United Nations Development Programme



# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

To Strengthening SME competitiveness and export readiness for the AfCFTA market.

RFP No.: UNDP/UGA/RFP/2022/006

Country: UGANDA

Issued on: 26 May 2022

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#### Section 1. Letter of Invitation

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

This RFP includes the following documents and the General Terms and Conditions of Contract which is inserted in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS):

Section 1: This Letter of Invitation Section 2: Instruction to Bidders Section 3: Bid Data Sheet (BDS) Section 4: Evaluation Criteria Section 5: Terms of Reference

Section 6: Returnable Bidding Forms

- o Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form
- o Form B: Bidder Information Form
- o Form C: Joint Venture/Consortium/Association Information Form
- o Form D: Qualification Form
- o Form E: Format of Technical Proposal
- o Form F: Financial Proposal Submission Form
- o Form G: Financial Proposal Form

If you are interested in submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, please prepare your Proposal in accordance with the requirements and procedure as set out in this RFP and submit it by the Deadline for Submission of Proposals set out in Bid Data Sheet.

Please acknowledge receipt of this RFP by sending an email to <a href="mailto:ug.procurement@undp.org">ug.procurement@undp.org</a> indicating whether you intend to submit a Proposal or otherwise. You may also utilize the "Accept Invitation" function in eTendering system, where applicable. This will enable you to receive amendments or updates to the RFP. Should you require further clarifications, kindly communicate with the contact person/s identified in the attached Bid Data Sheet as the focal point for queries on this RFP.

UNDP looks forward to receiving your Proposal and thank you in advance for your interest in UNDP procurement opportunities.

Issued by: Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Richard Guma

Title: Procurement Associate

Date: May 26, 2022

DocuSigned by

Name: Rose Plang

Title: Procurement Specialist

Date: May 26, 2022

# **Section 2.** Instruction to Bidders

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS				
1. Introduction	1.1 Bidders shall adhere to all the requirements of this RFP, including any amendments in writing by UNDP. This RFP is conducted in accordance with the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) on Contracts and Procurement which can be accessed at <a href="https://popp.undp.org/SitePages/POPPBSUnit.aspx?TermID=254a9f96-b883-476a-8ef8-e81f93a2b38d">https://popp.undp.org/SitePages/POPPBSUnit.aspx?TermID=254a9f96-b883-476a-8ef8-e81f93a2b38d</a>			
	1.2 Any Proposal submitted will be regarded as an offer by the Bidder and does not constitute or imply the acceptance of the Proposal by UNDP. UNDP is under no obligation to award a contract to any Bidder as a result of this RFP.			
	1.3 As part of the bid, it is desired that the Bidder registers at the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) website ( <a href="www.ungm.org">www.ungm.org</a> ). The Bidder may still submit a bid even if not registered with the UNGM. However, if the Bidder is selected for contract award, the Bidder must register on the UNGM prior to contract signature.			
2. Fraud & Corruption, Gifts and Hospitality	2.1 UNDP strictly enforces a policy of zero tolerance on proscribed practices, including fraud, corruption, collusion, unethical or unprofessional practices, and obstruction of UNDP vendors and requires all bidders/vendors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement process and contract implementation. UNDP's Anti-Fraud Policy can be found at <a href="http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/accountability/audit/offfice_of_audit_andinvestigation.html#anti">http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/accountability/audit/offfice_of_audit_andinvestigation.html#anti</a>			
	2.2 Bidders/vendors shall not offer gifts or hospitality of any kind to UNDP staff members including recreational trips to sporting or cultural events, theme parks or offers of holidays, transportation, or invitations to extravagant lunches or dinners.			
	<ul> <li>In pursuance of this policy, UNDP</li> <li>(a) Shall reject a proposal if it determines that the selected bidder has engaged in any corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;</li> <li>(b) Shall declare a vendor ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract if at any time it determines that the vendor has engaged in any corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing a UNDP contract.</li> </ul>			
	2.4 All Bidders must adhere to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct, which may be found at <a href="https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/sites/www.un.org.Depts.ptd/files/files/attachment/page/pdf/unscc/conduct_english.pdf">https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/sites/www.un.org.Depts.ptd/files/files/attachment/page/pdf/unscc/conduct_english.pdf</a>			
3. Eligibility	3.1 A vendor should not be suspended, debarred, or otherwise identified as ineligible by any UN Organization or the World Bank Group or any other international Organization. Vendors are therefore required to disclose to UNDP whether they are subject to any sanction or temporary suspension imposed by these organizations.			
	3.2 It is the Bidder's responsibility to ensure that its employees, joint venture members, sub-contractors, service providers, suppliers and/or their employees meet the eligibility requirements as established by UNDP.			
4. Conflict of Interests	4.1 Bidders must strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests, and act without consideration for future work. Bidders found to have a conflict of interest shall be disqualified. Without limitation on the generality of the above, Bidders, 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: a) Are or have been associated in the past, with a firm or any of its affiliates which have been engaged by 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. Were involved in the preparation and/or design of the programme/project related to the services requested under this RFP; or c) Are found to be in conflict for any other reason, as may be established by, or at the discretion of UNDP. 4.2 In the event of any uncertainty in the interpretation of a potential conflict of interest, Bidders must disclose to UNDP, and seek UNDP's confirmation on whether or not such a conflict exists. 4.3 Similarly, the Bidders must disclose in their proposal their knowledge of the following: a) If the owners, part-owners, officers, directors, controlling shareholders, of the bidding entity or key personnel are family members 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 b) All other circumstances that could potentially lead to actual or perceived conflict of interest, collusion or unfair competition practices. Failure to disclose such an information may result in the rejection of the proposal or proposals affected by the non-disclosure. 4.4 The eligibility of Bidders 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, operated and managed as an independent business entity, the extent of Government ownership/share, receipt of subsidies, mandate and access to information in relation to this RFP, among others. Conditions that may lead to undue advantage against other Bidders may result in the eventual rejection of the Proposal. B. PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS 5. General Considerations 5.1 In preparing the Proposal, the Bidder is expected to examine the RFP in detail. Material deficiencies in providing the information requested in the RFP may result in rejection of the Proposal. 5.2 The Bidder will not be permitted to take advantage of any errors or omissions in the RFP. Should such errors or omissions be discovered, the Bidder must notify the **UNDP** 6. Cost of Preparation of 6.1 The Bidder shall bear any, and all costs related to the preparation and/or submission **Proposal** of the Proposal, regardless of whether its Proposal was selected or not. UNDP shall not be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the procurement process. 7. Language 7.1 The Proposal, as well as any and all related correspondence exchanged by the Bidder and UNDP, shall be written in the language (s) specified in the BDS. 8. Documents Comprising 8.1 The Proposal shall comprise of the following documents: the Proposal a) Documents Establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Bidder.

