

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Long Term Agreement for Audits of UNDP NGO/NIM Projects  
Mauritius**



**United Nations Development Programme  
October 2015**

# Section 1. Letter of Invitation

**Subject: LONG TERM AGREEMENT FOR AUDITS OF UNDP NGO/NIM PROJECTS**  
**Ref: RFP/MAR2015/UNDP/NGO-NIM PROJECTS/005**

Date: 19 October 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

The purpose of this present tender is to conclude a Long Term Agreement (LTA) with the successful Proposer for a period of three years:

The successful Proposer shall be contracted for an initial period of 1 (one) year, with the contract renewable on an annual basis subject to satisfactory contract performance.

2. While UNDP intends to establish the LTA there is no fixed committed contract amount and UNDP reserves the right to utilize other sources at its discretion to assure value for money. Once the contract is established with the winning vendor, the General Conditions of the Contract will be in force.

3. 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 8 – Form for Advanced Payment Guarantee

Section 9 – Long Term Agreement, including General Terms & Conditions

6. Your offer, comprising of a Technical and Financial Proposal, **in separate sealed envelopes**, should be submitted in accordance with **Section 2, to the address below**

**United Nations Development Programme**  
**6th Floor, Anglo-Mauritius House**  
**Intendance Street**  
**Port Louis**

7. 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,

Keswar Leelah  
Operations Manager  
United Nations Development Programme

## Section 2: Instruction to Proposers

### 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.
- 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/about/transparencypdocs/UNDP\\_Anti\\_Fraud\\_Policy\\_English\\_FINAL\\_june\\_2011.pdf](http://www.undp.org/about/transparencypdocs/UNDP_Anti_Fraud_Policy_English_FINAL_june_2011.pdf) and [http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/procurement\\_protect/](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/procurement_protect/) 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://web.ng.undp.org/procurement/undp-supplier-code-of-conduct.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 Proposal Security, if applicable (if required and as stated in the **Data Sheet** (DS nos. 9-11), see prescribed Form in RFP Section 8);

9.6 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 ongoing, 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 Envelopes MUST BE COMPLETELY SEPARATE and each of them must be submitted sealed individually and clearly marked on the outside as either "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" or "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL", as appropriate. Each envelope MUST clearly indicate the name of the Proposer. The outer envelopes shall bear the address of UNDP as specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS no.20) and shall include the Proposer's name and address, as well as a warning that state "*not to be opened before the time and date for proposal opening*" as specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 24). The Proposer shall assume the responsibility for the misplacement or premature opening of Proposals due to improper sealing and labeling by the Proposer.

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 physically arrived at the UNDP premises indicated in the **Data Sheet** (DS no. 20).

- 23.3 Proposers submitting Proposals by mail or by hand shall enclose the original and each copy of the Proposal, in separate sealed envelopes, duly marking each of the envelopes as “Original Proposal” and “Copy of Proposal” as appropriate. The 2 envelopes shall then be sealed in an outer envelope. The number of copies required shall be as specified in the **Data Sheet** (DS No. 19). In the event of any discrepancy between the contents of the “Original Proposal” and the “Copy of Proposal”, the contents of the original shall govern. The original version of the Proposal shall be signed or initialed by the Proposer or person(s) duly authorized to commit the Proposer on every page. The authorization shall be communicated through a document evidencing such authorization issued by the highest official of the firm, or a Power of Attorney, accompanying the Proposal.
- 23.4 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:

$$\frac{(\text{TP Rating}) \times (\text{Weight of TP, e.g. 70\%}) + (\text{FP Rating}) \times (\text{Weight of FP, e.g., 30\%})}{\text{Total Combined and Final Rating of the Proposal}}$$

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, Repairable 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/procurement\\_protect/](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/procurement_protect/) 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 **seven (7) 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/procurement/protest.shtml>

## 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.	Cross Ref. to Instructions	Data	Specific Instructions / Requirements
1		Project Title :	Audits of NGO/NIM Projects
2		Title of Services/Work:	Audits of NGO/NIM Projects
3		Country / Region of Work Location:	Mauritius
4	C.13	Language of the Proposal:	× English
5	C.20	Conditions for Submitting Proposals for Parts or sub-parts of the TOR	× Not allowed
6	C.20	Conditions for Submitting Alternative Proposals	× Shall not be considered
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	× 120 days
9	B.9.5 C.15.4 b)	Proposal Security	× Not Required
10	B.9.5	Acceptable forms of Proposal Security	N/A
11	B.9.5 C.15.4 a)	Validity of Proposal Security	<b>120</b> days from the last day of Proposal submission.
12		Advanced Payment upon signing	× Not allowed

		of contract	
13		Liquidated Damages	× Will not be imposed
14	F.37	Performance Security	× Not Required
15	C.17, C.17 b)	Preferred Currency of Proposal and Method for Currency conversion	× Local Currency - MRs
16	B.10.1	Deadline for submitting requests for clarifications/ questions	7 (seven) days before the submission date. No question will be accepted after 5 November 2015
17	B.10.1	Contact Details for submitting clarifications/questions	Focal Person in UNDP: Keswar Leelah Address: <u>5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Anglo-Mauritius House, Intendance Street, Port Louis</u>  Facsimile: Fax No. : 208-4871 E-mail address for this purpose: <a href="mailto:keswar.leelah@undp.org">keswar.leelah@undp.org</a> and cc <a href="mailto:nishi.sewsurn@undp.org">nishi.sewsurn@undp.org</a>
18	B.11.1	Manner of Disseminating Supplemental Information to the RFP and responses/clarifications to queries	× Direct communication to prospective Proposers by email and Posting on the website <a href="http://www.mu.undp.org">www.mu.undp.org</a>
19	D.23.3	No. of copies of Proposal that must be submitted [if transmitted by courier]	The Offeror shall seal the Proposal in one outer and two inner envelopes, as detailed below.  (a) The outer envelope shall be addressed to –  <b>Head of Procurement Unit United Nations Development Programme 6th Floor, Anglo-Mauritius House Intendance Street, Port-Louis</b>  And marked with – <b>“RFP/MAR2015/UNDP/NGO-NIM PROJECTS/005 - NGO-NIM Projects Audit.”</b>  (b) <b>Both inner envelopes</b> shall indicate the <b>name and address of the Offeror</b> . The <b>first inner envelope</b> shall contain the information pertaining to the operational and

			<p>technical part of the proposal , with the <b>copies duly marked “Original” and “Copy”</b>. The <b>second inner envelope</b> shall include the <b>price schedule duly identified as such</b>.</p> <p>Note, if the inner envelopes are not sealed and marked, the procuring UNDP entity will not assume responsibility for the Proposal’s misplacement or premature opening.</p> <p>Additional Information:  <b>One original and two copies in hard format (i.e. printed on paper) of the proposal (Financial and Technical) should be submitted and 1 soft copy on CD for each of the technical and financial proposals.</b></p> <p>The CDs shall be clearly labelled with the name of project, title of assignment, and name of bidder.</p> <p>Financial Proposal and the Technical Proposal Envelopes must be completely separate and each of them must be submitted sealed individually. Each envelope should be clearly marked on the outside as either “TECHNICAL PROPOSAL” or “FINANCIAL PROPOSAL” as appropriate and indicate clearly the name of the Proposer.</p> <p><b>Additionally, each envelope should be clearly marked “RFP/MAR2015/UNDP/NGO-NIM PROJECTS/005 - NGO-NIM Projects Audit.”</b></p>
20	D.23.1 D.23.2 D.24	Proposal Submission Address	<b>UNDP Office 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Anglo-Mauritius House Intendance Street Port Louis</b>
21	C.21 D.24	Deadline of Submission	<b>Thursday 12 November 2015 at 16:00hrs</b>
22	D.23.2	Allowable Manner of Submitting Proposals	× Courier/Hand Delivery
23	D.23.2 D.26	Conditions and Procedures for electronic submission and opening, if allowed	× Not allowed
24	D.23.1	Date, time and venue for opening of Proposals	× Not applicable for public bid opening

25	E.29.2 E.29.3 F.34	Evaluation method to be used in selecting the most responsive Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× Minimum passing score for Technical Proposal – 70% (112 points out of 160)</li> <li>× Combined Scoring Method, using the 70%-30% distribution for technical and financial proposals, respectively</li> </ul>
26	C.15.1	Required Documents that must be Submitted to Establish Qualification of Proposers (In “Certified True Copy” form only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× Company Profile, which should <u>not</u> exceed fifteen (15) pages, including printed brochures and product catalogues relevant to the goods/services being procured</li> <li>× Certificate of Registration of the business, including Articles of Incorporation, or equivalent document if Proposer is not a corporation</li> <li>× Latest Audited Financial Statement (Income Statement and Balance Sheet) including Auditor’s Report</li> <li>× Statement of Satisfactory Performance from the Top <b>2</b> Clients in terms of Contract Value the past <b>5 years</b></li> <li>× All information regarding any past and current litigation during the last five (5) years, in which the Proposer is involved, indicating the parties concerned, the subject of the litigation, the amounts involved, and the final resolution if already concluded.</li> </ul>
27		Other documents that may be Submitted to Establish Eligibility	Provide at least three client references for similar projects (amount and scale) contracted as main contractor
28	C.15	Structure of the Technical Proposal ( <i>only if different from the provision of Section 12</i> )	N/A
29	C.15.2	Latest Expected date for commencement of Contract	30 December 2015
30	C.15.2	Expected duration of contract (Target Commencement Date and Completion Date)	3 years renewable annually upon satisfactory performance
31		UNDP will award the contract to:	× One LTA
	E.28	Preliminary Examination of proposals	<p><b>Memo to Offerors (<u>Examples of Bid Rejection</u>)</b></p> <p>Proposals have been rejected at the submission stage or found to be technically noncompliant due</p>

			<p>to errors in presentation and failure to follow bidding instructions.</p> <p>Below are some of the more common examples of why proposals are rejected by UNDP. Proposers are urged to read this before submission and to check that their proposal conforms to each of these points and the instructions as noted in the bidding documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Proposal is submitted <u>after</u> the deadline for submission. Therefore, make sure to submit your proposals beforehand.</li> <li>➤ Proposal <u>not</u> submitted to correct physical address.</li> <li>➤ Proposal is submitted as a single package, without separating technical and financial proposal (including CDs).</li> <li>➤ Proposal is <u>not</u> signed as per the instructions in the RFP.</li> <li>➤ <u>Not</u> all sufficient documents have been provided</li> <li>➤ Documents provided are <u>not</u> in English.</li> <li>➤ Documents provided do <u>not</u> directly address each point of the evaluation criteria.</li> <li>➤ Proposal is more like a brochure for the firm without specifically addressing the specific evaluation criteria of the RFP and TOR.</li> <li>➤ Proposal does <u>not</u> offer goods or services which have been specifically requested by UNDP in the Terms of Reference.</li> <li>➤ Failure to enclose the Proposal Submission Form (See Section 4)</li> <li>➤ The Proposer declines or proposes a major deviation to UNDP General Conditions of Contract ( see Section 9)</li> </ul> <p>The above examples illustrate some errors which may be made by Proposers. This is a partial list. The bidding documents contain the full list of instructions relevant to each particular bid and should be followed carefully.</p>
32	E.29.2 F.34	Criteria for the Award of Contract and Evaluation of Proposals	(See award criteria below)
33	E.29.4	Post-Qualification Actions	× Verification of accuracy, correctness and authenticity of the information provided by the Proposer on the legal, technical and financial documents submitted;

			× Validation of extent of compliance to the RFP requirements and evaluation criteria based on what has so far been found by the evaluation team; × Inquiry and reference checking with other previous clients on the quality of performance on ongoing or previous contracts completed;
34		Conditions for Determining Contract Effectivity	N/A
35		Other Information Related to the RFP	<a href="http://www.mu.undp.org">www.mu.undp.org</a>

### Criteria for Award and Evaluation of Proposals

Summary of Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms			Points Obtainable
1.	Capacity & Expertise of Firm / Organization		60
2.	Proposed Methodology and Approach		50
3.	Audit Personnel		50
	<b>Total</b>		<b>160</b>

Technical Proposal Evaluation Form 1		Points obtainable
<b>Expertise of the Firm/Organization</b>		
1.1	<b>In Country Coverage</b> - Coverage throughout the island of Mauritius & knowledge of local context	25
1.2	<b>Audit firm history</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 years and more</li> </ul>	5
1.3	<b>Audit firm's annual turnover</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MRs. 5 million and above</li> </ul>	5
1.4	<b>International experience</b> proven experience - 5 points; no experience - 0 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with multinational organization (2.5 pts /per organization)</li> <li>Experience with UNDP/UN projects (2.5 pts/per assignment with UN agency in any country)</li> </ul>	5 5
1.5	<b>Audit experience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience in financial statements audits and audit of internal controls (Yes = 5 pts ; No = 0 pts)</li> </ul>	5
1.6	<b>Number of Qualified staff and coverage</b> Qualified and experienced staff including certified auditors (3 certified Auditors = 5 pts; More than 3 = 10 pts)	10
		<b>60</b>

