

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) (For Low-Valued Services)

TO INTERESTED VENDORS/COMPANIES	DATE: September 2, 2020
	REFERENCE: UNDP-RFP-SO-2020-010

Dear Sir / Madam:

We kindly request you to submit your Proposal for **Geopolitical Intelligence Reporting and Analysis Subscription, UNDP/SO.**

Please be guided by the form attached hereto as Annex 3, in preparing your Proposal.

Proposals must be submitted on or before the deadline indicated by UNDP in the eTendering system. Bids must be submitted in the online eTendering system in the following link: https://etendering.partneragencies.org using your username and password. If you have not registered in the system before, you can register now by logging in using the below credentials and follow the registration steps as specified in the system user guide.

Username: event.guest **Password**: why2change

Your Proposal must be expressed in the English and valid for a minimum period of 120 days.

In the course of preparing your Proposal, it shall remain your responsibility to ensure that it reaches the address above on or before the deadline. Proposals that are received by UNDP after the deadline indicated above, for whatever reason, shall not be considered for evaluation. In submitting your Proposal by email, kindly ensure that they are signed and in the .pdf format, and free from any virus or corrupted files.

The Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal files MUST BE COMPLETELY SEPARATE and sent separately and clearly marked as either "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" or "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL," as appropriate. Each document shall include the Proposer's name and address.

Services proposed shall be reviewed and evaluated based on completeness and compliance of the Proposal and responsiveness with the requirements of the RFP and all other annexes providing details of UNDP requirements.

The Proposal that complies with all of the requirements, meets all the evaluation criteria and offers the best value for money shall be selected and awarded the contract. Any offer that does not meet the requirements shall be rejected.

Any discrepancy between the unit price and the total price shall be re-computed by UNDP, and the unit price shall prevail and the total price shall be corrected. If the Service Provider does not accept the final price based on UNDP's re-computation and correction of errors, its Proposal will be rejected.

No price variation due to escalation, inflation, fluctuation in exchange rates, or any other market factors shall be accepted by UNDP after it has received the Proposal. At the time of Award of Contract or Purchase Order, UNDP reserves the right to vary (increase or decrease) 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.

Any Contract or Purchase Order that will be issued as a result of this RFP shall be subject to the General Terms and Conditions indicated herein. The mere act of submission of a Proposal implies that the Service Provider accepts without question the General Terms and Conditions of UNDP in this link: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/procurement/business/how-we-buy.html

Please be advised that UNDP is not bound to accept any Proposal, nor award a contract or Purchase Order, nor be responsible for any costs associated with a Service Providers preparation and submission of a Proposal, regardless of the outcome or the manner of conducting the selection process.

UNDP's vendor protest procedure is intended to afford an opportunity to appeal for persons or firms not awarded a Purchase Order or Contract in a competitive procurement process. In the event that you believe you have not been fairly treated, you can find detailed information about vendor protest procedures in the following link:

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

UNDP encourages every prospective Service Provider to prevent and avoid conflicts of interest, by disclosing to UNDP if you, or any of your affiliates or personnel, were involved in the preparation of the requirements, design, cost estimates, and other information used in this RFP.

UNDP implements a zero tolerance on fraud and other proscribed practices, and is committed to preventing, identifying and addressing all such acts and practices against UNDP, as well as third parties involved in UNDP activities. UNDP expects its Service Providers to adhere to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct found in this link: http://www.un.org/depts/ptd/pdf/conduct_english.pdf

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your Proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Ali Tahsin Jumah
Chief
Central Procurement Unit, New York
United Nations Development Programme



