

## TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Services/Work Description:</b>	Recruitment of a Consultant to support AEC 2021 Organization and prepare the conference Report
<b>Project/Program Title:</b>	African Economic Conference 2021
<b>Duty Station:</b>	Home-based
<b>Type of the Contract:</b>	Institutional Contract or Contract for Professional Services
<b>Duration:</b>	25 days spread over 5 months and 3 months.
<b>Expected Start Date:</b>	01 July 2021

### I. BACKGROUND / RATIONALE

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the pressure on Africa's development financing challenges by making public finances more strained, debt unsustainable, and foreign direct investment retracting. There is no better time to invite researchers, policymakers and other participants to conduct analysis, learn from best practices from Africa countries and elsewhere, and provide policy recommendations on how to rethink the development financing model for Africa towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

The 2021 African Economic Conference (AEC), which is jointly organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will be held physically in Cabo Verde, or/and virtually if COVID-19 does not permit physical gatherings, from 2th to 4th December 2021. The theme of this year's conference is "Financing Africa's post-COVID-19 development". Considering the multidimensional impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Africa's development, this theme will bring together various stakeholders, including policymakers, the private sector, and researchers, to examine ways and means to expand Africa's development finance sources sustainably. Africa's different financing frameworks should be explored to find innovative solutions, beyond the beaten track, so that Africa does not emerge from the COVID-19 crisis with a real loss of more than a decade of efforts to strengthen its economy and human capital.

The theme reflects the conference organizers' consensus that it is important to explore the overarching financial dimension of development that is fundamental to address all the other socio and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AEC 2021 will be an opportunity to deepen the reflection on the institutions and the financial system needed to ensure effective implementation of domestic resource mobilization efforts, to improve the regulatory responses to emerging and innovative sources of finance, including international financial markets, and digital financing and to increase global financial system transparency by enhancing the regulation and supervision of under-regulated financial markets, and reducing systemic risks of banking and shadow-banking systems. It will also be a venue to discuss how the continent can address the question of debt sustainability in financing its development and, therefore, how Africa can grow and develop sustainably out of debt.



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Africa will not be able to bridge the large financing gap to achieve the SDGs, estimated at \$200 billion per year, with existing government revenues and development assistance. It calls for deepening the expansion of tax bases to increase the capacity to finance public policies with own resources on the one hand. On the other hand, it implies modernizing the mechanisms for financing the economy by the national and international private sector.

The deepening of financial intermediation mechanisms and monetary policy instruments is therefore much more urgent. The monetary models of certain African sub-regions such as West Africa are thus urgently questioned by the populations.

The shock of COVID-19 presents Africa with a game-changing opportunity to put its financing strategies on a more sustainable footing. The AEC 2021 will be an occasion to stimulate this reflection.

Diverse perspectives will be represented at the conference, which will be attended by researchers, policymakers, the private sector, financial institutions and banks, development practitioners, young people, and women from Africa and from around the world. The conference will provide a platform for established academics and young researchers to present their solution-oriented research to policymakers and decision-makers. It is expected that at the end of the conference, policy recommendations will be made on strengthening Africa's financing system to build-forward better within the framework of the United Nations decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The main objectives of the African Economic Conference series are:

- To promote knowledge generation and dissemination as an important driver of policy dialogue, good policy planning and implementation;
- To foster dialogue that promotes the exchange of ideas and innovative thinking among researchers, development practitioners and African policymakers;
- To encourage and enhance research on economic and policy issues related to the development of African economies;
- To provide an opportunity for young African researchers, Africans in the diaspora, regional and sub-regional organizations to disseminate their research findings as well as share information with African policymakers on the work they do in the region.

The AEC 2021 will advocate for and provide clear policy guidance based on research and best practices to address Africa's development financing in a post-COVID-19 era and discuss pathways to building back stronger while preventing the erosion of SDG gains. The Conference will comprise a number of plenary sessions, which will feature presentations, and discussions by prominent academics, policy makers, business actors and opinion leaders, as well as representatives from development partner organizations.