Technical Proposal Evaluation Form 2		Points Obtainable
<b>Proposed Methodology &amp; Approach</b>		
2.1	- One principal auditor to sign all audit reports	5
2.2	- The auditor has proof that their work complies with International Standards on Auditing (ISA)	5
2.3	- The degree to which the audit firm understands the assignment and has the important aspects of the task been addressed in sufficient detail	25
2.4	The access to the audit working papers and related documentation kept in custody of the Audit Firm should be in English.	5
2.5	The final audit report is issued no later than 20 days after the end of fieldwork in any case <b>no later than 25 April. Draft report to be submitted by 11<sup>th</sup> April.</b>  For the audit <b>exercise of 2015, the draft audit report should be submitted by 11th April 2016 and the final signed audit report with signed UNDP statements by 25th April 2016.</b>	10
		50

Technical Proposal Evaluation Form 3		Points Obtainable
<b>Personnel – Proposed Project Group</b>		
3.1	<b>Relevant experience of Principal Auditor</b> at least 15 years of audit experience and Audit certificate of Principal Auditor - 10 points; deduct 2 points for each missing year until 10 years and not acceptable below	10
3.2	<b>Team Leader (Audit Manager)</b>	
	Relevant Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 7 years of audit experience – 10 points.</li> </ul> <i>Below of 7 years is not acceptable.</i>	10
	Auditor Certification/Accounting certification - 5 points – if available, 0 points – if not available	5
3.3	<b>Composition of the Project Group *</b>	
	Educational background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all project members hold at least graduate degree - 5 points; deduct 1 points for each under qualified member</li> </ul>	5
	Relevant experience -all project members have at least 3 years of experience & knowledge of local operating environment - 15 points; deduct 1 point for each under qualified member	15
	Language proficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all project members are fluent in the language required for each lot. i.e. English</li> </ul>	5
<b>Total Part 3</b>		50

**\*Important note: For the evaluation purposes the average score will be used of all proposed CVs for Project Group.**

## Section 3: Terms of Reference (TOR)

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## INTRODUCTION

Throughout this document the term "implementing partner" is used to refer to the institution designated to manage the project. Where the project is nationally implemented (NIM), this will refer to a government institution. Where the project is NGO executed, this will refer to an NGO. The term "government co-ordinating authority" refers to the government institution, which is the official UNDP counterpart.

This specimen Terms of Reference (TOR) is intended to provide guidance to UNDP country offices and to the government implementing partner (IP) (or NGO) in agreeing to the terms of reference for the audit of projects managed by governments (or NGOs). These audits are under the responsibility of the UNDP country office.

This specimen TOR has been revised to highlight requirements in the audit services required (Part E and Annex 1) as well as areas to be covered in the audit report and management letter (Part F and Annex 3), as follows:

- Auditors must certify, express an opinion, and quantify the Net Financial Impact (NFI) on each of the following:
  - (i) UNDP Statement of Expenses - **the Combined Delivery Report (CDR)** - for the period 1 January to 31 December YYYY
  - (ii) Statement of Cash Position reported by the project as at 31 December YYYY
  - (iii) Statement of Assets and Equipment as at 31 December YYYY
- Auditors must indicate the risks associated with their findings and provide a categorization by risk:  
High, Medium, or Low.
- Auditors must provide the monetary value of the NFI of the qualification if the audit opinion on the CDR is Qualified, Adverse or Disclaimer.

### Follow-up to resolve Audit Observations

1. The United Nations Board of Auditors (UN BoA) has commented on the NGO/NIM audit results and the cases where they noted a lack of conclusive actions to properly address an audit qualification in the previous year audit and the related NFI. They also commented on the recurrence of the same significant audit issues in the same projects without being duly resolved. This is unacceptable and country offices must ensure adequate and direct action is taken to prevent the same deficiencies from recurring in the future. If further guidance is needed, country offices should contact OAI, Special Assignments Section or the respective OAI Regional Audit Centre.

### A Critical Audit Requirement

2. Following the International Standards on Auditing (ISA 450 and ISA 710), there is a requirement

regarding a previous year modified audit opinion.<sup>1</sup> This audit standard requires that auditors, when expressing an opinion on this year's statements, take into account the possible effect of a prior year modified opinion that has not been properly corrected or resolved.

3. Consequently, a previous year modified opinion that has not been properly resolved may cause the auditors to issue a modified opinion in their current year audit report. If proper attention is not paid to this aspect, the risk could be a significant accumulation of unresolved modified opinions from previous years that would lead the UN BoA to issue a modified audit opinion on UNDP financial statements. (Refer to Annex 5)

4. Country offices (COs) must ensure the audit services are adequately covered as specified in the present TOR and CDRs are duly certified by the implementing partners and auditors and signed by UNDP CO management and attached to the audit reports; the same applies for the Statement of Cash Position (cash and bank balances of the project) and Statement of Assets and Equipment. If the project does not hold any assets or equipment or there is no cash at hand or bank account, the auditors must clearly indicate this in the opinion page and certify it.

- Annex 1** provides the audit services required and standard scope of audit.
- Annex 2** describes the qualifications of an auditor and may help in the process of selecting auditors.  
Where the TOR is being supplied to a short list of firms as part of a request for proposals (RFP) and the firms short listed have been pre-qualified, then the list of qualifications would not be needed.
- Annex 3** is a sample audit report that needs to be submitted by the auditor (ISA 705, 706). A management letter needs to be attached to the audit report.
- Annex 4** provides a definition of audit opinions (ISA 700).
- Annex 5** provides guidance on Reporting Prior Year Modified opinion not corrected (ISA 450 and 710).
- Annex 6** defines the three risk categories of audit observations and recommendations.
- Annex 7** provides a template sample of certified prior year updated action plan (FY2013) that needs to be uploaded in CARDS.
- Annex 8** provides a template for audit data and observations for FY2015 audits that auditors need to submit and the CO copy paste in CARDS the information.
- Annex 9** provides guidance on formulating audit observations and recommendations.
- Annex 10** provides guidance on Audit Materiality (ISA 320 and 450).

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<sup>1</sup> A "modified" audit opinion means either a qualified opinion, a disclaimer of opinion or an adverse opinion.

## A. BACKGROUND

The TOR is directed to the audit of special purpose financial statements, which are referred to as Combined Delivery Reports (CDR). The report to be audited is referred to as the Combined Delivery Report (CDR). These reports are prepared following the UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules issued by the Bureau of Management, Office of Finance and Administration. A copy of the Financial Regulations and Rules is accessible upon request.

In general, and subject to modifications as per project documents, the projects are nationally implemented (NIM) with or without UNDP Country Office Support (Country Support to NIM modality). The Ministry executing the activities is termed the Implementing Agency for the project. A Project Management Unit (PMU) is established within the Ministry concerned to implement the project. The PMU is responsible for the delivery of all project outputs through direct action or hiring of necessary experts. Overseeing the PMU, a National Steering Committee (NSC) is established to provide expert and technical guidance to the PMU in the implementation of the projects. The NSC is chaired by the National Project Director and includes representatives from the Implementing Agency, UNDP and other relevant stakeholders. The NSC advises Project Manager, thus supporting the decision-making process. Ultimate responsibility for day-to-day decisions lies with the PMU, which carries the responsibility for delivery of project outputs.

The management of projects is contained in the NIM Manual (National Implementation (NIM) by the Government of UNDP-supported projects: Guidelines and Procedures, which can be made available upon request. For more details on individual projects, the consultant should refer to the project document section on Management Arrangements. In addition Annex 12 shows the roles

- **2015 Audit**

**The indicative list of projects with projected expenses in 2015 are as per below. Other projects may be added to the list or projects may be removed from the list. The list of projects to be audited will be finalized by 31 January 2016.**

1. SIDSDOCK funded Removal of Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation in Buildings and in Industries (expected to close in 2013 but impossible at current rate), implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities - USD 800K. The aim of the project is to assist both the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities and the Ministry of Industry in implementing energy efficiency measures in buildings and in selected industries as well as carry out energy audits.
2. Adaptation Fund Board funded Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius-delivery in 2013: project implemented by Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - between 1 and 2 millions USD. The aim of this project is to implement adaptation measures at three sites on the coastal zone of Mauritius and to build capacity to address issues arising because of climate change on the coastal zone.
3. 12. GEF Funded Expanding the network and coverage of terrestrial protected areas in Mauritius:, project implemented by Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (National Parks and Conservation Service) between 0.8 and 1.5 million USD. The aim of this project is to create the necessary incentives for private and public land owners to preserve expanses which still contain important biodiversity.

- **2016 Audit**

**The indicative list of projects with projected expenses in 2016 are as per below (the required number of projects, and the expenditures level to be audited, will be communicated at the end of 2016/beginning January 2017). Other projects may be added to the list or projects may be removed from the list. The list of projects to be audited will be finalized by 31 January 2017.**

1. SIDS DOCK funded Removal of Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation in Buildings and in Industries (expected to close in 2013 but impossible at current rate), implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities - USD 800K. The aim of the project is to assist both the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities and the Ministry of Industry in implementing energy efficiency measures in buildings and in selected industries as well as carry out energy audits.
2. Adaptation Fund Board funded Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius- delivery in 2013: project implemented by Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - between 1 and 2 millions USD. The aim of this project is to implement adaptation measures at three sites on the coastal zone of Mauritius and to build capacity to address issues arising because of climate change on the coastal zone.
3. GEF Funded Expanding the network and coverage of terrestrial protected areas in Mauritius;, project implemented by Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (National Parks and Conservation Service) between 0.8 and 1.5 million USD. The aim of this project is to create the necessary incentives for private and public land owners to preserve expanses which still contain important biodiversity.
4. GEF funded Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Coastal Zones of Mauritius implemented by the Mauritius Oceanography Institute. Delivery expected to be around 800 K USD.

- **2017 Audit**

**The indicative list of projects with projected expenses in 2017 are as per below (the required number of projects, and the expenditures level to be audited, will be communicated at the end of 2017/beginning January 2018). Other projects may be added to the list or projects may be removed from the list. The list of projects to be audited will be finalized by 31 January 2018.**

1. GEF funded Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management in Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean SIDS - project implemented by Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities (Water Resources Unit) USD 300K.
2. Adaptation Fund Board funded Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius project- delivery in 2013, implemented by Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - between 1 and 2 millions USD.

3. GEF Funded Expanding the network and coverage of terrestrial protected areas in Mauritius: project implemented by Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (National Parks and Conservation Service) between 0.8 and 1.5 million USD.
4. GEF funded Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Coastal Zones of Mauritius implemented by the Mauritius Oceanography Institute. Delivery expected to be around 800 K USD.

Other projects which may be audited subject to approval and materialisation

1. GEF funded Energy Efficiency in Industry, implemented by the Energy Efficiency Management Office
2. GCF funded Accelerating transformational change to a low carbon economy in the republic of Mauritius

#### **Project Expenses threshold for years 2015, 2016 and 2017**

**Project Expense threshold 1 - up to USD 300,000**

**Project Expense threshold 2- USD 300K to USD 1 M**

**Project Expense threshold 3 - USD 1 M - USD 2 M**

**Project Expense threshold 4 - USD 2 M and above**

Project Expense threshold 1 will normally include small projects and which undergo once in a lifetime audits

Threshold 2 is for projects which deliver mainly on consultancy fees and capacity building but also some equipment and works.

Threshold 3 will apply when we have projects delivering on works which are very expenditure intensive.

Threshold 4 will be when project reaches peak delivery.

**As per requirement, financial proposal must be submitted based on the project expenses threshold for the purpose of establishing the long term agreement. The financial proposal should be submitted as per Section 7 – on the Financial Proposal Form (refer to the letter of invitation)**

- **Certification of Prior Year - Audit Follow up Action Plan**

As part of the auditing exercise the audit firm is also required to certify the Prior Year - Audit Follow up Action Plan. These will include:

- **Certification of the 2015 Audit Follow up Action Plan in year 2017 (based on audit report in 2016)**
- **Certification of the 2016 Audit Follow up Action Plan in year 2018 (based on audit report in 2017)**
- **Certification of the 2017 Audit Follow up Action Plan in year 2019 (based on audit report in 2018)**

**Financial proposal for the Certification of Prior Year - Audit Follow up Action Plan should also be submitted on the Financial Proposal Form**

## **B. PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

This government entity and the implementing partner including the physical address, phone numbers, fax numbers, websites and general e-mail addresses will be provided once the audit exercise starts.

## **C. CONSULTATIONS WITH CONCERNED PARTIES**

Prior to the start of audit work the auditor will be required to consult with the UNDP country office, the government counterpart, and the implementing partner for each project. Further, upon completion of the draft audit report and management letter, the auditor will be required to meet with the UNDP country office and the government entity co-ordinating authority to debrief them on its major findings from the audit and its recommendations for future improvements as well as to seek their feedback thereon.

## **D. DESCRIPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORTS (UNDP CDR) TO BE AUDITED**

This section should include a description of the CDR and supporting schedules (see below). The country office should also include the Statement of Cash Position and the Statement of Assets and Equipment, with year-end inventory listing and a description of the inventory.

