

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date 28.09.2021

Consultancy Title: International Consultant to support the preparation of São Tomé and Príncipe "Smooth Transition Strategy" for the LDC Graduation

Description of the assignment: Under overall guidance of the UNDP Team and under the direct supervision of the UNDP senior economist, in close collaboration with the RCO economist, the Consultant will be responsible to conduct research, prepare a background report, and through national consultations, and in close interaction with the Inter-ministerial Cabinet to follow the Graduation process and its secretariat, draft the "Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) for São Tomé e Principe LDC Graduation".

Duty station: Both Home/Country Based

Period of assignment/services (if applicable): 44 working days distributed over 5 months

Proposals (Technical and Financial) should be submitted by email to bidsstp@undp.org indicating the following reference "to support the preparation of São Tomé and Príncipe "Smooth Transition Strategy" for the LDC Graduation by 12/10/2021, 11: 59 pm São Tomé and Príncipe time.

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

- 1. Duly accomplished Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability using the template provided by the UNDP;
- 2. Personal CV duly signed and contact details (email and telephone number) of the candidate and at least three (3) professional references;
- 3. Brief description explaining how the tenderer meets the required qualifications and experience;
- 4. Technical Proposal, proposing a methodology to carry out the assignment in accordance with this ToR;
- 5. The financial proposal must be submitted in USD, using the UNDP Financial Form and include all costs deemed necessary (communications, fees, daily cost aid, taxes, reproduction of documents, etc.). 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 the Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the Offeror must indicate such point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

Incomplete applications will be excluded from further consideration.

Any request for clarification must be sent in writing, or by standard electronic communication to <u>procurement.st@undp.org</u>. A response in writing or by standard electronic mail will send written copies of the response, including an explanation of the query without identifying the source of inquiry, to all consultants.

1. BACKGROUND

São Tomé and Príncipe (STP) met two out of the three criteria for least developed country (LDC) graduation for the first time in 2015 and for the second time in 2018, with both the GNI per capita and the Human Asset Index above the graduation thresholds . As a result, STP was recommended for graduation from the LDC category at the 2018 triennial review of the UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP). The recommendation was approved by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly, after reviewing the impact assessment, prepared by UNDESA, and the vulnerability profile, prepared by UNCTAD.

The preparatory period for STP graduation started with the decision of the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 that the country would graduate in December 2024. Whilst graduation can be seen positively, it also means several specific benefits losses associated with membership of the LDC group.

The country has made significant progress in terms of human development in recent years, particularly regarding health and education indicators. According to UNDP's Human Development Report 2019, in terms of human development index, the country is positioned at 137 out of 189 countries. STP score in Human Development Index (HDI) rose from 0.542 to 0.609 between 2010 and 2018, placing the country above average for Sub-Saharan Africa (0.537), but below the average for countries in the medium human development group (0.645). These improvements are largely attributable to an increase in average life expectancy, improvement in GNI per capita, and an increase in the expected and average years of schooling.

However, persistently high poverty rates, and increasing inequality and insecure employment mean that large segments of STP's population have not benefited in an equitable way from these development achievements and economic growth. Lack of decent employment opportunities, particularly for women and young people, and rising inequality are two of the country's greatest challenges.

The country's GINI coefficient has risen from 32.1 in 2000 to 56.3 in 2017, indicating an alarming widening in the inequality gap. Poverty rates have remained stubbornly high reducing marginally from 68.4% to 66.7% between 2010 and 2017. The 2017 Household Survey recorded the incidence of extreme poverty at 47%. Female-headed households are poorer than their male equivalents with a poverty rate of 61.6%

compared to 55.8%. Among those poorer and most vulnerable are those working in the informal sector, the youth, especially women and girls, people living with HIV/AIDS, and the elderly .

Moreover, the analysis undertaken in the UN Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SEIA) of COVID-19 suggests that the pre-existing fragilities in STP and the vulnerabilities of poor and disadvantaged groups are being further exacerbated by the pandemic, and that their low levels of resilience mean that their recovery from the shocks created by the pandemic may be prolonged, putting them at risk of being left behind, and making the socioeconomic situation becoming now even more challenging.