Annex 1

Description of Requirements

Context of the Requirement	Procurement of Geopolitical Intelligence Reporting and Analysis Subscription
Brief Description of the Required Services ¹	The vendor will supply UNDP subscribers with incident notification and geopolitical intelligence reporting and analysis
Expected Outputs to be Delivered	The vendor will supply UNDP subscribers with incident notification and geopolitical intelligence reporting and analysis. Please refer to the TOR for further details.
Frequency of Reporting	Reporting on specific incidents should be timely as indicated so the frequency of reports should be daily in active locations with a weekly regional overview; Detailed regional analysis preferably on a monthly basis.
Leasting of sale	☑ At Contractor's Location
Location of work	
Expected duration of work	One year with possibility of extension to two additional years subject to satisfactory performance and budget availability.
Target start date	15 January 2021
Travels Expected	N/A
Implementation	
Schedule indicating	☐ Required
breakdown and	Not Required □
timing of	
activities/sub-	
activities	
Names and	
curriculum vitae of	☐ Required
individuals who	☑ Not Required
will be involved in	
completing the	
services	
Currency of	☑ United States Dollars
Proposal	□ Euro
	☐ Local Currency

Value Added Tax on Price Proposal ²	☐ must be inclusive of VAT and other applicable indirect taxes
on Frice Froposal	☐ must be exclusive of VAT and other applicable indirect taxes
Validity Period of Proposals	 □ 60 days □ 90 days ☑ 120 days In exceptional circumstances, UNDP may request the Proposer to extend the validity of the Proposal beyond what has been initially indicated in this RFP. The Proposal shall then confirm the extension in writing, without any modification whatsoever on the Proposal.
Partial Quotes	☑ Not permitted
Payment Terms	Subscription basis.
Person(s) to review/inspect/ approve outputs/completed services and authorize the disbursement of payment	Security Specialist, United Nations Development Programme
Criteria for Contract Award	 □ Lowest Price Quote among technically responsive offers ☑ Highest Combined Score (based on the 70% technical offer and 30% price weight distribution) ☑ Full acceptance of the UNDP Contract General Terms and Conditions (GTC). This is a mandatory criterion and cannot be deleted regardless of the nature of services required. Non acceptance of the GTC may be grounds for the rejection of the Proposal. ☑ Submission of mutual non-disclosure agreement. ☑ Written Confirmation that, in the event that the proposal is considered technically qualified, the company will grant UNDP access to a two weeks free trial subscription.
Criteria for the Assessment of Proposal	Technical Proposal (70%) ☑ Expertise of the Firm, 35% ☑ Methodology: Appropriateness to the Condition and Timeliness of the requirement, 50% ☑ Personnel, 15%

	Proposals that obtain at least 70% of the total of points obtainable during the evaluation of the technical proposals will be requested to grant UNDP access to a two weeks free trial subscription of the services. Only proposals that, having been considered technically qualified through the technical evaluation, confirmed their technical compliance through the two weeks free trial subscription will be considered for financial evaluation. Details about the evaluation process are provided below.
	Financial Proposal (30%) To be computed as a ratio of the Proposal's offer to the lowest price among the proposals received by UNDP.
UNDP will award the contract to:	☑ One and only one Service Provider
Type of Contract to be Signed	 □ Purchase Order ☑ Contract Face Sheet (Goods and-or Services) UNDP □ Other Type/s of Contract
Contract General Terms and Conditions ³	 ☑ General Terms and Conditions for contracts (goods and/or services) ☐ General Terms and Conditions for de minimi contracts (services only, less than \$50,000)
	Applicable Terms and Conditions are available at: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/procurement/business/how-we-buy.html
Annexes to this RFP ⁴	✓ Form for Submission of Proposal (Annex 3)✓ Detailed TOR in Annex 2
Contact Person for Inquiries (Written inquiries only) ⁵	Ignacio Inestal Fernandez Procurement Analyst (Bureau for Management Services) cpu.bids@undp.org Any delay in UNDP's response shall be not used as a reason for extending the deadline for submission, unless UNDP determines that such an extension is necessary and communicates a new deadline to the Proposers.

³ Service Providers are alerted that non-acceptance of the terms of the General Terms and Conditions (GTC) may be grounds for disqualification from this procurement process.

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

Annex 2

Terms of Reference

Subscription to Geopolitical Intelligence Reporting and Analysis

A. BACKGROUND:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) operates in a rapidly changing security environment influenced by geopolitical and natural factors, which may impact UNDP's ability to conduct smooth operations. Such factors could span from very localized events to issues that affect entire regions or even the entire globe. It is imperative that UNDP take steps to reduce the impact of any events that may negatively affect its personnel, assets and activities. Staying informed on a timely and accurate basis about such events would allow UNDP to more effectively respond and mitigate risks.