## **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE SERVICE / WORK**

- a. Prepare the Conference Report



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- b. Support the overall organization of the 2021 AEC on drafting documents (ToRs, letters, Notes, presentations, and policy briefs)

### III. EXPECTED OUTPUTS / DELIVERABLES

- a. Support the organization of the AEC, in particular:
- b. Support for the preparation of working and preparatory documents (ToRs, letters, Notes, presentations, and policy briefs)
- c. Support for the initiation, sending and follow-up of invitations for panellists, participants, government delegations.
- d. Prepare the Conference Report

### IV. DURATION AND TIMEFRAME OF THE WORK /DELIVERABLES/OUTPUT

- a. The location for the work is home-based. Travel may be required to Cabo Verde for the Conference which will be covered following UNDP standard rules for mission.
- b. The consultant will report on the activities undertaken with respect to the deliverables specified above and any task required by the supervisors.
- c. The mission will be part time (5 days a month) for the first five months from July to October 2021 and full time the remaining three months from November to January 2022(calendar days).

No.	Deliverables	Location and Action to be Undertaken	Duration
1	-2021 EAC preparation meetings attended with Meetings Notes prepared.  - Contribution to the reviewing of pre-selected papers for the conference: Preparation of criteria for selection.  - Policy briefs, Notes, Letters, ToRs of the conference prepared	Home-based	25 days spread over 5 months
2.	Conference report	Home-based	3 months

### V. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT / REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

- a. Reporting will be to Mr El Hadji Fall and Raymond Gilpin
- b. Reporting is to take place once, at the end of the assignment
- c. The service provider is not expected to liaise or interact with any other institutions, organizations or individuals during the assignment unless requested by his role.
- d. Attending meetings of the preparation of the conference with meetings Note to be prepared;

- e. - Contribution to the reviewing of pre-selected papers for the conference: preparation of criteria for selection and reviewing papers submitted for the final selection;
- f. The AEC partner institutions will not provide any support personnel, support services, or logistics.

## VI. PAYMENT MILESTONES AND AUTHORITY

A winning Proposer shall then be paid lump sum amount upon certification of the completed tasks satisfactorily, as per the following payment schedule:

Installment of Payment	Deliverables or Documents to be Delivered	Percentage of Payment	Dates of payment
1 <sup>st</sup> Installment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-2021 EAC preparation meetings attended with Meetings Notes prepared;</li> <li>- Contribution to the reviewing of pre-selected papers for the conference: Preparation of criteria for selection.</li> <li>- Policy briefs, Notes, Letters, ToRs of the conference prepared</li> </ul>	20%	End October 2021
2 <sup>nd</sup> Installment	Conference Report	80%	End of January 2022

## VII. CONSULTANT REQUIREMENTS

### Educational qualifications

- The consultant must possess a minimum of an earned Master's Degree in economics, development economics or related field. A PhD is preferable.

### Work Experience

- The consultant will possess minimum of 10 years post-graduation work experience in economic research/analysis in the public sector, private sector or NGO. Similar work experience in Africa is an advantage.
- Experience in development/public policy/development financing
- Experience in research and data analysis



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- Experience in report writing of similar assignments
- Good knowledge of development of economic and policy frameworks, development cooperation and risk management
- Good drafting, substantive editing and reviewing ability of policy/research documents
- Previous work experience with UNDP/ World Bank, IMF, European Union and other donor agencies is an asset,
- Strong and active professional networking, especially with professional institutions and through-leaders

Language

- Excellent written and spoken English. Bilingual French an advantage

### **VIII. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- The consultant will work under the guidance of the Chief Economist and Chief Strategy, Analysis and Research Team of RBA and direct supervision of UNDP Strategic Advisor in conducting the work and drafting of the Conference report.

### **IX. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROPRIETARY INTERESTS**

The consultants shall not either during the term or after termination of the assignment, disclose any proprietary or confidential information related to the consultancy or the Government without prior written consent. Proprietary interests on all materials and documents prepared by the consultants under the assignment shall become and remain properties of UNDP. This assignment will be administrated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and all relevant UNDP rules, policies and procedures will apply.

**This TOR is approved by:**

**Name:** El Hadji Fall

**Designation:** Strategic Advisor, Strategy and Analysis Team, UNDP Africa

**Signature:** El Hadji Fall

**Date Signed:** 28-May-2021