short statement of your team's relevant expertise and experience in undertaking evaluations and similar evaluation studies.

			<p>Included in your proposal should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the expertise of your firm/ organization/ team brings for this assignment (by country) (see Section 6, Part A); • An interpretation of the Terms of Reference of the evaluation study (see Section 6, Part B); • A discussion of your approach to the task, the methodology and a schedule of work by country (as per the timelines specified in the detailed TOR) (see Section 6, Part B); • Summary of Team List of names with qualifications, experience and competencies of each of the proposed team members (by country) (see Section 6, Part C); • A budget for the work (by country), including professional fees of each team member (broken down by fees and number of days for each team member) (see Section 6, Part C); and • Detailed CV of each team member should be attached to the Technical Proposal.
28	C.15	Structure of the Technical Proposal (<i>only if different from the provision of Section 12</i>)	In accordance with Section 6: Technical Proposal Form highlighting key information as per #27 above.
29	C.15.2	Latest Expected date for commencement of Contract	02 January 2019
30	C.15.2	Expected duration of contract (Target Commencement Date and Completion Date)	10 months (01 January 2019 to 31 October 2019)
31		UNDP will award the contract to:	<input type="checkbox"/> One Proposer only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One or more Proposers, depending on the following factors: IEO will recruit up-to a maximum of three external consultancy teams to cover UNDP countries in the three RBEC sub-regions. The external consulting team(s) have the option to submit their proposal for any specific RBEC sub-region or more than one RBEC sub-regions demonstrating their relevant technical expertise and country experience.
32	E.29.2 F.34	Criteria for the Award of Contract and Evaluation of Proposals	(See Tables that follow on 'criteria for evaluation of proposals')
33	E.29.4	Post-Qualification Actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Verification of accuracy, correctness and authenticity of

			<p>the information provided by the bidder on the legal, technical and financial documents submitted;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Validation of extent of compliance to the ITB requirements and evaluation criteria based on what has so far been found by the evaluation team;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Inquiry and reference checking with Government entities with jurisdiction on the bidder, or any other entity that may have done business with the bidder;</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inquiry and reference checking with other previous clients on the quality of performance on ongoing or previous contracts completed;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Physical inspection of the bidder's plant, factory, branches or other places where business transpires, with or without notice to the bidder;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Others</p>
34		Conditions for Determining Contract Effectivity	N/A
35		Other Information Related to the RFP ⁸	<i>[All other instructions and information not yet mentioned so far in this Data Sheet but are relevant to the RFP must be cited here, and any further entries that may be added below this table row]</i>

⁸ Where the information is available in the web, a URL for the information may simply be provided.

Criteria for evaluation of the proposals

Summary of Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms		Score Weight	Points Obtainable
1	Expertise of Firm/ Organization/ Team	20%	200
2	Proposed methodology, approach and implementation plan	30%	300
3	Management structure and key personnel	50%	500
	TOTAL		1000

Technical Proposal Evaluation- Section 6, Part A		Points obtainable
Expertise of the Firm/Organization		
1.1	Reputation of Organization and Staff / Credibility / Reliability	30
1.2	General Organizational Capability which is likely to affect implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - loose consortium, holding company or one firm - age/size of the firm - strength of project management support - project management controls 	25
1.3	Extent to which any work would be sub-contracted (subcontracting carries additional risks which may affect project implementation, but properly done it offers a chance to access specialised skills.)	15
1.4	Quality assurance procedures	30
1.5	Relevance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specialised thematic Knowledge - Experience on evaluation projects - Experience in countries in RBEC Region/ Sub-region - Work for UNDP/ major multilateral/ or bilateral programmes 	100
		200

Technical Proposal Evaluation- Section 6, Part B		Points Obtainable
Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation Plan		
2.1	How well does the proposal demonstrate an understanding of the task and the TORs?	50
2.2	To what extent have the key elements of the TOR addressed in the proposal?	30
2.3	To what extent does the proposal demonstrate an understanding of the country and sub-regional context and challenges and UNDPs programming in the country?	60
2.4	How well does the proposal reflect an understanding of the intervention logic and theory of change?	30
2.5	What is the proposers approach to the evaluation questions and evaluation framework?	50
2.6	Robustness of the proposed methodology to gather outcome evidence and validate findings?	50
2.7	Clarity of presentation, efficiency in the implementation to the project and risk mitigation measures	30
		300

Technical Proposal Evaluation- Section 6, Part C			Points Obtainable
Management Structure and Key Personnel			
3.1	Team Leader- Evaluation Specialist		150
		Sub-Score	
	General Qualification		125
	Suitability for the Project		
	- International/Regional experience and knowledge of region	20	
	- Evaluation experience in thematic area of specialization	40	
	- Evaluation experience in the countries in the sub-region	40	
	- Experience in theory of change and outcome evaluations	25	
	- Language Qualifications	25	
		150	
3.2	Evaluation Team Members (Please list the team members by countries in the sub-region you are applying for with their full CVs. These could be one per country or one covering more than one countries showing a good balance of thematic and country experience.) [Total Team Score: 300]		300
		Sub-Score	
	General Qualification		250
	Suitability for the Project		
	- Country specific evaluation experience	75	
	- Evaluation experience in the thematic area of specialisation	75	
	- Experience in theory of change and outcome evaluations	60	
	- Knowledge of other countries in the sub-region	40	
	- Language Qualifications	50	
		300	
3.3	Research and Quality Assurance Support [If this is provided by the Team Leader or another team member, these points will be added to 3.1 or 3.2 above]		50
		Sub-Score	
	General Qualification		40
	Suitability for the Project		
	- Training in Research Methodology	20	
	- Experience in data handling and analysis	10	
	- Knowledge of the region	10	
	- Language Qualification	10	
		50	
	Total Part 3		500