### *Description of the Combined Delivery Report and Supporting Schedules*

The report to be audited is referred to as the Combined Delivery Report (CDR). This report is prepared by UNDP, using an in-house accounting software package called ATLAS. The CDR serves as the official financial statement that must be certified by the auditors. Project financial statements, if certified, **must** reconcile to the expenses appearing in the CDR and **must** be attached to the audit report. As described in more detail below, the CDR combines expenses from three disbursement sources for a calendar year. Refer to the section below on changes to the CDR since the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by UNDP effective 1 January 2012. The three disbursement sources include:

#### *1. Implementing partner (either Government or NGO)*

UNDP procedures require that where funds are advanced to the executing agency, the agency must submit to the UNDP country office, on a quarterly basis, a financial report including: (1) the status of the advance; (2) a list of the disbursements made since the previous financial report; and (3) a request for a new advance. The UNDP country office enters the disbursements in ATLAS through the year as the financial reports are received. These implementing partner disbursements are recorded in the *Government* expenses column in the CDR.

#### *2. UNDP (country office, headquarters and other country offices)*

Disbursements made by UNDP from its own bank accounts are entered in ATLAS by the UNDP country office. These UNDP disbursements are recorded in the *UNDP* expense column in the CDR. These disbursements may be classified as either *direct payments* or *UNDP support services*. This distinction, while very important for audit purposes, is not apparent from the

CDR and can only be provided by the UNDP country office as a supporting schedule. A brief description of each category is provided below.

- a) Direct Payments - This is where the implementing partner is responsible for the expenses but requested UNDP to effect payment to the vendor/consultant on its behalf. The implementing partner is accountable for the disbursement and maintains all supporting documentation.  
UNDP simply effects payments on the basis of properly authorized requests and gives the implementing partner a copy of the related disbursement voucher as evidence that payment was made.
- b) UNDP Support Services - This is where the government and UNDP have agreed that UNDP will provide support services to the project and signed a Letter of Agreement. These support services must be described in the Letter of Agreement (LOA). UNDP is fully responsible and accountable for these expenses and, accordingly, maintains all supporting documentation for the disbursement. These expenses are outside the scope of audit and, therefore, will not be reviewed by the auditors. This scope limitation should not be used as a reason for issuing a qualified audit opinion on the CDR. Where there is no signed Letter of Agreement for UNDP Support Services or a Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) with the respective clauses of the LOA for UNDP Support Services, the audit should also cover the UNDP expenses under CO support. The CO must include this information in the TOR/contract for the auditors.

### 3. UN agencies

The UN agency reports its expenses to UNDP and to the government. The UNDP country office enters the expenses in ATLAS. These UN agency expenses are recorded in the UN agencies expense column in the CDR. Note: Any expenses under this column are outside the auditors' scope of audit. UN entities are audited under their own audit arrangement, following the 'Single Audit' principle and are not covered by UNDP's audit regime.

At the end of the year, after receiving the fourth quarter financial report from the implementing partner and the year-end expense report from the UN agency, UNDP prepares the CDR and submits it to the implementing partner for signature. UNDP will provide the auditor with the signed CDR together with the following supporting documentation.

1. The quarterly financial reports submitted by the implementing partner.
2. A list of the direct payments processed by UNDP at the request of the implementing partner.
3. A list of the disbursement made by UNDP as part of support services provided to the implementing partner.
4. The UN agency expenses statement for the year.
5. Relevant financial reports that show the expenses of Global Fund sub-recipients for the year which need to be reconciled to the CDR expenses.
6. Letter of Agreement for UNDP support services signed between UNDP and the Government (or CPAP with relevant clauses regarding UNDP support services).
7. Relevant financial reports that show expenses of UNDP CO support, if there is no Letter of Agreement.

**Note:** With the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by UNDP effective 1 January 2012, the CDR is now prepared in two sections; the first section

containing the total expense information as explained above (by Implementing Partner, UNDP and UN Agencies) and the second section showing the following information:

- Outstanding NEX advances
- Un-depreciated Fixed Assets
- Inventory
- Prepayments
- Commitments

In addition to the verification of the total project expense reflected in the CDR, the auditors will now be responsible for validating certain areas of the information appearing in the Funds Control section of the CDR as shown above.

Outstanding NEX advances – If there is an amount appearing under this category, the auditors should reconcile it to the cash at hand at the project level. In principle, this amount should represent the balance of any advances transferred to the implementing partner minus the total expenses reported in the quarterly financial reports submitted by the implementing partner to UNDP.

Un-depreciated Fixed Assets – There could be cases where fixed assets that belong to or are used by the project are under UNDP’s control (i.e. in situations where UNDP is providing support services to the project and there is no signed Letter of Agreement, as an example). If there is an amount appearing on the CDR under this category, the auditors should investigate and determine that these assets are project related or not and, if project related, should perform the same audit procedures to validate the assets as those undertaken for the certification of the Statement of Assets and Equipment. Please refer to the Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) section on “Administrative Services/Asset Management/Property Plan and Equipment/Furniture and Equipment Acquisition and Maintenance” for information regarding the custody/control/ownership of assets.

Inventory – Similar to the case of Un-depreciated Fixed Assets, there may be situations where certain items of inventory that were acquired for the project are temporarily under UNDP’s control/custody. If there is an amount under this category, the auditors should determine the nature of the inventory and whether or not it is intended for the project. If it is determined that the inventory is project related, then the same audit procedures for the certification of the Statement of Assets and Equipment should be applied. Please refer to the aforementioned section of the POPP on asset management as well as the section on “Financial Resources/Inventory Management” for additional guidance as necessary.

Prepayments – The auditors should validate any amount appearing under this category, i.e. determine what it represents and if it is in any way project related.

Commitments – Any amounts appearing under this category would be provided for informational purposes only and, therefore, the auditors would not be required to undertake any audit procedures related to the verification or validation of same.

## **E. AUDIT SERVICES REQUIRED**

The scope of the audit services required should be sufficiently clear to properly define what is expected of the auditor but not in any way that restricts the audit procedures or techniques the

auditor may wish to use to form an opinion. It should specify at least the following:

- A definition of the entity or the portion of an entity that is subject to audit. This will normally be the project office whether located within a government department or in a separate location.
- That the audit will be carried out in accordance with either ISA<sup>2</sup> or INTOSAI<sup>3</sup> auditing standards.
- That the audit period is 1 January to 31 December of the year YYYY (starting year 2015).
- That the scope of the audit is limited to the implementing partner expenses, which are defined as including: (1) all disbursements listed in the quarterly financial reports submitted by the implementing partner; and (2) the direct payments processed by UNDP at the request of the implementing partner.
- That the auditor is required to verify the mathematical accuracy of the CDR by ensuring that the expenses described in the supporting documentation (the quarterly financial reports, the list of direct payments processed by UNDP at the request of the government) are reconciled to the expenses, by disbursing source, in the CDR.
- That the auditor is required to state in the audit report the amount of expenses excluded from the scope of the audit because they were made by UNDP as part of direct support services and the amount of total expenses excluded because they were made by a UN agency. This scope limitation is not a valid reason for the auditors to issue a qualified audit opinion on the CDR.
- That the auditor is required to state in the audit report if the audit was not in conformity with any of the above and indicate the alternative standards or procedures followed.
- That the auditor is required to express an opinion as to the overall financial situation of the project for the period 1 January to 31 December YYYY and will certify:
  1. The Statement of Expenses (**CDR**) for the period from 1 January to 31 December YYYY;
  2. The Statement of Cash Position (cash and bank balances of the project) reported by the project as at 31 December YYYY; and
  3. The Statement of Assets and Equipment held by the project as at 31 December YYYY.
- That the auditor is required to, as applicable, report in monetary value, the net financial impact of any modified audit opinion (modified opinions can be qualified, adverse, or disclaimer) on the Statement of Expenses (CDR) where applicable. This should also include prior year non resolved NFI.
- That the auditor/audit firm is required to submit a draft audit report by **11 April YYYY (1<sup>st</sup> year: 11 April 2016)** and a final signed audit report with signed UNDP statements by **25 April YYYY (1<sup>st</sup> year: 25 April 2016)**.
- The dates to submit the draft and final reports may change in subsequent years, requiring earlier submissions. In such cases the revised dates will be communicated before the start of the audit exercise and the auditor/audit firm is required to abide by the revised dates.

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<sup>2</sup> International Standards on Auditing (ISA) published by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board of the International Federation of Accountants

<sup>3</sup> International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions

**Note:** Audit opinions must be one of the following: (a) unmodified, (b) qualified, (c) adverse, or (d) disclaimer. If the audit opinion is other than “unmodified”, the audit report **must** describe both the nature and amount of the possible effects on the financial statements.

The report should also make a reference to the section of the management letter with regard to the related audit observation number and the action taken or planned to be taken to address and conclusively correct the issues underlying the qualification. A definition of audit opinions is provided in Annex 4.

## F. THE AUDIT REPORT AND MANAGEMENT LETTER

The TOR should clearly indicate the expected contents of the audit report and management letter and the topics/areas to be covered by the auditors.

### Audit Report – **VERY IMPORTANT**

The audit report should clearly indicate the auditor’s opinion (Refer to Annex 3 for a sample Audit Report). This would include at least the following:

- That it is a special purpose and confidential report
- The audit standards that were applied (ISAs, or national standards that comply with one of the ISAs in all material respects)
- The period covered by the audit opinion
- The amount of expenses audited
- The amount of the net financial impact of the modified audit opinion on the CDR, if modified
- The reason(s) resulting in the issuance of a modified audit opinion, qualified, adverse or disclaimer of opinion (the reason(s) must be also included in the management letter as an audit observation(s))
- The scope limitation (description and value) for those transactions that are the responsibility of UNDP (as part of direct CO support services to NIM) or a UN agency. Important to note: Such scope limitation should not be reason for a qualified audit opinion as such transactions would be, in general, excluded from the audit scope
- Whether the UNDP CDR - for the period from 1 January to 31 December YYYY [year] is adequately and fairly presented and whether the disbursements are made in accordance with the purpose for which funds have been allocated to the project.

(a) A Financial Audit to express an opinion on the project’s financial statements that includes:

- Expression of an opinion on whether the statement of expenses presents fairly the expense incurred by the project over a specified period in accordance with UNDP accounting policies and that the expenses incurred were: (i) in conformity with the approved project budgets; (ii) for the approved purposes of the project; (iii) in compliance with the relevant regulations and rules, policies and procedures of the

Government or UNDP; and (iv) supported by properly approved vouchers and other supporting documents. The CDR is the mandatory and official statement of expenses to be certified. Other forms of statement of expenses that may be prepared by a project office are not accepted.

- Whether the result of the prior year's audits resulting in modified audit opinions on the CDR had conclusive actions to properly address an audit qualification in the previous year audit and the related NFI. If there is a lack of conclusive actions, the auditors must take into account the possible effect of a prior year modified opinion that has not been properly corrected or resolved.

**Note:** Consequently, a previous year modified opinion that has not been properly resolved may cause the auditors to issue a modified opinion in their current year audit report. If proper attention is not paid to this aspect, the risk could be a significant accumulation of unresolved modified opinions from previous years.

- Expression of an opinion on the value and existence of the project's statement of assets and equipment as at a given date. This statement must include all assets and equipment available as at 31 December 2015, and not only those purchased in a given period. Where a NGO/NIM project does not have any assets or equipment, it will not be necessary to express such an opinion; however, this should be disclosed in the audit report.
- Express an opinion on the value and existence of the cash held by the project as at a given date, i.e. 31 December 2015. The Audit Firm is required to express an opinion on the Statement of Cash Position where a dedicated bank account for the NGO/NIM project has been established and/or the project holds petty cash. Where the project does not hold any cash, this should be disclosed in the audit report.

The Financial Audit will be conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA).

- (b) An audit to assess and express an opinion on the project's internal controls and systems.

The deliverable will be an audit report similar to a long form management letter that covers the internal control weaknesses identified and the audit recommendations to address them.

The management letter should be attached to the audit report and cover the following topics/issues:

- A general review of a project's progress and timeliness in relation to progress milestones and the planned completion date, both of which should be stated in the project document or Annual Work Plan (AWP). This is not intended to address whether there has been compliance with specific covenants relating to specific performance criteria or outputs. However, general compliance with broad covenants such as implementing the project with economy and efficiency might be commented upon but not with the legal

force of an audit opinion.

- An assessment of a project's internal control system with equal emphasis on: (i) the effectiveness of the system in providing the project management with useful and timely information for the proper management of the project; and (ii) the general effectiveness of the internal control system in protecting the assets and resources of the project.
- A description of any specific internal control weaknesses noted in the financial management of the project and the audit procedures followed to address or compensate for the weaknesses. Recommendations to resolve/eliminate the internal control weaknesses noted should be included.

The audit of internal controls and systems will be conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISA).

The management letter should also include the following:

- Audit observations/recommendations (guidelines in Annex 9)
- The categorization of audit observations by risk severity: High, Medium, or Low. Definitions of these categories are given in Annex 6.
- Management comments/response to audit observations and recommendations (project management and/or UNDP, as applicable).
- Indication of observations that affect the audit opinion (when qualified, adverse or disclaimer of opinion is given).

More detailed guidance for the above general categories is provided below.

#### Review of project progress

As part of the general review of project progress, specific steps could include the following:

- Review annual and quarterly work plans, quarterly and annual financial reports, and requests for direct payments and assess in terms of their timeliness and their compliance with the project document or the AWP, and the UNDP Programme Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) on Results Management.
- Review the annual project report prepared by the implementing partner and assess in terms of compliance with UNDP guidelines and whether the implementing partner met its responsibilities for monitoring described in the project document or AWP.
- Review whether the decisions and/or recommendations of the above activities have been followed through by the implementing partner.