In such a complex and evolving context, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in STP presents formidable challenges that are in large part related to structural factors, and to an economic growth that has not been sufficiently inclusive. One kye issue is financing. STP is highly dependent from ODA for most of its public investments. This situation coupled with the limited tax revenues currently being raised domestically, and the risk of losing or having a more limited access to concessional financing/loans over time because of graduation brings several implications that need to be addressed. For example, as a non LDC, STP will no longer be eligible for certain specific mechanisms and funds (in some cases after a transition period), such as the Least-Developed Countries Fund under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or the Technology Bank for LDCs. Some forms of general support, such as some scholarships and fellowships, as well as travel assistance to UN meetings and activities may also be discontinued.

Opportunities for economic transformation and with it more resilience and financial sustainability could come from deeper trade integration. STP has recently ratified it adhesion to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), it is currently a member of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); and despite not being a member of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States (CEMAC) in 2004 STP signed a commercial cooperation agreement with CEMAC. In addition, STP signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU) and maintains long lasting observer status with the World Trade Organization (WTO), despite having presented a request for WTO accession in 2005.

A recent study curried out by UNDP confirms that, without the implementation of major investment programs, the implementation of the AfCFTA and ECCAS agreements is expected to have a limited impact in STP trade and in turn on its economy and living conditions of households. Furthermore, there are risks of trade diversion. This because the country export is concentrated in very few products, the country imports most of its consumable and capital goods, and both its export and imports are predominantly dependent on few European countries.

In the absence of economic transformation, by changing STP's market access conditions, LDC graduation will eventually expose the country to new competition from other LDCs and other lower middle-income countries thus further compounding the nature of its competitiveness. The opportunities and challenges to reposition STP's trade competitiveness should therefore be well understood in term of possible positive or negative impacts on its SDGs.

Among the benefits, the graduation process and this transitional period represent a unique opportunity to leverage better governance, improve domestic revenue mobilization, and -if the political will is there- finalize the accession to WTO, thus becoming a safer place for investors, improve its cost of doing business and, among others benefits, potentially expand its access to international financial markets at competitive conditions. Likewise, by moving out STP from the official lowest rung of the development ladder, the graduation can bring a heightened sense of national progress and pride that is key to further expand the reforms agenda and an increased political standing in regional and international institutions. This means that the STP's image is likely to improve, and with it a better national and overseas perception of the country with the possibility of attracting more investments in virtuous and self-reinforcing cycle.

Therefore, whereas the LDC Graduation process is a recognition of the development achieved to date by STP, this process must be well planned and implemented if the potential positive outcomes of graduation are to be reaped, eventual risks mitigated, and the negative effects minimized

2. OBJECTIVE AND CHRONOLOGY OF THE CONSULTANCY DELIVERABLES

OBJECTIVE

The key objective of the consultancy is to conduct research, prepare a background report, and through national consultations, and in close interaction with the Interministerial Cabinet to follow the Graduation process and its secretariat, draft the "Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) for São Tomé e Principe LDC Graduation".

CHRONOLOGY OF THE CONSULTANCY DELIVERABLES

Key Deliverables	Estimated Duration / reference due date	Target Dates	Location
Deliverable 1: Submission and acceptance of the proposed work plan and approach	2 days	2nd Week of October 2021	
Deliverable 2: Conduct stakeholder consultations (1st mission to STP) with presentation of the preliminary findings	7 days	2nd week of November 2021	
Deliverable 3: Submission of the first draft report	8 days	2nd week of December 2021	

Deliverable 4: Present and conduct additional stakeholder	7 days	3rd week of	
consultations (2nd mission)		January 2022	
Deliverable 5: Submission of final report	10 days	1st week of	
		March 2022	
Deliverable 6: Presentation of the Final Draft Report to	2 days	4th week of	
relevant stakeholders (3rd mission)		March 2022	

DURATION OF CONSULTING AND REPORTING

The consultancy will last 44 working days for a period of 5 months from October 2021. The consultant will report to a dedicated UN team on STP and should submit weekly updates on the progress made.

BUDGET AND PAYMENT MODALITIES

The payment of fees will be based on the submission of deliverables, as follows:

Upon submission of Deliverable 1;	15%
Upon satisfactory submission of Deliverable 3;	45%
Upon submission of Deliverable 6	40%

3.INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Under overall guidance of the UNDP Team and under the direct supervision of the UNDP senior economist, in close collaboration with the RCO economist, the Consultant will be responsible to deliver the outputs indicated above with the level of quality expected.

