UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

Terms of Reference

Reimagining Development – Development as a long-termism

Position title:	International Consultant - Foresight Research (**Development as long-termism for future generations)**
Type of Contract:	Individual Contract
Post Level:	International Consultant
Languages Required:	English
Period of Initial Contract:	12 working days (period: 7 June – 31 August 2021)
Duty station:	Home-based (no travel required)

About UNDP

The UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) covers work in 36 countries where it is a trusted development partner supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It helps identify solutions to today's complex, trans-boundary challenges through initiatives aimed at delivering lasting social, economic and environmental improvements. Guided by UNDP's Strategic Plan (2018-2021), our advisory and implementation work focuses on democratic governance and peacebuilding, climate and disaster resilience and sustainable development. In the context of COVID-19, UNDP leads the UN's socio-economic response, and is helping countries look beyond recovery, towards 2030, making choices, managing complexity and uncertainty in four main areas: governance, social protection, green economy, and digital disruption.

A new unit for Strategy, Policy and Partnerships (SPP) has recently been set up at UNDP RBAP headquarters in New York. The main objectives of this team are to engage through analysis, partnerships and dialogues in emerging areas of development policy and strategic foresight.

Reimagining Development – Foresight Brief Series and Synthesis Framework

How we understand human development, has to evolve with its landscape, and to take a forward-looking lens to see what is emerging and evolving within those sub-systems. Is it enough anymore to focus human development just on the immediate needs right in front of us, or is it time to start to consider how these needs and shifts are impacting future generations and future issues of equity, justice, and wellbeing? If traditional notions of development are focused on 'quality of life', what are the emerging indicators of future elements of this that need nuancing? How do we understand these emerging indicators and take that into account in policy and programming ideation?

The UNDP RBAP Reimagining Development Initiative seeks to better understand and unpack what these nudges are pointing to in terms of an emerging development landscape in the Asia Pacific. The nudges noted below are not a finite list, but rather building on the signals we are sensing in the world and aiming to pull out *the unfamiliar uncertainties* within these.

This initiative seeks to position foresight as a global public good, a collective process of action, and reimagination to evolve the pathways and adaptive capacity to bring forward the futures we want to see come to reality in our region.

This initiative will run for 12 months from January to December 2021 and will both have a broad global focus and then a narrowed lens to the Asia Pacific region.

The design superstructure consists of three pillars. Individually each pillar fulfils a specific objective but weaved together, aims to provide a substantive holistic narrative of what emerging development paradigms can be:

- Written foresight briefs (5000-7000 words) by leading thought leaders, academics or practitioners. The foresight briefs are exploratory in nature, to grapple with the potential policy or programming implications of the topic.
- Deep in-country strategic futures practicum to understand the long-term trajectories of specific countries and their development landscape (to be trialled in 2-3 countries). The deep country futures work aims to test futures facing ideas and embed foresight practice in strategic and policy direction.
- Inclusive imaginaries to cultivate culturally driven, locally contextualised imaginations of the futures of Asia and the Pacific, to amplify ways in which more participatory visions might shape the way we live now and into the future

Duties and Responsibilities:

The consultant is to produce the following brief, as outlined below within the required timeframe:

- **Brief #1: Development as long-termism for future generations**

Focus: Considering the long, interconnected risks and inequity our world is experiencing, should development amplify its focus on wellbeing of future generations? The focus on future generations is not necessarily new from a development policy perspective, but there has been a gap between the policy rhetoric and programmatic implications. What new types of development programming is needed if we were to shift our focus into long-termism? What if programming and policy solutions had to consider two new types of obligations: *obligations to not lock people into future inequity and obligations to future generations wellbeing?* What are the changes that will be needed in terms of investments, policy and programming structure?

Deliverable:

The brief will comprise of approximately 5000 to 7000 words (12 to 15 pages long), delivered to RBAP in electronic format (Word file). It should include a full data set as a Stata or Excel file (if applicable), bibliography with complete references for any data or examples used and full documentation for all sources drawn upon.

Institutional arrangements:

The author will report to Strategy Development Advisor of the RBAP SPP team. The author will be asked to consult remotely with RBAP SPP via Zoom or phone to discuss the work. the author will submit a draft of the paper that is of high quality both in content and written English. The final version of the brief may be published on the RBAP website and/or form part of a printed edited volume.

This contract covers the potential participation of the author(s) of this brief in consultation(s) during the research process of the Reimagining Development Initiative 2021. Any expenses related to travel and accommodation will be the responsibility of RBAP following UNDP rules, but no additional fees will be paid. In consultation - and collaboration - with the author(s), RBAP may also develop strategies and communication products to effectively disseminate the findings of the brief.