- Review the pace of project progress and comment on the causes for delays.
- Comment on whether implementation services of the UN Agency were provided in line with the project document or AWP.

#### Assessment of internal control

The auditor is required to conduct a general assessment of internal controls according to established internal control standards. An example of established internal control standards and further information is available on the INTOSAI site [www.intosai.org](http://www.intosai.org) (*Guidelines for Internal Control Standards*). The INTOSAI standards are intended for use by government managers as a framework to establish effective internal control structures.

In addition to the above general assessment, additional specific steps should include the following:

- Review the expenses made by the implementing partner and assess whether they are in accordance with the project document, AWP and budgets; and are in compliance with the UNDP POPP on Results and Accountability.
- Review the process for procurement/contracting activities and assess whether it was transparent and competitive.
- Review the use, control and disposal of non-expendable equipment and assess whether it is in compliance with UNDP POPP on Results and Accountability; and also whether the equipment procured met the identified needs and whether its use was in line with intended purposes.
- Review the process for recruiting project personnel and consultants and assess whether it was transparent and competitive.
- Review the implementing partner accounting records and assess their adequacy for maintaining accurate and complete records of receipts and disbursements of cash; and for supporting the preparation of the quarterly financial report.
- Review the records of requests for direct payments and ensure that they were signed by authorized government officials.

#### Recommendations for improvement

Recommendations should be directed to a specific entity so there is no confusion regarding who is responsible for implementation. The response of the entity should be included in the management letter, immediately following the recommendation.

Also, the auditor may wish to comment on “good practices” (if any) that were developed by the implementing partner that should be shared with other project personnel.

Available Facilities and Right of Access

There should be a description of the nature and the location of all records belonging to the project. This list should specify those records kept at the implementing partner's headquarters and those that are located at other offices.

The TOR should state that the auditor would have full and complete access at any time to all records and documents (including books of account, legal agreements, minutes of committee meetings, bank records, invoices and contracts, etc.) and all employees of the entity. The auditor should be advised that he/she has a right of access to banks, consultants, contractors and other persons or firms engaged by the project management. If an auditor may not have unrestricted access to any records, person or location during the course of the audit, this restriction should be clearly defined, with reasons, in the TOR.

## ***ANNEX 1: AUDIT SERVICES REQUIRED***

The scope of audit services shall be in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and cover the overall management of the project's implementation, monitoring and supervision. The audit work should include the review of work plans, progress reports, project resources, project budgets, project expenses, project delivery, recruitment, operational and financial closing of projects (if applicable) and disposal or transfer of assets. To this effect, the scope of the audit shall cover the following areas as they are performed at the level of the project:

### ***Human resources***

The audit work shall cover the competitiveness, transparency and effectiveness of the recruitment and hiring of personnel and include performance appraisal, attendance control, calculation of salaries and entitlements, payroll preparation and payment, and management of personnel records.

### ***Finance***

The audit work shall cover the adequacy of the accounting and financial operations and reporting systems. These include budget control, cash management, certification and approving authority, receipt of funds, and disbursement of funds, recording of all financial transactions in expense reports, records maintenance and control.

### ***Procurement***

The audit work shall cover the competitiveness, transparency and effectiveness of the procurement activities of the project in order to ensure that the equipment and services purchased meet the requirement of either the government (or NGO) or UNDP and include the following:

- As applicable, delegations of authorities, procurement thresholds, call for bids and proposals, evaluation of bids and proposals and approval/signature of contracts and purchase orders
- Receiving and inspection procedures to determine the conformity of equipment with the agreed specifications and, when applicable, the use of independent experts to inspect the delivery of highly technical and expensive equipment
- Evaluation of the procedures established to mitigate the risk of purchasing equipment that do not meet specifications or is later proven to be defective
- Management and control over the variation orders

The audit work in the area of procurement shall also cover the use of consulting firms and the adequacy of procedures to obtain fully qualified and experienced personnel and assessment of their work before final payment is made.

### ***Asset Management***

The audit work shall cover equipment (typically vehicles and office equipment) purchased for use of the project. The procedures for receipt, storage, and disposal shall also be reviewed.

### Cash Management

The audit work shall cover all cash funds held by the project and review procedures for safeguarding of cash.

### General Administration

The audit work shall cover travel activities, vehicle management, shipping services, office premises and lease management, office communications and IT systems, and records maintenance.

Note: The above scope shall cover those transactions performed at the level of the project to include direct payments made by the UNDP country office at the request of the project

### Scope Limitation

Transactions/actions that are performed by the UNDP office at the request and on behalf of the project (i.e. UNDP direct support services to NIM) where there is a signed Letter of Agreement (LOA) are **not** to be included in the audit scope.

**Important note:** Such scope limitation should not be a reason for issuing a modified audit opinion by the auditors. Please refer to Section D.

## ***ANNEX 2: QUALIFICATIONS OF AN AUDITOR***

If included as part of a Request for Proposal, this section will need to be modified to take into consideration whether the firms invited to propose have already been pre-qualified.

The TOR should state that the auditor must be completely impartial and independent from all aspects of management or financial interests in the entity being audited. The auditor should not, during the period covered by the audit nor during the undertaking of the audit, be employed by, serve as director for, or have any financial or close business relationships with any senior participant in the management of the entity. It may be appropriate to remind an auditor of any existing statutory requirements relating to independence and to require an auditor to disclose any relationship that might possibly compromise his/her independence.

The auditor should be experienced in applying either ISA or INTOSAI audit standards, whichever is applicable for the audit. The auditor must employ adequate staff with appropriate professional qualifications and suitable experience with ISA or INTOSAI standards, including experience in auditing the accounts of entities comparable in size and complexity to the entity being audited.

Curriculum vitae (CVs) should be provided to the client by the principal of the firm of auditors who would be responsible for signing the opinion, together with the CVs of managers, supervisors and key personnel proposed as part of the audit team. It would be appropriate to indicate required/minimum professional qualifications necessary for the senior auditors/principals responsible for the audit. CVs should include details on audits carried out by the applicable staff, including on-going assignments indicating capability and capacity to undertake the audit.

## **ANNEX 3: SAMPLE AUDIT REPORT**

### **Independent Auditor's report to:**

***The National Project Director and  
The Resident Representative***

#### **I. Sample Independent Auditor's Report on Statement of Expenses (UNDP CDR)**

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO UNDP [insert project name] (Refer to ISA 700)

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Expenses ("the statement") of the project [insert project and project number(s)], [insert official title of project] for the period [insert period covered].

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the statement for <name/title> project and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the project's preparation of the statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the project's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the presentation of the statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Clean Opinion: Option 1: (Unmodified)**

In our opinion, the attached statement of expenses presents fairly, in all material respects, the expense of [insert amount in US\$] incurred by the project [insert official title of project] for the period [insert period covered] in accordance with agreed upon accounting policies [if needed add - and the note to the statement] and were: (i) in conformity with the approved project budgets; (ii) for the approved purposes of the project; (iii) in compliance with the relevant UNDP regulations and rules, policies and procedures; and (iv) supported by properly approved vouchers and other supporting documents.

**Modified Opinions** (Refer to ISA 705)

Option 2: (Qualified opinion)

In our opinion, the attached statement of expenses, except for the reasons indicated above in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), etc., [there should be a separate Basis for Qualified Opinion Paragraph where the basis for Qualified opinion is clearly explained] presents fairly in all material respects the expense of [insert amount in US\$] incurred by the project [insert official title of project] for the period [insert period covered] in accordance with UNDP accounting policies [if needed add: and the note to the statement].

Option 3: (Adverse opinion)

In our opinion, based on the significance of the matter discussed in paragraph (1), (2), (3) etc. [there should be a separate Basis for Adverse Opinion Paragraph where the basis for adverse opinion is clearly explained] the statement of expenses does not give a true and fair view of the expense of [insert amount in US\$] incurred by the project [insert official title of project] for the period from [insert period covered].

Option 4: (Disclaimer of opinion)

Because of the significance of the matter described in paragraph (1),(2), (3), etc. [there should be a separate Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion Paragraph where the basis for disclaimer of opinion is clearly explained] we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. Accordingly we are unable to express an opinion on the statement of expense of [insert amount in US\$] incurred by the project [insert official title of project] and audited by us for the period from [insert period covered].

**Emphasis of Matter** [if applicable] (Refer to ISA 706)

We draw attention to Note [insert number] to the statement of expense which describes the uncertainty related to the [insert the issue]. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor's Name and Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of the auditor's report

\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor's address

**II. Sample Independent Auditor's Opinion on Statement of Assets and Equipment** (Refer to ISA 700)

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and equipment ("the statement") of the project number [insert project and project number(s)], [insert official title of project] as at [insert date].

Management is responsible for the preparation of the statement for <name/title> project and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the project's preparation of the statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the project's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the presentation of the statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Option 1: (Unmodified)**

In our opinion, the attached statement of assets and equipment presents fairly, in all material respects, the balance of inventory of the project [insert official title of project] amounting to [insert amount in \$US] as at [insert date] in accordance with UNDP accounting policies [if needed add: set out in the note to the schedule].

**Modified Opinions (Refer to ISA 705)**

**Option 2: (Qualified opinion)**

In our opinion, the attached statement of assets and equipment, except for the reasons indicated above in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), etc., [there should be a separate Basis for Qualified Opinion Paragraph where the basis for Qualified opinion is clearly explained] presents fairly in all material respects the balance of inventory of [insert amount in US\$] incurred by the project [insert official title of project] as at [insert date] in accordance with agreed upon accounting policies [if needed add: set out in the note to the schedule].

**Option 3: (Adverse opinion)**

In our opinion, based on the significance of the matter discussed in paragraph (1), (2), (3) etc. [there should be a separate Basis for Adverse Opinion Paragraph where the basis for adverse opinion is clearly explained] the statement of assets and equipment does not give a true and fair view of the expense of [insert amount in US\$] incurred by the project [insert official title of project] and audited by us as at [insert date].

**Option 4: (Disclaimer of opinion)**

Because of the significance of the matter described in paragraph (1),(2), (3), etc. [there should be a separate Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion Paragraph where the basis for disclaimer of opinion is clearly explained] we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. Accordingly we are unable to express an opinion on the statement of assets and equipment of [insert amount in US\$] incurred by the project [insert official title of project] and

audited by us as at [insert date].

**Emphasis of Matter** [if applicable] (Refer to ISA 706)

We draw attention to Note [insert number] to the statement of assets and equipment which describes the uncertainty related to the [insert the issue]. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor's Name and Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of the auditor's report

\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor's address

**III. Sample Independent Auditor's Report on Statement of Cash Position** (Statement of Cash Position is required only if there is separate bank account for each of the projects and/or petty cash) (Refer to ISA 700)

We have audited the accompanying statement of cash position ("the statement") of the project number [insert project and project number(s)], [insert official title of project] as at XXX.

Management of project <project name/title> is responsible for the preparation of the statement for project and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the project's preparation of the statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the project's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the presentation of the statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Option 1: (Unmodified)**

In our opinion, the attached Statement of cash position presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash and bank balance of the UNDP project [insert official title of project] amounting to [insert amount in \$US] as at [insert date] in accordance with the UNDP accounting policies [if needed

add: set out in the note to the statement].

**Modified Opinions (Refer to ISA 705) Option 2: (Qualified opinion)**

In our opinion, the attached statement of cash position, except for the reasons indicated above in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), etc., [there should be a separate Basis for Qualified Opinion Paragraph where the basis for Qualified opinion is clearly explained] presents fairly in all material respects the cash and bank balance amounting to [insert amount in US\$] as at [insert date] in accordance with the UNDP accounting policies [if needed add: set out in the note to the statement].

**Option 3: (Adverse opinion)**

In our opinion, based on the significance of the matter discussed in paragraph (1), (2), (3) etc. [there should be a separate Basis for Adverse Opinion Paragraph where the basis for adverse opinion is clearly explained] the statement of cash position does not give a true and fair view of the cash and bank balance of [insert amount in US\$] audited by us as at [insert date].

**Option 4: (Disclaimer of opinion)**

Because of the significance of the matter described in paragraph (1),(2), (3), etc. [there should be a separate Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion Paragraph where the basis for disclaimer of opinion is clearly explained] we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. Accordingly we are unable to express an opinion on the statement of cash position in the amount of [insert amount in US\$] audited by us as at [insert date].

**Emphasis of Matter [if applicable] (Refer to ISA 706)**

We draw attention to Note X to the statement of cash position which describe the uncertainty related to [give explanation of the uncertainty]. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor's Name and Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of the auditor's report

\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor's address

Date of issuance: \_\_\_\_\_

AUDITOR'S NAME (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

AUDITOR'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

STAMP AND SEAL OF AUDIT FIRM: \_\_\_\_\_

AUDIT FIRM ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

AUDIT FIRM TEL. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Audit opinions must be one of the following: (a) unmodified, (b) qualified, , (c) adverse, or (d) disclaimer. If the audit opinion is other than “unmodified” the audit report must describe both the nature and amount of the possible effects on the UNDP financial statement (CDR) (Amount of qualification/**Net Financial Impact**). A definition of audit opinions is provided in Annex 4.