The Consultant will report and consult with the UNDP Senior Economist and relevant UNDP policy advisors on regular basis and ad hoc, as such as needs arise.

Roles of consultancy

- The consultant will be asked to liaise/interact/collaborate with the representatives
 of Minister of planning and any other relevant counterparts for the preparation of
 the specific output identified above;
- The consultant shall provide regular update on the progress of work to UNDP and RCO;
- The consultant shall report on/submit the above deliverables to UNDP;

 The consultant shall maintain daily communication with the UNDP Country Office when/if problems emerge during the consultancy, especially if they affect the scope of work;

Roles of the UN Country Office

 The UNDP CO, in close collaboration with the RCO, will provide overall quality assurance for this consultancy, to facilitate the review of each output and ensure the timely generation of inputs from key stakeholders on each deliverable.

Duration of the Work

 The total duration of the consultancy is 44 working days, starting from October 2021 to March 2022.

Duty Station:

The consultant work will be homebased with expected three missions to STP. Below is the tentative missions schedule (subject to further adjustment based on the discussion with the consultant once he/she is on board):

1st mission: November 2021

- 2nd mission: January 2022

3rd mission: March 2022

Some activities may require teleconference with the relevant stakeholders. During the mission in STP, the transportation costs within the country will be covered by the consultant.

4.MANAGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES

This Consultancy will be administrated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) São Tomé and Príncipe Country Office and all relevant UNDP rules, policies and procedures apply. Under the overall supervision of the Head of the RCO, the consultant select will be responsible for preparation, implementation and administration of the assignment.

5.REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

a. EDUCATION:

 Advanced University degree in economics, development economics, international development, or related field.

b. EXPERIENCE:

 Minimum of 10 years of work experience in technical assistance in trade and in development economics with a particular focus on: i) Economic Structural Transformation; (ii) LDC graduation issues; (iii) economic vulnerabilities; (iv)

- human development (v) Sustainable Development issues; vi) investment and private sector development;
- Proven experience on developing similar research/policy work and/or positions paper on trade with particular focus on linking trade to graduation issues would be an added advantage;
- A solid experience in the areas of international trade, impact of trade on sociodevelopment, economic development, poverty analysis, development and planning, strategic planning of projects focusing on economic development through provision of evidence-based policy advice;
- Proven work and/or research experience in relation to financing for development (especially on innovative financing mechanisms and tools relevant for a SIDS country like STP) would be an added advantage;
- Proven work experience/knowledge on STP's trade sectors and trade development would be an added advantage;
- Proven experience working with multi stakeholder including government and development agencies in Africa, particularly in STP is a strong asset.

d. LANGUAGE:

• Excellent writing, editing, and oral communication skills in English and Portuguese. A combination of proficiency in written and spoken English and Spanish is also acceptable.

Important Note:

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please make sure you have provided all requested materials

Qualified women and members of minorities are encouraged to apply.

Due to large number of applications we receive, we are able to inform only the shortlisted candidates about the outcome or status of the selection process.

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

6. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS.

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

1. PROPOSAL:

- (i) Brief description explaining how the tenderer meets the required qualifications and experience;
- (ii) Provide a brief methodology on how they will approach and conduct the work

(iii) Fill annex 1 Offeror's Letter to UNDP attached

2. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

3. Personal CV including past experience in similar projects and contact details of 3 references.

7. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The financial proposal must be submitted in USD, using the UNDP Financial Form and include all costs deemed necessary (communications, fees, daily cost aid, taxes, reproduction of documents, etc.).

Interested Applications must accept the UNDP General Terms and Conditions for Individual Consultants

The above-mentioned documents, information and requirements are mandatory and as such are necessary to form a complete proposal. A proposal will be rejected if it is not substantially appropriate to the above-mentioned requirements;

All materials necessary for consulting (e.g. laptop) must be provided by the selected candidate.

During the mission in STP, the transportation costs within the country will be covered by the consultant.

8. EVALUATION

Applicants will be screened against qualifications and competencies specified below through a desk review or an interview process. Applicants will be evaluated based on: Cumulative analysis based on a combination of the Technical and Financial Scores.

Technical Evaluation Criteria: 80%

Financial Evaluation Criteria: 20%

TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Offers will be evaluated according to the Combined Scoring method, where the technical criteria will be weighted a max. of 80% (80 points, out of total 100 points), and combined with the price offer which will be weighted a max. of 20% (30 points out of total 100 points).