UNDP is also increasingly investing in crisis risk analysis in an effort to ensure that the organization is adequately resourced to assess complex contexts, to identify and track risks to development, and to support decision-making that is informed, and evidence based. UNDP has developed the Crisis Risk Dashboard (CRD) platform, which is a tool to aggregate, managed and visualization information in support of ongoing crisis risk analysis at the global, regional and country level.

As such, UNDP wishes to subscribe to geopolitical intelligence/incident reporting and analysis services that provide comprehensive, accurate and timely coverage of all issues that may impact UNDP's personnel and/or programmes and inform UNDP's programmatic and strategic priorities.

B. DELIVERABLES:

Type of reporting

- 1. The vendor will supply UNDP subscribers with incident notification and geopolitical intelligence reporting and analysis, in the form of written reports in English that provide:
 - Comprehensive and timely coverage and analysis of issues which may impact UNDP's ability to conduct smooth operations. These issues include political, pandemic, cultural and religious trends, bureaucratic hindrances, infrastructure failures and socio-economic trends, geopolitical trends and developments in addition to classic security threats⁶;
 - Fast and accurate updates during developing events that may affect business continuity;
 - Advance notification of scheduled or forecast events that may hinder operational delivery;

⁶ These categories should incorporate but not be limited to: elections, political upheavals and crisis, political risk and analysis, international relations, natural and manmade hazards.

- Concise and prompt reporting with clear 'bottom lines' to allow for quick, proactive decision making;
- Reporting on specific incidents should be timely as indicated so the frequency of reports should be daily in active locations with a weekly regional overview;
- A more detailed regional analysis is required on a monthly basis;
- Initial incident reports should be focused on timeliness of delivery and accuracy of information.
 A "Flash Report" type of format, detailing "Who, What, When, Where" during the emerging stages of an incident is preferred. Additional analytical data may be introduced later, as information clarity increases.
- Analysis pieces should demonstrate granular understanding of the local, regional and/or global context as appropriate and not simply replicate readily available open source information.
- Key information should be presented as "Bottom Line Up Front", with detailed analysis following thereafter. A description, or list, of incidents is insufficient as an analysis piece and instead such pieces should consider the implications of an event or events.
- Opportunities/capacity to have closed focused discussions with vendor subject matter experts by teleconference on an ad hoc basis.
- All deliverables shall be strictly neutral, from political and ideological standpoints.

Method of delivery

- 2. At a minimum, written reports are to be delivered to UNDP subscribers electronically through email. Additional means of delivery that provide searchable and customizable reporting according to topic and severity scale, e.g. web repositories or mobile apps, are desirable but not mandatory.
- 3. As some users will only be interested in particular regions/countries, the vendor must provide functionality for subscribers to select countries for which to receive the subscription.
- 4. Opportunities/capacity to have closed focused discussions with vendor subject matter experts by teleconference on an ad hoc basis.
- 5. The content should also be available through an API, including an API key and supporting documentation, to all for the acquisition and ingestion of all content into the Crisis Risk Dashboard data warehouse but subsequent integration into UNDP Crisis Risk Dashboards.

Number of subscribers

6. UNDP estimates it would need the subscription for up to 20 direct subscribers.

7. API content should be available to UNDP staff through UNDP's (i) Global Crisis Risk Dashboard as well as (ii) select country-specific Crisis Risk Dashboard, which would have approximately 20 access users per dashboard.