## **ANNEX 4: DEFINITION OF AUDIT OPINIONS**

### **Unmodified (Clean) Opinion**

An unmodified opinion should be expressed when the auditor concludes that the financial statements give a true and fair view or are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

### **Qualified Opinion – a modified audit opinion**

A *qualified opinion* should be expressed when the auditor concludes that an unmodified opinion cannot be expressed but that the effect of any disagreement with management, or limitation on scope is not so material and pervasive as to require an adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion. A qualified opinion should be expressed as being 'except for' the effects of the matter to which the qualification relates.

### **Disclaimer of opinion – a modified audit opinion**

A *disclaimer of opinion* should be expressed when the possible effect of a limitation on scope is so material and pervasive that the auditor has not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence and accordingly is unable to express an opinion on the financial statements.

### **Adverse Opinion – a modified audit opinion**

An *adverse opinion* is expressed by an auditor when the financial statements are significantly misrepresented, misstated, and do not accurately reflect the expenses incurred and reported in the financial statements (**UNDP CDR**, statement of cash position, statement of assets and equipment).

An *adverse opinion* is expressed when the effect of a disagreement is so material and pervasive to the financial statements that the auditor concludes that a qualification of the report is not adequate to disclose the misleading or incomplete nature of the financial statements.

## ***Annex 5: International Standards on Auditing (ISA) 450 and 710***

### **Guidance on Reporting Prior Year Modified opinion not properly corrected or resolved**

Following the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) 450 and ISA 710 that came into effect on December 2010 there is a requirement regarding a previous year modified audit opinion<sup>4</sup> This audit standard requires that auditors, when expressing an opinion on this year's statements, to take into account the possible effect of a prior year modified opinion that has not been properly corrected or resolved.

Consequently, a previous year modified opinion that has not been properly resolved may cause the auditors to issue a modified opinion in their current year audit report. If proper attention is not paid to this aspect, the risk could be a significant accumulation of unresolved modified opinions from previous years that would lead the UN BoA to issue a modified audit opinion on UNDP financial statements.

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<sup>4</sup> A "modified" audit opinion means either a qualified opinion, a disclaimer of opinion or an adverse opinion.

***ANNEX 6: Priority of Audit Observations and Recommendations***

<b>High</b>	Prompt action is required to ensure that UNDP is not exposed to high risks, i.e. failure to take action could result in major negative consequences and issues.
<b>Medium</b>	Action is required to ensure that UNDP is not exposed to risks that are considered moderate. Failure to take action could contribute to negative consequences for UNDP.
<b>Low</b>	Action is desirable and should result in enhanced control or better value for money.

**ANNEX 7**

**TEMPLATE FOR NGO/NIM AUDITORS TO REVIEW AND SIGN THE UPDATED ACTION PLANS FOR PRIOR YEAR AUDIT OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Award no.:		Output No.:			Opinion Type:							
Obs No	Observation	Recommendation	Audit Area	Risk Severity	Proj/CO Mngt Comments	Action(s) Planned	Target Impl. Date	Action Unit	Person Responsible for Action	Updated Status	Actual Impl. Date	Description of Status Update
Award no.:		Output No.:			Opinion Type:							
Obs No	Observation	Recommendation	Audit Area	Risk Severity	Proj/CO Mngt Comments	Action(s) Planned	Target Impl. Date	Action Unit	Person Responsible for Action	Updated Status	Actual Impl. Date	Description of Status Update
Award no.:		Output No.:			Opinion Type:							
Obs No	Observation	Recommendation	Audit Area	Risk Severity	Proj/CO Mngt Comments	Action(s) Planned	Target Impl. Date	Action Unit	Person Responsible for Action	Updated Status	Actual Impl. Date	Description of Status Update

<p><b>Implementing Partner (IP)</b></p> <p>Signature of IP Official: _____</p> <p>Name and title (print): _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p><b>UNDP Country Office</b></p> <p>Signature of UNDP Official: _____</p> <p>Name and title (print): _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p><b>Government Auditors/Audit Firm</b></p> <p>Signature of Audit firm Official: _____</p> <p>Name and title (print): _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Stamp and Seal of audit firm: _____</p>
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**Note:** The values for the “Updated Status” could be: Implemented, In Progress, Not Implemented, N/A or Withdrawn. “N/A” means not applicable and would be used if there is an overall change in a project’s working environment that makes last year’s audit observation no longer applicable. For example, the project has been closed. Another example for using “N/A” is a project that had its own bank account and last year’ audit recommendation called for the need to perform monthly bank reconciliation. However the following year, the auditor notes that the bank account has been closed. “Withdrawn” would be used if there is an overall change in a project’s working environment that makes last year’s audit observation and recommendation no longer valid. “Withdrawn” is very rarely used.

**ANNEX 8:      **TEMPLATE FOR AUDIT DATA AND OBSERVATIONS****

The information in the four tables below should be completed by the NGO/NIM auditors and signed. The CO can obtain the electronic version of the word document and copy and paste the information in CARDS for each project/project audit report.

**Table 1 - Template for NGO/NIM auditors to report on the audit of the UNDP CDR**

UNDP Combined Delivery Report (CDR) as at 31 December 2015							
1	Project No.	Output No.	Amount audited and certified (US\$)	Audit opinion (unqualified, qualified, adverse, disclaimer)	Total amount of qualification of audit opinion (if qualified, adverse or disclaimer of opinion)	Reason(s) for qualification of audit opinion and breakdown of NFI amount (US	Observation(s) that had impact on qualification of audit opinion (list observation number(s) and page of audit report/management letter)

**Table 2 - Template for NGO/NIM auditors to report on the audit of the statement of cash position**

Statement of Cash Position				
Project No.	Output No.	Value of Cash Position Statement as at 31 December 2015 (US\$)	Audit Opinion - Statement of Cash Position	Total amount of qualification - Statement of Cash Position (US\$)

**Table 3 – Template for NGO/NIM auditors to report on the audit of the statement of assets and equipment**

Statement of assets and equipment				
Project No.	Output No.	Value of assets and equipment as at 31 December 2015 (cumulative from project start date) (US\$)	Audit Opinion - Statement of Assets and Equipment	Total amount of qualification on the Statement of assets and equipment (US\$)

**Table 4 - Template for NGO/NIM auditors to report on current year audit observations and recommendations**

Project No.	Output No.	Observ. No	Audit Observation	Recommendation	Audit Area	Risk Severity	Project/CO Mngmt. Comments

Name and position of Auditor: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Auditor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and stamp of Audit Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

## **ANNEX 9: GUIDANCE OF FORMULATING AUDIT OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The purpose of this note is to provide guidance on formulating audit observations and recommendations that are effective.

Effective audit observations should consist of four (4) common elements:

- 1) Condition
- 2) Criteria
- 3) Effect, potential impact or Risk
- 4) Recommendation

Items 1 to 3 must be part of what constitutes an audit observation. Below are helpful tips on each of these areas.

### **CONDITION**

The "Condition" refers to a conclusion, problem, or opportunity noted during the audit review. It directly addresses a control objective or some other standard of performance. Sample condition statements include:

- "The appropriate individual did not authorize this document."
- "The account has not been reconciled for three months."
- "The process can be streamlined to save six hours per day."

When documenting the condition, it is important to include the necessary level of detail in the description of the problem. Someone who has not participated in the audit, but has some basic understanding of the subject matter or function, should be able to comprehend any condition statement.

### **CRITERIA**

This element describes the standard being used as the benchmark for evaluation. In other words, it depicts the ideal condition. The criteria may reference a specific policy, procedure, or government regulation. At other times, the criteria may simply be a matter of common sense or prudent business practice. For example, a criteria statement might state that "Per policy #1234, all loans greater than \$100,000 must be approved by the board of directors;" or "Payroll processing responsibilities should be segregated to control the authorization of master file changes."

### **EFFECT, POTENTIAL IMPACT OR RISK**

The effect statement describes the particular risk that could exist (the potential impact or risk) or that has already existed (the effect) as a result of the condition or problem. Basically, it answers the question, "so what?" Effect statements often discuss the potential for loss, noncompliance, or customer dissatisfaction created by the problem.

Management is likely to zero in on the information provided in this aspect of the audit observation, as it allows them to see how the condition will negatively impact their activities. As a result, the effect statement often serves as the catalyst for a positive change.

One note of caution is in order - the risk suggested by the effect statement should not be overblown or exaggerated. While auditors are responsible for pointing out risks associated with control breakdowns, the effect statement should remain reasonable, plausible and should not be worded as if the world were coming to an end. If auditees are to take the audit observation seriously and respect what an auditor has to say, an auditor talks about risk in realistic, not exaggerated, terms.

Risk Levels

In addition to explaining the and giving details about the “Effect, potential impact or risk” in the text of an audit observation, UNDP requires that the auditor also identifies the risk level in the audit report by using one of the following 3 pre-established risk levels:

<b>High</b>	Prompt action is required to ensure that UNDP is not exposed to high risks, i.e. failure to take action could result in major negative consequences and issues.
<b>Medium</b>	Action is required to ensure that UNDP is not exposed to risks that are considered moderate. Failure to take action could contribute to negative consequences for UNDP.
<b>Low</b>	Action is desirable and should result in enhanced control or better value for money.

RECOMMENDATION

This aspect suggests how the situation might be remedied. An effective recommendation directly relates to and targets the cause. It isn't enough to state in general terms that management should fix the problem; the recommendation statement should also explain how remediation is to be achieved.

A good recommendation maintains the proper balance between the risk presented and the cost to control it. Before making a recommendation, the auditor should consider the following questions:

Does the recommendation solve the problem and eliminate or reduce the risk?

- Can the recommendation be implemented within the current environment?
- Is the recommendation cost-effective?
- Will the recommendation act as a temporary bandage or a permanent solution?

Examples of effective recommendations include monthly or quarterly physical inventories of all assets and equipment with reconciliation to appropriate records.

### ADDITIONAL TIPS

Whenever possible, similar findings should be combined into one form so that the case for implementing the recommendation is strengthened.

Playing devil's advocate can be an extremely helpful exercise. After completing the audit observation and recommendation, auditors should place themselves in the auditees' shoes and challenge/question the validity of the issue. If the issue cannot stand up to this exercise, it probably should not be included in the audit report.

## **ANNEX 10: GUIDANCE ON AUDIT MATERIALITY (ISA 320, 450)**

### **ISA 320**

ISA 320 deals with the auditor's responsibility to apply the concept of materiality in planning and performing an audit of financial statements.

Financial reporting frameworks often discuss the concept of materiality in the context of the preparation and presentation of financial statements. Although financial reporting frameworks may discuss materiality in different terms, they generally explain that:

- Misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if they, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements;
- Judgments about materiality are made in light of surrounding circumstances, and are affected by the size or nature of a misstatement, or a combination of both; and
- Judgments about matters that are material to users of the financial statements are based on a consideration of the common financial information needs of users as a group. The possible effect of misstatements on specific individual users, whose needs may vary widely, is not considered.

For purposes of the ISAs, performance materiality means the amount or amounts set by the auditor at less than materiality for the financial statements as a whole to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole. If applicable, performance materiality also refers to the amount or amounts set by the auditor at less than the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures.

When establishing the overall audit strategy, the auditor shall determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole. If, in the specific circumstances of the entity, there is one or more particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures for which misstatements of lesser amounts than materiality for the financial statements as a whole could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements, the auditor shall also determine the materiality level or levels to be applied to those particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures.

The auditor shall determine performance materiality for purposes of assessing the risks of material misstatement and determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures.

The auditor shall revise materiality for the financial statements as a whole (and, if applicable, the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures) in the event of becoming aware of information during the audit that would have caused the auditor to have determined a different amount (or amounts) initially.

If the auditor concludes that a lower materiality for the financial statements as a whole (and, if applicable, materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures) than that initially determined is appropriate, the auditor shall determine whether it is necessary to revise performance materiality, and whether the nature, timing and extent of the further audit procedures remain appropriate.

### **ISA 450**

ISA 450 deals with the auditor's responsibility to evaluate the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements.

Each individual misstatement is considered to evaluate its effect on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, including whether the materiality level for that particular class of transactions, account balance or disclosure, if any, has been exceeded.

The circumstances related to some misstatements may cause the auditor to evaluate them as material, individually or when considered together with other misstatements accumulated during the audit, even if they are lower than materiality for the financial statements as a whole. Circumstances that may affect the evaluation include the extent to which the misstatement:

- Affects compliance with regulatory requirements;
- Relates to the incorrect selection or application of an accounting policy that has an immaterial effect on the current period's financial statements but is likely to have a material effect on future periods' financial statements;
- Is an omission of information not specifically required by the applicable financial reporting framework but which, in the judgment of the auditor, is important to the users' understanding of the financial position, financial performance of the entity.

The cumulative effect of immaterial uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods may have a material effect on the current period's financial statements. There are different acceptable approaches to the auditor's evaluation of such uncorrected misstatements on the current period's financial statements. Using the same evaluation approach provides consistency from period to period.

## Section 4: Proposal Submission Form<sup>5</sup>

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[insert: Location, Date]

To: [insert: Name and Address of UNDP focal point]

Dear Sir/Madam:

We, the undersigned, hereby offer to provide professional services for [insert: title of services] in accordance with your Request for Proposal dated [insert: Date] and our Proposal. We are hereby submitting our Proposal, which includes the Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal sealed under a separate envelope.