Applicants obtaining 64 points (80% of available points) or more of the total technical evaluation points will be considered for financial evaluation.

The financial evaluation score (max. 20 points) shall be computed as a ratio of the proposal being evaluated and the lowest priced proposal of those technically qualified.

Applicants receiving the Highest Combined Score who have accepted the UNDP's General Terms and Conditions will be awarded the contract.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING THE BEST OFFER

Upon the advertisement of the Procurement Notice, qualified Individual Consultant is expected to submit both the Technical and Financial Proposals. Accordingly; Individual Consultants will be evaluated based on Cumulative Analysis as per the following scenario:

- Responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation. In this regard, the respective weight of the proposals are:
 - a. Technical Criteria weight is 70%
 - b. Financial Criteria weight is 30%

<u>Technical</u>	80%	80
 Hold a Advanced University degree in economics, development economics, international development, or related field. (10) Minimum of 10 years of work experience in technical assistance in trade and in development economics with a particular focus on: i) Economic Structural Transformation; (ii) LDC graduation issues; (iii) economic vulnerabilities; (iv) human development (v) Sustainable Development issues; vi) investment and private sector development; (15) Experience in the areas of international trade, impact of trade on socio-development, economic development, poverty analysis, development and planning, strategic planning of projects focusing on economic development through provision of evidence-based policy advice; (15) Experience on developing similar research/policy work and/or positions paper on trade with particular focus on linking trade to graduation issues; (10) Proven work and/or research experience in relation to financing for development (especially on innovative) 	80 %	80

Financial	20%	20
 financing mechanisms and tools relevant for a SIDS country like STP). (5). Proven work experience/knowledge trade sectors and trade development of São Tomé and Príncipe or similar country; (5). Proven experience working with multi stakeholders, including government and development agencies in Africa, (5) Quality of the methodological note, (15) 		

7. RECOMMENDED PRESENTATION OF TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

For purposes of generating quotations whose contents are uniformly presented and to facilitate their comparative review, a prospect Individual Contractor (IC) is given a proposed *Table of Contents*. Therefore, prospective Consultant Proposal Submission must have at least the preferred contents which are outlined in the IC Proposal Submission Form incorporated hereto.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROPRIETARY INTERESTS

The Individual Consultant shall not either during the term or after termination of the assignment, disclose any proprietary or confidential information related to the consultancy service 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.

9. ANNEXES TO THE IC DOCUMENT

ANNEX 1- OFFEROR'S LETTER TO UNDP CONFIRMING INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

ANNEX 2- BREAKDOWN OF COSTS SUPPORTING THE AL-INCLUSIVE FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Approved By: K. Nationia Signature: K. Nationia

Date Signed: 28/09/2021 Resident Representative

ANNEX 1 OFFEROR'S LETTER TO UNDP CONFIRMING INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTOR (IC) ASSIGNMENT

	Date
	ited Nations Development Programme o Tomé, São Tomé and Principe
Dea	ar Sir/Madam:
l he	ereby declare that:
A)	I have read, understood and hereby accept the Terms of Reference describing the duties and responsibilities of [indicate title of assignment] under the [state project title];
B)	I have also read, understood and hereby accept UNDP's General Conditions of Contract for the Services of the Individual Contractors;
C)	I hereby propose my services and I confirm my interest in performing the assignment through the submission of my CV which I have duly signed and attached hereto as Annex 1;
D)	In compliance with the requirements of the Terms of Reference, I hereby confirm that I am available for the entire duration of the assignment, and I shall perform the services in the manner described in my proposed approach/methodology which I have attached hereto as Annex 3 [delete this item if the TOR does not require submission of this document];
E)	I hereby propose to complete the services based on the following payment rate: [please check the box corresponding to the preferred option]:
	An all-inclusive daily fee of [state amount in words and in numbers indicating currency] A total lump sum of [state amount in words and in numbers, indicating exact currency], payable in the manner described in the Terms of Reference.
F)	For your evaluation, the breakdown of the abovementioned all-inclusive amount is attached hereto as Annex 2;
G)	I recognize that the payment of the abovementioned amounts due to me shall be based on my delivery of outputs within the timeframe specified in the TOR, which shall be subject to UNDP's review, acceptance and payment certification procedures;
H)	This offer shall remain valid for a total period of days [<i>minimum of 90 days</i>] after the submission deadline;
l)	I confirm that I have no first degree relative (mother, father, son, daughter, spouse/partner, brother or sister) currently employed with any UN agency or office [disclose the name of the relative, the UN office employing the relative, and the relationship if, any such relationship exists];