Timeframe:

Deliverables	Due Date
First draft	June 25th, 2021
Final draft	July 31st, 2021

Feedback on the deliverables will be provided by RBAP and/or external peer reviewers after each submission within 10 days. After receiving such feedback, the author(s) is expected to revise the draft.

Duty station

The work being contracted under these Terms of Reference is expected to be developed and finalized at the current home-work base of the author(s). **Consultant is not required to travel.**

Publishing policy

The copyright for all research commissioned by UNDP/RBAP will be held by UNDP/RBAP. It reserves the right to publish it online as a Brief or as a chapter in an edited volume. Authorship is inviolable and the identity of author(s) will be fully stated. Therefore, authors are requested to submit the papers in a form they would be satisfied with, substantively and stylistically, for publication. Publication or dissemination elsewhere is not permitted before the article here commissioned is published by UNDP, or the author is informed that the Brief will not be published by UNDP. After the publication of the Brief by UNDP or the written communication to the author that the Brief will not be published by UNDP, authors are free to edit, update, expand and publish the Brief elsewhere as long as they acknowledge that the original research and writing was commissioned by UNDP/RBAP.

Duration:

Duration of the contract will cover the period of 7 June - 31 August 2021 for 12 working days.

Payment Terms

Payment will follow the manner set out in the Timeframe above, with the first payment (50%) on delivery of the draft foresight brief and the second(final) payment (50%) on acceptance of the final foresight brief. Strategy Development Advisor of SPP Team will accept and certify for the final product

Required Qualifications

Education:

1. Minimum undergraduate in economics, social science, international relations, international development or related fields.

Experience:

2. A track record of foresight research or policy experience, scholarly publications and/or distinguished foresight and/or policy advisory role at a senior level for at least 10 years.
3. Demonstrable experience at producing coherently written policy briefs, with strong evidence base and insights synthesis

Language requirement: Fluency in English; knowledge of other UN languages (French, Spanish, Arabic) an asset.

EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES:

Individual consultants will be evaluated based on the following methodology:

Cumulative Analysis: The candidates will be evaluated through Cumulative Analysis method. When using the weighted scoring method, the award of the contract will be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- Responsive/compliant/acceptable; and
- Having received the highest score out of set of weighted combine technical evaluation of desk review and interview (70%), and financial criteria (30%). Financial score shall be computed as a ratio of the proposal being evaluated and the lowest priced proposal received by UNDP for the assignment.

Technical Evaluation – 70%

Criteria A: Minimum undergraduate (with commensurate technical experience) in economics, social science, international relations, international development or related fields**. (15 points)**

Criteria B: A track record of foresight research or policy experience, scholarly publications and/or distinguished foresight and/or policy advisory role at a senior level for at least 10 years. **(30 points)**

Criteria C: Demonstrable experience at producing coherently written policy briefs, with strong evidence base and insights synthesis **(25 points).**

Total Points Obtainable in Technical Evaluation: 70 Points

**Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 70% of the total technical points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Financial Evaluation (30%)

Financial proposals from all technically qualified candidates will be scored out 30 marks based on the formula provided below. The maximum marks (30) will be assigned to the lowest financial proposal.

All other proposals will receive points according to the following formula:

- $p = y (\mu/z)$.

Where:

- p = points for the financial proposal being evaluated;
- y = maximum number of points for the financial proposal;
- μ = price of the lowest priced proposal;
- z = price of the proposal being evaluated.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Interested individual consultant must submit the following documents/ information to demonstrate their qualifications.

Please group them into one (1) single PDF document as the application system only allows to upload maximum one document.

1. Duly accomplished Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability with financial proposal using the template provided by UNDP (Annex III);
    a. Consultant shall quote an all-inclusive total lump sum fee for the contract period. The term "all-inclusive" implies that all costs (professional fees, communications, consumables, etc.) that could be incurred by the IC in completing the assignment are already factored into the proposed fee submitted in the proposal.
    b. Payments shall be done on lumpsum basis, upon verification of completion of deliverables and approval by the IC's supervisor.
    c. If an Offeror is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the Offeror must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

2. Curriculum Vitae or P11, Indicating all past experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone) of the Candidate and at least three (3) professional references.

3. Please provide a list of policy briefs (with links) including at least 2 written samples.

****Failure to submit the above-mentioned documents or Incomplete proposals shall result in disqualification**

****Please group all your document into one (1) single PDF document as the application system only allows to upload maximum one document.**

The short-listed candidates may be contacted, and the successful candidate will be notified.