Minimum Technical Requirements

Only technical proposals that comply with the following minimum technical requirements will be considered during a desk review for further evaluation:

- The company has the capacity to provide incident notification and geopolitical intelligence reporting and analysis, in the form of written reports in English, required.
- The service must cover all regions worldwide, required.
- Functionality for subscribers to select countries for which to receive the subscription, required.
- The content must be available through an API, including an API key and supporting documentation, to all for the acquisition and ingestion of all content into the Crisis Risk Dashboard data warehouse but subsequent integration into UNDP Crisis Risk Dashboards, required.
- The company has carried out at least 5 similar tailored assignments during the last 3 years, required.
- All deliverables shall be strictly neutral, from political and ideological standpoints; required.
- The vendor has confirmed full acceptance of UNDP General Terms and Conditions; required.
- The vendor has submitted a signed copy of the mutual non-disclosure agreement; required.

Technical Evaluation Criteria

Bids that meet the minimum technical requirements above will be further evaluated through a desk review based on the following technical criteria:

1. Expertise of the Firm (35%, Max. 245 points):

1.1 Relevance of the past assignments carried out by the vendor. (Relevant past projects should be clearly included in the submission and duly described in detail in order to facilitate the evaluation). **Max 100 points.**

- 1.2 Previous experience delivering geopolitical Intelligence Reporting to the UN System (including UN sister agencies). **Max. 75 points** (One relevant contract with UN will be up to 25 points; two relevant contracts up to 50 points; more, up to 75 points).
- 1.3 Structure of the company, i.e. total number of analysts and how many analysts per country.

 Max. 70 points.
- 2. Methodology (50%, Max. 350 points): Appropriateness to the Condition and Timeliness of the requirement

Bidders are asked to provide a detailed methodology reflecting how the expected deliverables will be accomplished by providing response to the following sections⁷:

- 2.1 Comprehensive and timely coverage and analysis of issues which may impact UNDP's ability to conduct smooth operations. These issues include political, pandemic, cultural and religious trends, bureaucratic hindrances, infrastructure failures and socio-economic trends, geopolitical trends and developments in addition to classic security threats. Max. 40 points
- 2.2 Advance notification of scheduled or forecast events that may hinder operational delivery; Initial incident reports should be focused on timeliness of delivery and accuracy of information. A "Flash Report" type of format, detailing "Who, What, When, Where" during the emerging stages of an incident is preferred. Additional analytical data may be introduced later, as information clarity increases. Max. 40 points
- 2.3 Analysis pieces should demonstrate granular understanding of the local, regional and/or global context as appropriate and not simply replicate readily available open source information. **Max. 40 points**
- 2.4 Key information should be presented as "Bottom Line Up Front", with detailed analysis following thereafter. A description, or list, of incidents is insufficient as an analysis piece and instead such pieces should consider the implications of an event or events. (Max 40 points)
- 2.5 Additional means of delivery that provide searchable and customizable reporting according to topic and severity scale e.g. web repositories or mobile apps, are desirable but not mandatory. **Max. 40 points**
- 2.6 Reporting on specific incidents should be timely as indicated so the frequency of reports should be daily in active locations with a weekly regional overview. A more detailed regional analysis is required preferably on a monthly basis. Max. 40 points
- 2.7 Access to analysts (licensed users have direct access to provider analysts to get briefed, get answers to questions and analysis they receive) and description of structure and turnaround time of the Request for Information (RFI) process. **Max. 40 points**

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⁷ If the methodology does not provide enough information to facilitate the evaluation of the criteria listed under section No.2: Methodology, the proposal may be directly disqualified.

- 2.8 Frequency of API data refresh (higher weekly, lower score monthly). Max. 40 points
- 2.9 Mechanism in place to ensure all deliverables shall be strictly neutral from political and ideological standpoints. **Max. 30 points**

3. Personnel (15% Max. 105 points)

- 3.1 Relevance of working experience and academic background (combination of set of skills and knowledge) of the designated personnel who will be carrying out the analysis work and the reporting to the UNDP throughout the delivery of the services **Max. 60 points**.
- 3.2 Relevance of the working experience and academic background of the personnel member/s who will assist UNDP in the resolution of technical issues with the subscription **Max. 30 points**
- 3.3 Minimum information security requirements/confidentiality, e.g. CISSP certification or similar. **Max. 15 points** (5 points will be allocated for each personnel member with a CISSP certification or similar. If more than 3 personnel members present a relevant certification, the maximum of points obtainable for this criterion will be 15)

4. Two weeks trial to subscription

Technically qualified proposals that obtain at least 70% of the total of points obtainable during the evaluation of the three categories listed above, will be requested to grant UNDP access to a two-week free trial subscription in order to check the accuracy of the information provided through the technical application.