We hereby declare that :

- a) All the information and statements made in this Proposal are true and we accept that any misrepresentation contained in it may lead to our disqualification;
- b) We are currently not on the removed or suspended vendor list of the UN or other such lists of other UN agencies, nor are we associated with, any company or individual appearing on the 1267/1989 list of the UN Security Council;
- c) We have no outstanding bankruptcy or pending litigation or any legal action that could impair our operation as a going concern; and
- d) We do not employ, nor anticipate employing, any person who is or was recently employed by the UN or UNDP.

We confirm that we have read, understood and hereby accept the Terms of Reference describing the duties and responsibilities required of us in this RFP, and the General Terms and Conditions of UNDP's Contract for Professional Services.

We agree to abide by this Proposal for [insert: period of validity as indicated in Data Sheet].

We undertake, if our Proposal is accepted, to initiate the services not later than the date indicated in the Data Sheet.

We fully understand and recognize that UNDP is not bound to accept this proposal, that we shall bear all costs associated with its preparation and submission, and that UNDP will in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the evaluation.

We remain,

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<sup>5</sup> No deletion or modification may be made in this form. Any such deletion or modification may lead to the rejection of the Proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Authorized Signature *[In full and initials]:* \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title of Signatory: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Details : \_\_\_\_\_

*[please mark this letter with your corporate seal, if available]*

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## Section 5: Documents Establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Proposer

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### Proposer Information Form<sup>6</sup>

Date: *[insert date (as day, month and year) of Proposal Submission]*

RFP No.: *[insert number]*

Page \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ pages

1. Proposer's Legal Name <i>[insert Proposer's legal name]</i>		
2. In case of Joint Venture (JV), legal name of each party: <i>[insert legal name of each party in JV]</i>		
3. Actual or intended Country/ies of Registration/Operation: <i>[insert actual or intended Country of Registration]</i>		
4. Year of Registration: <i>[insert Proposer's year of registration]</i>		
5. Countries of Operation	6. No. of staff in each Country	7. Years of Operation in each Country
8. Legal Address/es in Country/ies of Registration/Operation: <i>[insert Proposer's legal address in country of registration]</i>		
9. Value and Description of Top three (3) Biggest Contract for the past five (5) years		
10. Latest Credit Rating (if any)		
11. Brief description of litigation history (disputes, arbitration, claims, etc.), indicating current status and outcomes, if already resolved.		
12. Proposer's Authorized Representative Information  Name: <i>[insert Authorized Representative's name]</i> Address: <i>[insert Authorized Representative's Address]</i> Telephone/Fax numbers: <i>[insert Authorized Representative's telephone/fax numbers]</i> Email Address: <i>[insert Authorized Representative's email address]</i>		
13. Are you in the UNPD List 1267.1989 or UN Ineligibility List ? (Y / N)		

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<sup>6</sup> The Proposer shall fill in this Form in accordance with the instructions. Apart from providing additional information, no alterations to its format shall be permitted and no substitutions shall be accepted.

14. Attached are copies of original documents of:

- All eligibility document requirements listed in the Data Sheet
- If Joint Venture/Consortium – copy of the Memorandum of Understanding or Letter of Intent to form a JV/Consortium, or Registration of JV/Consortium, if registered
- If case of Government corporation or Government-owned/controlled entity, documents establishing legal and financial autonomy and compliance with commercial law.

# Joint Venture Partner Information Form (if Registered)<sup>7</sup>

Date: *[insert date (as day, month and year) of Proposal Submission]*

RFP No.: *[insert number]*

Page \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ pages

1. Proposer's Legal Name: <i>[insert Proposer's legal name]</i>		
2. JV's Party legal name: <i>[insert JV's Party legal name]</i>		
3. JV's Party Country of Registration: <i>[insert JV's Party country of registration]</i>		
4. Year of Registration: <i>[insert Party's year of registration]</i>		
5. Countries of Operation	6. No. of staff in each Country	7. Years of Operation in each Country
8. Legal Address/es in Country/ies of Registration/Operation: <i>[insert Party's legal address in country of registration]</i>		
9. Value and Description of Top three (3) Biggest Contract for the past five (5) years		
10. Latest Credit Rating (if any)		
1. Brief description of litigation history (disputes, arbitration, claims, etc.), indicating current status and outcomes, if already resolved.		
13. JV's Party Authorized Representative Information Name: <i>[insert name of JV's Party authorized representative]</i> Address: <i>[insert address of JV's Party authorized representative]</i> Telephone/Fax numbers: <i>[insert telephone/fax numbers of JV's Party authorized representative]</i> Email Address: <i>[insert email address of JV's Party authorized representative]</i>		
14. Attached are copies of original documents of: <i>[check the box(es) of the attached original documents]</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> All eligibility document requirements listed in the Data Sheet <input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation or Registration of firm named in 2. <input type="checkbox"/> In case of government owned entity, documents establishing legal and financial autonomy and compliance with commercial law.		

<sup>7</sup> The Proposer shall fill in this Form in accordance with the instructions. Apart from providing additional information, No alterations to its format shall be permitted and no substitutions shall be accepted.

## Section 6: Technical Proposal Form

**TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FORMAT**  
**INSERT TITLE OF THE SERVICES**

**Note: Technical Proposals not submitted in this format may be rejected. The financial proposal should be included in separate envelope.**

<b>Name of Proposing Organization / Firm:</b>	
<b>Country of Registration:</b>	
<b>Name of Contact Person for this Proposal:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone / Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

**SECTION 1: EXPERTISE OF FIRM/ ORGANISATION**

1. Provide a brief description of the organization / firm submitting the proposal, its experience in conducting complex audits for similar capacities, its experience in auditing multinational organization or multinational agencies funded projects. The firm is expected to have at least 15 years of experience in audits and should have international experience working with multinational companies/organisations and experience with donor projects. Offeror must specify their annual turnover. Experience in financial statements and audits of internal controls must be demonstrated. Staff must be fully qualified, experienced and certified.

Name of project	Client	Contract Value	Period of activity	Types of activities undertaken	Status or Date Completed	References Contact Details (Name, Phone, Email)

**SECTION 2 - APPROACH AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

2. Approach to the Service/Work Required: The Proposer shall provide one principal auditor to sign all audit reports. The proposal must present in detail that the firm understands the assignment and must address the important aspects of the tasks. Proof of Auditor's compliance with international Standards on Auditing shall be demonstrated. Information on the access of audit documentation shall be included in the proposal. Timeframe of the submission of the final audit report should be presented.

**SECTION 3: PERSONNEL**

**3.1 Principal Auditor:-** Relevant years of experience and audit certifications of the Principal Auditor must be provided.

**Team Leader (Audit Manager):** Team Leader must be certified and must possess a minimum of 7 years of audit experience.

**Proposed Project Group –** Project members should hold at least a graduate degree and shall possess a minimum of 3 years of auditing experience. Project members must be fluent in the required language of each lot.

(Note: This spreadsheet is crucial and no substitution of personnel will be tolerated once the contract has been awarded except in extreme circumstances and with the written approval of the UNDP. If substitution is unavoidable it will be a person who, in the opinion of the UNDP project manager, is at least as experienced as the person being replaced, and subject to the approval of UNDP. No increase in costs will be considered as a result of any substitution.)

**Qualifications of Key Personnel.** Provide the CVs for key personnel (Principal Auditor, Team Leader and Project Group) that will be provided to support the implementation of this project. CVs should demonstrate qualifications, experience and knowledge in areas relevant to the Scope of Services. Please use the format below:

<b>Name:</b>		
<b>Position for this Contract:</b>		
<b>Nationality:</b>		
<b>Contact information:</b>		
<b>Work Experience:</b>		
<b>Language Skills:</b>		
<b>Educational and other Qualifications:</b>		
<b>Summary of Experience:</b> <i>Highlight experience in the region and on similar projects.</i>		
<b>Relevant Experience (From most recent):</b>		
<b>Period: From – To</b>	<b>Name of activity/ Project/ funding organisation, if applicable:</b>	<b>Job Title and Activities undertaken/Description of actual role performed:</b>
<i>e.g. June 2004-January 2005</i>		
<i>Etc.</i>		
<i>Etc.</i>		
<b>References no.1 (minimum of 3):</b>	<i>Name Designation Organization Contact Information – Address; Phone; Email; etc.</i>	
<b>Reference no.2</b>	<i>Name Designation Organization Contact Information – Address; Phone; Email; etc.</i>	
<b>Reference no.3</b>	<i>Name Designation Organization Contact Information – Address; Phone; Email; etc.</i>	
<b>Declaration:</b>		
I confirm my intention to serve in the stated position and present availability to serve for the term of the		

proposed contract. I also understand that any wilful misstatement described above may lead to my disqualification, before or during my engagement.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Nominated Team Leader/Member

Date Signed

## Section 7: Financial Proposal Form<sup>8</sup>

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The Proposer is required to prepare the Financial Proposal in an envelope separate from the rest of the RFP as indicated in the Instruction to Proposers.

The Financial Proposal must provide a detailed cost breakdown. Provide separate figures for each functional grouping or category.

Any estimates for cost-reimbursable items, such as travel and out-of-pocket expenses, should be listed separately.

In case of an equipment component to the service provider, the Price Schedule should include figures for both purchase and lease/rent options. UNDP reserves the option to either lease/rent or purchase outright the equipment through the Contractor.

The format shown on the following pages is suggested for use as a guide in preparing the Financial Proposal. The format includes specific expenditures, which may or may not be required or applicable but are indicated to serve as examples.

### A1. Consulting Services (fee Cost)

1.	2015 Audit	Fees (All Inclusive) (MRs)
	<p>1. SIDSDOCK funded Removal of Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation in Buildings and in Industries (expected to close in 2013 but impossible at current rate), implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities - USD 800K. The aim of the project is to assist both the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities and the Ministry of Industry in implementing energy efficiency measures in buildings and in selected industries as well as carry out energy audits.</p> <p>2. Adaptation Fund Board funded Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius- delivery in 2013: project implemented by Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - between 1 and 2 millions USD. The aim of this project is to implement adaptation measures at three sites on the coastal zone of Mauritius and to build capacity to address issues arising because of climate change on the coastal zone.</p> <p>3. GEF Funded Expanding the network and coverage of terrestrial protected areas in Mauritius:, project implemented by Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (National Parks and Conservation</p>	

<sup>8</sup> No deletion or modification may be made in this form. Any such deletion or modification may lead to the rejection of the Proposal.

	Service) between 0.8 and 1.5 million USD. The aim of this project is to create the necessary incentives for private and public land owners to preserve expanses which still contain important biodiversity.	
	<b>2015 Audit – Price as per below Threshold *</b>	
	Project Expense threshold 1 - up to USD 300,000	
	Project Expense threshold 2- USD 300K to USD 1 M	
	Project Expense threshold 3 - USD 1 M - USD 2 M	
	Project Expense threshold 4 - USD 2 M and above	
<b>2.</b>	<b>2016 Audit *</b>	
	<p>1. SIDSDOCK funded Removal of Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation in Buildings and in Industries (expected to close in 2013 but impossible at current rate), implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities - USD 800K. The aim of the project is to assist both the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities and the Ministry of Industry in implementing energy efficiency measures in buildings and in selected industries as well as carry out energy audits.</p> <p>2. Adaptation Fund Board funded Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius- delivery in 2013: project implemented by Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - between 1 and 2 millions USD. The aim of this project is to implement adaptation measures at three sites on the coastal zone of Mauritius and to build capacity to address issues arising because of climate change on the coastal zone.</p> <p>3. GEF Funded Expanding the network and coverage of terrestrial protected areas in Mauritius;, project implemented by Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (National Parks and Conservation Service) between 0.8 and 1.5 million USD. The aim of this project is to create the necessary incentives for private and public land owners to preserve expanses which still contain important biodiversity.</p> <p>4. GEF funded Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Coastal Zones of Mauritius implemented by the Mauritius Oceanography Institute. Delivery expected to be around 800 K USD.</p>	

	2016 Audit – Price as per below Threshold *	
	Project Expense threshold 1 - up to USD 300,000	
	Project Expense threshold 2- USD 300K to USD 1 M	
	Project Expense threshold 3 - USD 1 M - USD 2 M	
	Project Expense threshold 4 - USD 2 M and above	
<b>3.</b>	<b>2017 Audit*</b>	
	<p>1. GEF funded Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management in Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean SIDS - project implemented by Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities (Water Resources Unit) USD 300K.</p> <p>2. Adaptation Fund Board funded Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius project- delivery in 2013, implemented by Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - between 1 and 2 millions USD.</p> <p>3. GEF Funded Expanding the network and coverage of terrestrial protected areas in Mauritius: project implemented by Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (National Parks and Conservation Service) between 0.8 and 1.5 million USD.</p> <p>4. GEF funded Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Coastal Zones of Mauritius implemented by the Mauritius Oceanography Institute. Delivery expected to be around 800 K USD.</p> <p>Other projects which may be audited subject to approval and materialisation</p> <p>3. GEF funded Energy Efficiency in Industry, implemented by the Energy Efficiency Management Office</p> <p>4. GCF funded Accelerating transformational change to a low carbon economy in the republic of Mauritius</p>	
	2017 Audit – Price as per below Threshold *	
	Project Expense threshold 1 - up to USD 300,000	
	Project Expense threshold 2- USD 300K to USD 1 M	
	Project Expense threshold 3 - USD 1 M - USD 2 M	
	Project Expense threshold 4 - USD 2 M and above	

<b>4.</b>	<b>Certification of Prior Year – Audit Follow up Action Plan</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification of the 2015 Audit Follow up Action Plan in year 2017 (based on audit report in 2016)</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Price per Certification of the 2015 Audit Follow up Action Plan</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification of the 2016 Audit Follow up Action Plan in year 2018 (based on audit report in 2017)</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Price per Certification of the 2016 Audit Follow up Action Plan</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification of the 2017 Audit Follow up Action Plan in year 2019 (based on audit report in 2018)</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Price per Certification of the 2017 Audit Follow up Action Plan</li> </ul>	

**Financial proposal for the Certification of Prior Year - Audit Follow up Action Plan should also be submitted on the Financial Proposal Form**

**Pricing Assumption:**

The fee is inclusive of all overhead and direct costs. No additional compensation will be provided.