J) If I am selected for this assignment, I shall [please check the appropriate box]:

		Request my emp Reimbursable Lo		f company/organization/in. A), for and on my behalf. T		
()	I hereb	y confirm that [che	eck all that applies]:			
		with any Busine	ss Unit of UNDP;	e no active Individual Cont and/or other entities for th	•	
		Assignme	nt Contract Type	UNDP Business Unit / Name of Institution/Company	Contract Duration	Contract Amount
			pating conclusion of omitted a proposal:	the following work from U	NDP and/or oth	er entities for
		Assignme	ent Contrac Type	Name of Institution/ Company	Contract Duration	Contract Amount

- L) I fully understand and recognize that UNDP is not bound to accept this proposal, and I also understand and accept that I 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 selection process.
- M) If you are a former staff member of the United Nations recently separated, please add this section to your letter: I hereby confirm that I have complied with the minimum break in service required before I can be eligible for an Individual Contract.
- N) I also fully understand that, if I am engaged as an Individual Contractor, I have no expectations nor entitlements whatsoever to be re-instated or re-employed as a staff member.

	Name	Relationship	Name of International Organization
P) Do you ha	ve any objections to our making	enquiries of your present	employer?
	w, or have you ever been a perm	_	government's employ?
R) REFERENC qualification	CES: List three persons, not rens.	elated to you, who are fa	amiliar with your character ar
	Full Name	Full Address	Business or Occupation
	een arrested, indicted, or summined or imprisoned for the violati		
	ined or imprisoned for the violati	on of any law (excluding n	ninor traffic violations)?
convicted, f YES certify that the o the best of monal Personal F	ined or imprisoned for the violati	on of any law (excluding n particulars of each case in er to the foregoing question tand that any misrepresen equested by the Organizat	ninor traffic violations)? an attached statement. as are true, complete and corre tation or material omission made
convicted, f YES certify that the the best of m on a Personal F of the service co	ined or imprisoned for the violati NO If "yes", give full statements made by me in answ y knowledge and belief. I unders distory form or other document re	on of any law (excluding nearticulars of each case in er to the foregoing question tand that any misrepresent equested by the Organization ment without notice.	ninor traffic violations)? an attached statement. as are true, complete and correctation or material omission made
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convicted, f YES certify that the othe best of m n a Personal F f the service co DATE: B. You will be bove. Do not, vent, do not su ole use of UNI	ined or imprisoned for the violation NO If "yes", give full statements made by me in answey knowledge and belief. I understistory form or other document reportract or special services agreed requested to supply documentary bornity the original texts of reference.	on of any law (excluding near particulars of each case in er to the foregoing question tand that any misrepresent equested by the Organization without notice. SIGNATURE: ary evidence which supporty evidence until you have	ninor traffic violations)? an attached statement. Ins are true, complete and correctation or material omission macion may result in the termination of the statements you have made been asked to do so and, in a

BREAKDOWN OF COSTS¹ SUPPORTING THE ALL-INCLUSIVE FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

A) Breakdown of Cost by Components:

Cost Components	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Rate for the Contract Duration
I. Personnel Costs			
Professional Fees			
Life Insurance			
Medical Insurance			
Communications			
Land Transportation			
Others (pls. specify)			
II. Travel ² Expenses to Join duty station			
Round Trip Airfares to and from duty station			
Living Allowance			
Travel Insurance			
Terminal Expenses			
Others (pls. specify)			
III. Duty Travel			
Round Trip Airfares			
Living Allowance			
Travel Insurance			
Terminal Expenses			
Others (pls. specify)			

B) Breakdown of Cost by Deliverables*

Deliverables [list them as referred to in the TOR]	Percentage of Total Price (Weight for payment)	Amount
Deliverable 1		
Deliverable 2		
Total	100%	USD

^{*}Basis for payment tranches

¹ The costs should only cover the requirements identified in the Terms of Reference (TOR)

² Travel expenses are not required if the consultant will be working from home.