Compliance with the technical requirements will not be final until the services are tested, and the quality is confirmed by the UNDP through the trial subscription⁸.

During the trial subscription assessment, the following matrix will be utilized:

	Accuracy of service provision with regards to the technical application package:		
	YES	Needs improvement ⁹	NO ¹⁰
Timely coverage and analysis of issues			
Understanding of the local, regional and/or global context			
Advanced notification system of scheduled or			

⁸ Bidders that are requested to grant UNDP access to the two weeks free trial subscription will not necessarily be considered during the financial evaluation stage.

⁹ If during the subscription UNDP identifies any minor aspect to improve, the bidder's capacity to carry out the adjustment prior to the provision of the service will be taken into account.

¹⁰ If during the subscription UNDP notes that the service does not conform to the expectations in relation to any of the categories included in the table, the proposal may be directly discarded.

	Accuracy of service provision with regards to the technical application package:		
	YES	Needs improvement ⁹	NO ¹⁰
forecast events (if			
applicable)			
Frequency of general			
reporting			
Frequency of reporting			
on specific incidents (if			
applicable)			
Communication with			
vendor's analysts:			
communication			
workflow efficiency			
Experience during the			
resolution of technical			
issues/software bugs (if			
applicable)			
Overall Assessment	YES/NO		

Important Note: Only proposals that, having been tested through the free trial subscription, prove to conform with the technical requirements and obtain the minimum passing score of 70% from technical evaluation stage, will be considered for the financial evaluation.

C. SUBMITTING PROPOSALS:

All prices/rates quoted must be exclusive of all taxes, since the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs, are exempt from taxes.

FORM FOR SUBMITTING SERVICE PROVIDER'S TECHNICAL PROPOSAL¹¹

(This Form must be submitted only using the Service Provider's Official Letterhead/Stationery¹²)

[insert: Location].
[insert: Date]

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

Dear Sir/Madam:

We, the undersigned, hereby offer to render the following services to UNDP in conformity with the requirements defined in the RFP dated [specify date], and all of its attachments, as well as the provisions of the UNDP General Contract Terms and Conditions:

A. Qualifications of the Service Provider

The Service Provider must describe and explain how and why they are the best entity that can deliver the requirements of UNDP by indicating the following:

- a) Profile describing the nature of business, field of expertise, licenses, certifications, accreditations;
- b) Business Licenses Registration Papers, Tax Payment Certification, etc.
- c) Latest Audited Financial Statement income statement and balance sheet to indicate Its financial stability, liquidity, credit standing, and market reputation, etc.;
- d) Track Record list of clients for similar services as those required by UNDP, indicating description of contract scope, contract duration, contract value, contact references;
- e) Certificates and Accreditation including Quality Certificates, Patent Registrations, Environmental Sustainability Certificates, etc.
- f) Written Self-Declaration that the company is not in the UN Security Council 1267/1989 List, UN Procurement Division List or Other UN Ineliability List.
- g) Mutual non-disclosure agreement (template attached)
- h) Written Confirmation that, in the event that the proposal is considered technically qualified, the company will grant UNDP access to a two weeks free trial subscription.
- g) All required information to facilitate the screening of the company against the minimum technical requirements and technical evaluation criteria listed above.

¹¹ This serves as a guide to the Service Provider in preparing the Proposal.

¹² Official Letterhead/Stationery must indicate contact details – addresses, email, phone and fax numbers – for verification purposes

B. Proposed Methodology for the Completion of Services

The Service Provider must describe how it will address/deliver the demands of the RFP; providing a detailed description of the essential performance characteristics, reporting conditions and quality assurance mechanisms that will be put in place, while demonstrating that the proposed methodology will be appropriate to the local conditions and context of the work.