**\*Notes:**

- **Project Expenses threshold for years 2015, 2016 and 2017**
- **Project Expense threshold 1 - up to USD 300,000**
- **Project Expense threshold 2- USD 300K to USD 1 M**
- **Project Expense threshold 3 - USD 1 M - USD 2 M**
- **Project Expense threshold 4 - USD 2 M and above**
  
- Project Expense threshold 1 will normally include small projects and which undergo once in a lifetime audits
- Threshold 2 is for projects which deliver mainly on consultancy fees and capacity building but also some equipment and works.

- Threshold 3 will apply when we have projects delivering on works which are very expenditure intensive.
- Threshold 4 will be when project reaches peak delivery.

As per requirement, financial proposal must be submitted based on the project expenses threshold for the purpose of establishing the long term agreement.

The financial proposal should be submitted as per Section 7 – on the Financial Proposal Form (refer to the letter of invitation)

**A2. Consulting Services (fee Cost) in case of unforeseen Circumstances**

Project Cost	Quantity (days)	Unit rate
<b>Consultancy fee</b>		
<b>Principal Auditor</b>		
<b>Audit Manager</b>		
<b>Audit Senior</b>		
<b>Audit Junior</b>		

**PRICE CONSIDERATIONS**

- UNDP expects that proposed prices would be fixed for three years as per above submission. The Offerors therefore should specify whether the prices would remain fixed for the entire contract period, or alternatively, they should indicate a maximum yearly increase rate.

**For all three years of the contract [please check one]**

the prices will remain fixed for the duration of the contract

the prices will increase yearly by a maximum percentage of \_\_\_\_% [specify]

- The Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP normal payment terms are 30 days upon satisfactory completion of service and acceptance thereof by UNDP. Offerors must, therefore, clearly specify in their proposal the payment terms being offered including prompt payment discounts, if any.

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## Section 8: Form for Advanced Payment Guarantee<sup>9</sup>

***(This must be finalized using the official letterhead of the Issuing Bank. Except for indicated fields, no changes may be made on this template)***

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\_\_\_\_\_ *[Bank's Name, and Address of Issuing Branch or Office]*  
Beneficiary: \_\_\_\_\_ *[Name and Address of UNDP]*  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADVANCE PAYMENT GUARANTEE No.: \_\_\_\_\_

We have been informed that *[name of Company]* (hereinafter called "the Contractor") has entered into Contract No. *[reference number of the contract]* dated *[insert: date]* with you, for the provision of *[brief description of Services]* (hereinafter called "the Contract"). Furthermore, we understand that, according to the conditions of the Contract, an advance payment in the sum of *[amount in words] ([amount in figures])* is to be made against an advance payment guarantee.

At the request of the Contractor, we *[name of Bank]* hereby irrevocably undertake to pay you any sum or sums not exceeding in total an amount of *[amount in words] ([amount in figures])*<sup>10</sup> upon receipt by us of your first demand in writing accompanied by a written statement stating that the Contractor is in breach of its obligation under the Contract because the Contractor has used the advance payment for purposes other than toward providing the Services under the Contract.

It is a condition for any claim and payment under this guarantee to be made that the advance payment referred to above must have been received by the Contractor on its account number \_\_\_\_\_ at *[name and address of Bank]*.

The maximum amount of this guarantee shall be progressively reduced by the amount of the advance payment repaid by the Contractor as indicated in copies of certified monthly statements which shall be presented to us. This guarantee shall expire, at the latest, upon our receipt of the monthly payment certificate indicating that the Consultants have made full repayment of the

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<sup>9</sup> This Guarantee shall be required if the Contractor will require advanced payment of more than 20% of the contract amount, or if the absolute amount of the advanced payment required will exceed the amount of USD 30,000, or its equivalent if the price offer is not in USD, using the exchange rate stated in the Data Sheet. The Contractor's Bank must issue the Guarantee using the contents of this template.

<sup>10</sup> The Guarantor Bank shall insert an amount representing the amount of the advanced payment and denominated either in the currency/ies of the advanced payment as specified in the Contract.

amount of the advance payment, or on the \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_,<sup>11</sup> whichever is earlier. Consequently, any demand for payment under this guarantee must be received by us at this office on or before that date.

This guarantee is subject to the Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees, ICC Publication No. 458.

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*[signature(s)]*

*Note: All italicized text is for indicative purposes only to assist in preparing this form and shall be deleted from the final product.*

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<sup>11</sup> *Insert the expected expiration date. In the event of an extension of time for Completion of the Contract, the Contractor would need to request an extension of this Guarantee from the Guarantor Bank. Such request must be in writing and must be made prior to the expiration date established in the Guarantee. In preparing this Guarantee, the Contractor might consider adding the following text to the form at the end of the penultimate paragraph : "The Guarantor Bank agrees to a one-time extension of this Guarantee for a period not to exceed [six months] [one year], in response to the Contractor's written request for such extension, such request to be presented to the Guarantor Bank before the expiry of the Guarantee.*

## Section 9: Template for Long Term Agreement

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

### LONG TERM AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES

#### TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

This Long Term Agreement is made between the United Nations Development Programme, a subsidiary organ of the United Nations, having its headquarters at 1 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017 (hereinafter “UNDP”) and \_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter called “Contractor”) with its headquarters at \_\_\_\_\_.

WHEREAS, UNDP desires to enter into a Long Term Agreement for the provision of services by the Contractor to UNDP, pursuant to which UNDP country offices world-wide can conclude specific contractual arrangements with the Contractor, as provided herein;

WHEREAS pursuant to the Request for Proposal .....[to complete] the offer of the Contractor was accepted;

NOW, THEREFORE, UNDP and the Contractor (hereinafter jointly the “Parties) hereby agree as follows:

#### Article 1: SCOPE OF WORK

1. The Contractor shall provide the types of services and deliverables, which are listed in Annex 1 hereto (“Services/Terms of Reference”), as and when negotiated by UNDP headquarters or a UNDP country office and reflected in a contract for professional services, in the form attached hereto as Annex 2.
2. Such Services shall be at the discount prices listed in Annex 3. The prices shall remain in effect for a period of two years from Entry into Force of this Agreement.
3. UNDP does not warrant that any quantity of Services will be purchased during the term of this Agreement, which shall be for two years.

#### Article 2: CHANGES IN CONDITION

4. In the event of any advantageous technical changes and/or downward pricing of the Services during the duration of this Agreement, the Contractor shall notify UNDP immediately. UNDP shall consider the impact of any such event and may request an amendment to the Agreement.

#### Article 3: CONTRACTOR'S REPORTING

5. The Contractor will report semi-annually to UNDP on the Services provided to UNDP, including its country offices.

**Article 4: GENERAL AND SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

6. The standard UNDP General Conditions for Professional Services, attached as Annex 4, shall apply to this Agreement, and any subsequent contracts concluded in accordance with paragraph 1 above

**Article 5: ACCEPTANCE**

7. This Agreement supersedes all prior oral or written agreements, if any, between the Parties and constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the provision of the Services hereunder.

8. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last signature by the representatives of the Parties and shall remain in force for a period of two years, and may be extended for [one additional] year by mutual agreement of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representative of the PARTIES have signed this agreement.

For and on behalf of:

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

.....

.....

Date:.....

Date:.....

**Annexures to be included in the contract upon execution:**

1. Terms of Reference- The terms of reference specify in detail the scope of work linking activities to deliverable in a specific time frame.
2. Discount prices – rates submitted by the Offeror in their financial Proposal
3. UNDP General Terms & Conditions (see below)



## **UNDP GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT FOR SERVICES**

### **1.0 LEGAL STATUS:**

The Contractor shall be considered as having the legal status of an independent contractor vis-à-vis the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Contractor's personnel and sub-contractors shall not be considered in any respect as being the employees or agents of UNDP or the United Nations.

### **2.0 SOURCE OF INSTRUCTIONS:**

The Contractor shall neither seek nor accept instructions from any authority external to UNDP in connection with the performance of its services under this Contract. The Contractor shall refrain from any action that may adversely affect UNDP or the United Nations and shall fulfill its commitments with the fullest regard to the interests of UNDP.

### **3.0 CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEES:**

The Contractor shall be responsible for the professional and technical competence of its employees and will select, for work under this Contract, reliable individuals who will perform effectively in the implementation of this Contract, respect the local customs, and conform to a high standard of moral and ethical conduct.

### **4.0 ASSIGNMENT:**

The Contractor shall not assign, transfer, pledge or make other disposition of this Contract or any part thereof, or any of the Contractor's rights, claims or obligations under this Contract except with the prior written consent of UNDP.

### **5.0 SUB-CONTRACTING:**

In the event the Contractor requires the services of sub-contractors, the Contractor shall obtain the prior written approval and clearance of UNDP for all sub-contractors. The approval of UNDP of a sub-contractor shall not relieve the Contractor of any of its obligations under this Contract. The terms of any sub-contract shall be subject to and conform to the provisions of this Contract.

### **6.0 OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT:**

The Contractor warrants that no official of UNDP or the United Nations has received or will be offered by the Contractor any direct or indirect benefit arising from this Contract or the award thereof. The Contractor agrees that breach of this provision is a breach of an essential term of this Contract.

### **7.0 INDEMNIFICATION:**

The Contractor shall indemnify, hold and save harmless, and defend, at its own expense, UNDP, its officials, agents, servants and employees from and against all suits, claims, demands, and liability of any nature or kind, including their costs and expenses, arising out of acts or omissions of the Contractor, or the Contractor's employees, officers, agents or sub-contractors, in the performance of this Contract. This provision shall extend, inter alia, to claims and liability in the nature of workmen's compensation, products liability and liability arising out of the use of patented inventions or devices, copyrighted material or other intellectual property by the Contractor, its employees, officers, agents, servants or sub-contractors. The obligations under this Article do not lapse upon termination of this Contract.

#### **8.0 INSURANCE AND LIABILITIES TO THIRD PARTIES:**

**8.1** The Contractor shall provide and thereafter maintain insurance against all risks in respect of its property and any equipment used for the execution of this Contract.

**8.2** The Contractor shall provide and thereafter maintain all appropriate workmen's compensation insurance, or the equivalent, with respect to its employees to cover claims for personal injury or death in connection with this Contract.

**8.3** The Contractor shall also provide and thereafter maintain liability insurance in an adequate amount to cover third party claims for death or bodily injury, or loss of or damage to property, arising from or in connection with the provision of services under this Contract or the operation of any vehicles, boats, airplanes or other equipment owned or leased by the Contractor or its agents, servants, employees or sub-contractors performing work or services in connection with this Contract.

**8.4** Except for the workmen's compensation insurance, the insurance policies under this Article shall:

**8.4.1** Name UNDP as additional insured;

**8.4.2** Include a waiver of subrogation of the Contractor's rights to the insurance carrier against the UNDP;

**8.4.3** Provide that the UNDP shall receive thirty (30) days written notice from the insurers prior to any cancellation or change of coverage.

**8.5** The Contractor shall, upon request, provide the UNDP with satisfactory evidence of the insurance required under this Article.

#### **9.0 ENCUMBRANCES/LIENS:**

The Contractor shall not cause or permit any lien, attachment or other encumbrance by any person to be placed on file or to remain on file in any public office or on file with the UNDP against any monies due or to become due for any work done or materials furnished under this Contract, or by reason of any other claim or demand against the Contractor.

**10.0 TITLE TO EQUIPMENT:** Title to any equipment and supplies that may be furnished by UNDP shall rest with UNDP and any such equipment shall be returned to UNDP at the conclusion of this Contract or when no longer needed by the Contractor. Such equipment, when returned to UNDP, shall be in the same condition as when delivered to the Contractor, subject to normal wear and tear. The Contractor shall be liable to compensate UNDP for equipment determined to be damaged or degraded beyond normal wear and tear.

#### **11.0 COPYRIGHT, PATENTS AND OTHER PROPRIETARY RIGHTS:**

**11.1** Except as is otherwise expressly provided in writing in the Contract, the UNDP shall be entitled to all

intellectual property and other proprietary rights including, but not limited to, patents, copyrights, and trademarks, with regard to products, processes, inventions, ideas, know-how, or documents and other materials which the Contractor has developed for the UNDP under the Contract and which bear a direct relation to or are produced or prepared or collected in consequence of, or during the course of, the performance of the Contract, and the Contractor acknowledges and agrees that such products, documents and other materials constitute works made for hire for the UNDP.