The methodology should provide response to all points listed below:

- 2.1 Comprehensive and timely coverage and analysis of issues which may impact UNDP's ability to conduct smooth operations. These issues include political, pandemic, cultural and religious trends, bureaucratic hindrances, infrastructure failures and socio-economic trends, geopolitical trends and developments in addition to classic security threats.
- 2.2 Advance notification of scheduled or forecast events that may hinder operational delivery; Initial incident reports should be focused on timeliness of delivery and accuracy of information. A "Flash Report" type of format, detailing "Who, What, When, Where" during the emerging stages of an incident is preferred. Additional analytical data may be introduced later, as information clarity increases.
- 2.3 Analysis pieces should demonstrate granular understanding of the local, regional and/or global context as appropriate and not simply replicate readily available open source information.
- 2.4 Key information should be presented as "Bottom Line Up Front", with detailed analysis following thereafter. A description, or list, of incidents is insufficient as an analysis piece and instead such pieces should consider the implications of an event or events.
- 2.5 Additional means of delivery that provide searchable and customizable reporting according to topic and severity scale e.g. web repositories or mobile apps, are desirable but not mandatory.
- 2.6 Reporting on specific incidents should be timely as indicated so the frequency of reports should be daily in active locations with a weekly regional overview. A more detailed regional analysis is required preferably on a monthly basis.
- 2.7 Access to analysts (licensed users have direct access to provider analysts to get briefed, get answers to questions and analysis they receive) and description of structure and turnaround time of the Request for Information (RFI) process. (Max 40 points)

- 2.8 Frequency of API data refresh (higher weekly, lower score monthly).
- 2.9 Mechanism in place to ensure all deliverables shall be strictly neutral from political and ideological standpoints

C. Qualifications of Key Personnel

If required by the RFP, the Service Provider must provide:

- a) Names and qualifications of the key personnel that will be involved in the provision of this service to the UNDP (analyst roles, subscription technical maintenance roles etc.)
- b) CVs demonstrating qualifications for each personnel member involved must be submitted;

[Name and Signature of the Service Provider's Authorized Person]
[Designation]
[Date

TABLE 1: Offer to Comply with Other Conditions and Related Requirements

	Your Responses			
Other Information pertaining to our Quotation are as follows:	Yes, we will	No, we cannot	If you cannot comply, pls. indicate counter	
	comply	comply	proposal	
Technical responsiveness/Full compliance to				
requirements (PLEASE SUBMIT A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL				
THE ADECUACY OF THE PROPOSED SERVICES WITH				
RESPECT TO ALL MINIMUM TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS				
AND TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA)				
Validity of Quotation, 120 days				
The vendor is not being included in the UN Security				
Council 1267/1989 list, UN Procurement Division List or				
other UN Ineligibility List				
Full acceptance of the Contract General Terms and				
Conditions				
Submission of mutual non-disclosure agreement.				
Written Confirmation that, in the event that the				
proposal is considered technically qualified through the				

desk review, the company will grant UNDP access to a two weeks free trial subscription.		
Item(s) listed should be delivered immediately after the		
issuance of UNDP PO.		

All other information that we have not provided automatically implies our full compliance with the requirements, terms and conditions of the RFP.

[Name and Signature of the Supplier's Authorized Person] [Designation] & [Date]

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Annex 3

FORM FOR SUBMITTING SUPPLIER'S FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

(This Form must be submitted only using the Supplier's Official Letterhead)

We, the undersigned, hereby accept in full the UNDP General Terms and Conditions, and hereby offer to supply the items listed below in **Table 1& 2** in conformity with the specification and requirements of UNDP as per RFP Reference: UNDP-RFP-SO-2020-010

TABLE 1: Price table

	Monthly subscription cost in USD for:		
	Initial 20 users each additional user		
Intelligence Subscription			
API capability for Crisis Risk			
Dashboard			

Important notes:

- Please add new lines on the above quotation matrix if you have several options that you can offer. Please provide details on the differences.
- Please confirm that the price will remain the same during the potential two additional

years or indicate the % increase for the potential years ahead.