**11.2** To the extent that any such intellectual property or other proprietary rights consist of any intellectual property or other proprietary rights of the Contractor: (i) that pre-existed the performance by the Contractor of its obligations under the Contract, or (ii) that the Contractor may develop or acquire, or may have developed or acquired, independently of the performance of its obligations under the Contract, the UNDP does not and shall not claim any ownership interest thereto, and the Contractor grants to the UNDP a perpetual license to use such intellectual property or other proprietary right solely for the purposes of and in accordance with the requirements of the Contract.

**11.3** At the request of the UNDP; the Contractor shall take all necessary steps, execute all necessary documents and generally assist in securing such proprietary rights and transferring or licensing them to the UNDP in compliance with the requirements of the applicable law and of the Contract.

**11.4** Subject to the foregoing provisions, all maps, drawings, photographs, mosaics, plans, reports, estimates, recommendations, documents, and all other data compiled by or received by the Contractor under the Contract shall be the property of the UNDP, shall be made available for use or inspection by the UNDP at reasonable times and in reasonable places, shall be treated as confidential, and shall be delivered only to UNDP authorized officials on completion of work under the Contract.

## **12.0 USE OF NAME, EMBLEM OR OFFICIAL SEAL OF UNDP OR THE UNITED NATIONS:**

The Contractor shall not advertise or otherwise make public the fact that it is a Contractor with UNDP, nor shall the Contractor, in any manner whatsoever use the name, emblem or official seal of UNDP or THE United Nations, or any abbreviation of the name of UNDP or United Nations in connection with its business or otherwise.

## **13.0 CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION:**

Information and data that is considered proprietary by either Party, and that is delivered or disclosed by one Party ("Discloser") to the other Party ("Recipient") during the course of performance of the Contract, and that is designated as confidential ("Information"), shall be held in confidence by that Party and shall be handled as follows:

**13.1** The recipient ("Recipient") of such information shall:

**13.1.1** use the same care and discretion to avoid disclosure, publication or dissemination of the Discloser's Information as it uses with its own similar information that it does not wish to disclose, publish or disseminate; and,

**13.1.2** use the Discloser's Information solely for the purpose for which it was disclosed.

**13.2** Provided that the Recipient has a written agreement with the following persons or entities requiring them to treat the Information confidential in accordance with the Contract and this Article 13, the Recipient may disclose Information to:

**13.2.1** any other party with the Discloser's prior written consent; and,

**13.2.2** the Recipient's employees, officials, representatives and agents who have a need to know such Information for purposes of performing obligations under the Contract, and employees officials, representatives and

agents of any legal entity that it controls, controls it, or with which it is under common control, who have a need to know such Information for purposes of performing obligations under the Contract, provided that, for these purposes a controlled legal entity means:

**13.2.2.1** a corporate entity in which the Party owns or otherwise controls, whether directly or indirectly, over fifty percent (50%) of voting shares thereof; or,

**13.2.2.2** any entity over which the Party exercises effective managerial control; or,

**13.2.2.3** for the UNDP, an affiliated Fund such as UNCDF, UNIFEM and UNV.

**13.3** The Contractor may disclose Information to the extent required by law, provided that, subject to and without any waiver of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, the Contractor will give the UNDP sufficient prior notice of a request for the disclosure of Information in order to allow the UNDP to have a reasonable opportunity to take protective measures or such other action as may be appropriate before any such disclosure is made.

**13.4** The UNDP may disclose Information to the extent as required pursuant to the Charter of the UN, resolutions or regulations of the General Assembly, or rules promulgated by the Secretary-General.

**13.5** The Recipient shall not be precluded from disclosing Information that is obtained by the Recipient from a third party without restriction, is disclosed by the Discloser to a third party without any obligation of confidentiality, is previously known by the Recipient, or at any time is developed by the Recipient completely independently of any disclosures hereunder.

**13.6** These obligations and restrictions of confidentiality shall be effective during the term of the Contract, including any extension thereof, and, unless otherwise provided in the Contract, shall remain effective following any termination of the Contract.

#### **14.0 FORCE MAJEURE; OTHER CHANGES IN CONDITIONS**

**14.1** In the event of and as soon as possible after the occurrence of any cause constituting force majeure, the Contractor shall give notice and full particulars in writing to the UNDP, of such occurrence or change if the Contractor is thereby rendered unable, wholly or in part, to perform its obligations and meet its responsibilities under this Contract. The Contractor shall also notify the UNDP of any other changes in conditions or the occurrence of any event that interferes or threatens to interfere with its performance of this Contract. On receipt of the notice required under this Article, the UNDP shall take such action as, in its sole discretion; it considers to be appropriate or necessary in the circumstances, including the granting to the Contractor of a reasonable extension of time in which to perform its obligations under this Contract.

**14.2** If the Contractor is rendered permanently unable, wholly, or in part, by reason of force majeure to perform its obligations and meet its responsibilities under this Contract, the UNDP shall have the right to suspend or terminate this Contract on the same terms and conditions as are provided for in Article 15, "Termination", except that the period of notice shall be seven (7) days instead of thirty (30) days.

**14.3** Force majeure as used in this Article means acts of God, war (whether declared or not), invasion, revolution, insurrection, or other acts of a similar nature or force.

**14.4** The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that, with respect to any obligations under the Contract that the Contractor must perform in or for any areas in which the UNDP is engaged in, preparing to engage in, or disengaging from any peacekeeping, humanitarian or similar operations, any delays or failure to perform such obligations arising from or relating to harsh conditions within such areas or to any incidents of civil unrest occurring in such areas shall not, in and of itself, constitute force majeure under the Contract..

## **15.0 TERMINATION**

**15.1** Either party may terminate this Contract for cause, in whole or in part, upon thirty (30) days notice, in writing, to the other party. The initiation of arbitral proceedings in accordance with Article 16.2 (“Arbitration”), below, shall not be deemed a termination of this Contract.

**15.2** UNDP reserves the right to terminate without cause this Contract at any time upon 15 days prior written notice to the Contractor, in which case UNDP shall reimburse the Contractor for all reasonable costs incurred by the Contractor prior to receipt of the notice of termination.

**15.3** In the event of any termination by UNDP under this Article, no payment shall be due from UNDP to the Contractor except for work and services satisfactorily performed in conformity with the express terms of this Contract.

**15.4** Should the Contractor be adjudged bankrupt, or be liquidated or become insolvent, or should the Contractor make an assignment for the benefit of its creditors, or should a Receiver be appointed on account of the insolvency of the Contractor, the UNDP may, without prejudice to any other right or remedy it may have under the terms of these conditions, terminate this Contract forthwith. The Contractor shall immediately inform the UNDP of the occurrence of any of the above events.

## **16.0 SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

**16.1 Amicable Settlement:** The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of this Contract or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof. Where the parties wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the conciliation shall take place in accordance with the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules then obtaining, or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the parties.

**16.2 Arbitration:** Any dispute, controversy, or claim between the Parties arising out of the Contract or the breach, termination, or invalidity thereof, unless settled amicably under Article 16.1, above, within sixty (60) days after receipt by one Party of the other Party’s written request for such amicable settlement, shall be referred by either Party to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules then obtaining. The decisions of the arbitral tribunal shall be based on general principles of international commercial law. For all evidentiary questions, the arbitral tribunal shall be guided by the Supplementary Rules Governing the Presentation and Reception of Evidence in International Commercial Arbitration of the International Bar Association, 28 May 1983 edition. The arbitral tribunal shall be empowered to order the return or destruction of goods or any property, whether tangible or intangible, or of any confidential information provided under the Contract, order the termination of the Contract, or order that any other protective measures be taken with respect to the goods, services or any other property, whether tangible or intangible, or of any confidential information provided under the Contract, as appropriate, all in accordance with the authority of the arbitral tribunal pursuant to Article 26 (“Interim Measures of Protection”) and Article 32 (“Form and Effect of the Award”) of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. The arbitral tribunal shall have no authority to award punitive damages. In addition, unless otherwise expressly provided in the Contract, the arbitral tribunal shall have no authority to award interest in excess of the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”) then prevailing, and any such interest shall be simple interest only. The Parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such dispute, controversy, or claim.

## **17.0 PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES:**

Nothing in or relating to this Contract shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.

## **18.0 TAX EXEMPTION**

**18.1** Section 7 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations provides, inter-alia that the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs, is exempt from all direct taxes, except charges for public utility services, and is exempt from customs duties and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use. In the event any governmental authority refuses to recognize the United Nations exemption from such taxes, duties or charges, the Contractor shall immediately consult with the UNDP to determine a mutually acceptable procedure.

**18.2** Accordingly, the Contractor authorizes UNDP to deduct from the Contractor's invoice any amount representing such taxes, duties or charges, unless the Contractor has consulted with the UNDP before the payment thereof and the UNDP has, in each instance, specifically authorized the Contractor to pay such taxes, duties or charges under protest. In that event, the Contractor shall provide the UNDP with written evidence that payment of such taxes, duties or charges has been made and appropriately authorized.

#### **19.0 CHILD LABOUR**

**19.1** The Contractor represents and warrants that neither it, nor any of its suppliers is engaged in any practice inconsistent with the rights set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including Article 32 thereof, which, inter alia, requires that a child shall be protected from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

**19.2** Any breach of this representation and warranty shall entitle UNDP to terminate this Contract immediately upon notice to the Contractor, at no cost to UNDP.

#### **20.0 MINES:**

**20.1** The Contractor represents and warrants that neither it nor any of its suppliers is actively and directly engaged in patent activities, development, assembly, production, trade or manufacture of mines or in such activities in respect of components primarily utilized in the manufacture of Mines. The term "Mines" means those devices defined in Article 2, Paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 of Protocol II annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects of 1980.

**20.2** Any breach of this representation and warranty shall entitle UNDP to terminate this Contract immediately upon notice to the Contractor, without any liability for termination charges or any other liability of any kind of UNDP.

#### **21.0 OBSERVANCE OF THE LAW:**

The Contractor shall comply with all laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations bearing upon the performance of its obligations under the terms of this Contract.

#### **22.0 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:**

**22.1** The Contractor shall take all appropriate measures to prevent sexual exploitation or abuse of anyone by it or by any of its employees or any other persons who may be engaged by the Contractor to perform any services under the Contract. For these purposes, sexual activity with any person less than eighteen years of age, regardless of any laws relating to consent, shall constitute the sexual exploitation and abuse of such person. In addition, the Contractor shall refrain from, and shall take all appropriate measures to prohibit its employees or other persons engaged by it from, exchanging any money, goods, services, offers of employment or other things of value, for sexual favors or activities, or from engaging in any sexual activities that are exploitive or degrading to any person. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that the provisions hereof constitute an essential term of the Contract and that any breach of this representation and warranty shall entitle UNDP to terminate the Contract immediately upon notice to the Contractor, without any liability for termination charges or any other liability of any kind.

**22.2** The UNDP shall not apply the foregoing standard relating to age in any case in which the Contractor's personnel or any other person who may be engaged by the Contractor to perform any services under the Contract is married to the person less than the age of eighteen years with whom sexual activity has occurred and in which such marriage is recognized as valid under the laws of the country of citizenship of such Contractor's personnel or such other person who may be engaged by the Contractor to perform any services under the Contract.

**23.0 SECURITY:**

**23.1** The Contractor shall:

- (a) Put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the services are being provided;
- (b) Assume all risks and liabilities related to the Contractor's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

**23.2** UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this contract. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Contractor shall remain solely responsible for the security of its personnel and for UNDP's property in its custody as set forth in paragraph 4.1 above.

**24.0 AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS:**

**24.1** Each invoice paid by UNDP shall be subject to a post-payment audit by auditors, whether internal or external, of UNDP or the authorized agents of the UNDP at any time during the term of the Contract and for a period of three (3) years following the expiration or prior termination of the Contract. The UNDP shall be entitled to a refund from the Contractor for any amounts shown by such audits to have been paid by the UNDP other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Contract. Should the audit determine that any funds paid by UNDP have not been used as per contract clauses, the company shall reimburse such funds forthwith. Where the company fails to reimburse such funds, UNDP reserves the right to seek recovery and/or to take any other action as it deems necessary.

**24.2** The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that, at anytime, UNDP may conduct investigations relating to any aspect of the Contract, the obligations performed under the Contract, and the operations of the Contractor generally. The right of UNDP to conduct an investigation and the Contractor's obligation to comply with such an investigation shall not lapse upon expiration or prior termination of the Contract. The Contractor shall provide its full and timely cooperation with any such inspections, post-payment audits or investigations. Such cooperation shall include, but shall not be limited to, the Contractor's obligation to make available its personnel and any documentation for such purposes and to grant to UNDP access to the Contractor's premises. The Contractor shall require its agents, including, but not limited to, the Contractor's attorneys, accountants or other advisers, to reasonably cooperate with any inspections, post-payment audits or investigations carried out by UNDP hereunder.

**25.0 ANTI-TERRORISM:**

**25.1** The Contractor agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received under this Contract are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Contract.

**26.0 AUTHORITY TO MODIFY:**

Pursuant to the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP, only the UNDP Authorized Official possesses the authority to agree on behalf of UNDP to any modification of or change in this Agreement, to a waiver of any of its provisions

or to any additional contractual relationship of any kind with the Contractor. Accordingly, no modification or change in this Contract shall be valid and enforceable against UNDP unless provided by an amendment to this Agreement signed by the Contractor and jointly by the UNDP Authorized Official.

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