b) Technical Proposal.c) Financial Proposal.

d) Proposal Security, if required by BDS;

e) Any attachments and/or appendices to the Proposal.

9. Documents Establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Bidder	9.1 The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence of its status as an eligible and qualified vendor, using the Forms provided under Section 6 and providing documents required in those forms. In order to award a contract to a Bidder, its qualifications must be documented to UNDP's satisfaction.	
10. Technical Proposal Format and Content	10.1 The Bidder is required to submit a Technical Proposal using the Standard Forms and templates provided in Section 6 of the RFP.	
	10.2 The Technical Proposal shall not include any price or financial information. A Technical Proposal containing material financial information may be declared non-responsive.	
	10.3 Samples of items, when required as per Section 5, shall be provided within the time specified and unless otherwise specified by UNDP, and at no expense to UNDP	
	10.4 When applicable and required as per Section 5, the Bidder shall describe the necessary training programme available for the maintenance and operation of the services and/or equipment offered as well as the cost to the UNDP. Unless otherwise specified, such training as well as training materials shall be provided in the language of the Bid as specified in the BDS.	
11. Financial Proposals	11.1 The Financial Proposal shall be prepared using the Standard Form provided in Section 6 of the RFP. It shall list all major cost components associated with the services, and the detailed breakdown of such costs.	
	11.2 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.	
	11.3 Prices and other financial information must not be disclosed in any other place except in the financial proposal.	
12. Proposal Security	12.1 A Proposal Security, if required by BDS, shall be provided in the amount and form indicated in the BDS. The Proposal Security shall be valid up to thirty (30) days after the final date of validity of the Proposal.	
	12.2 The Proposal Security shall be included along with the Technical Proposal. If Proposal Security is required by the RFP but is not found along with the Technical Proposal, the Proposal shall be rejected.	
	12.3 If the Proposal Security amount or its validity period is found to be less than what is required by UNDP, UNDP shall reject the Proposal.	
	12.4 In the event an electronic submission is allowed in the BDS, Bidders shall include a copy of the Bid Security in their proposal and the original of the Proposal Security must be sent via courier or hand delivery as per the instructions in BDS.	
	12.5 The Proposal Security may be forfeited by UNDP, and the Proposal rejected, in the event of any one or combination, of the following conditions:	
	<ul> <li>a) If the Bidder withdraws its offer during the period of the Proposal Validity specified in the BDS, or;</li> <li>b) In the event that the successful Bidder fails: <ul> <li>i. to sign the Contract after UNDP has issued an award; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>12.6 to furnish the Performance Security, insurances, or other documents that UNDP may require as a condition precedent to the effectivity of the contract that may be awarded to the Bidder.</li> </ul>	
13. Currencies	13.1 All prices shall be quoted in the currency or currencies indicated in the BDS. 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 UNDP selects a proposal for award that is quoted in a currency different from the preferred currency in the BDS, UNDP shall reserve the right to award the contract in the currency of UNDP's preference, using the conversion method specified above.

## 14. Joint Venture, Consortium or Association

- 14.1 If the Bidder is a group of legal entities that will form or have formed a Joint Venture (JV), Consortium or Association for 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 JV, Consortium or Association jointly and severally, which shall be evidenced by a duly notarized Agreement among the legal entities, and submitted 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.
- 14.2 After the Deadline for Submission of Proposal, the lead entity identified to represent the JV, Consortium or Association shall not be altered without the prior written consent of UNDP.
- 14.3 The lead entity and the member entities of the JV, Consortium or Association shall abide by the provisions of Clause 9 herein in respect of submitting only one proposal.
- 14.4 The description of the organization of the JV, Consortium or 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 JV, Consortium or Association Agreement. All entities that comprise the JV, Consortium or Association shall be subject to the eligibility and qualification assessment by UNDP.
- 14.5 A JV, Consortium or Association in presenting its track record and experience should clearly differentiate between:
  - a) Those that were undertaken together by the JV, Consortium or Association; and
  - b) Those that were undertaken by the individual entities of the JV, Consortium or Association.
- 14.6 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 JV, Consortium or Association or those of its members, but should only be claimed by the individual experts themselves in their presentation of their individual credentials.
- 14.7 JV, Consortium or Associations are encouraged for high value, multi-sectoral requirements when the spectrum of expertise and resources required may not be available within one firm.

## 15. Only One Proposal

- 15.1 The Bidder (including the individual members of any Joint Venture) shall submit only one Proposal, either in its own name or as part of a Joint Venture.
- 15.2 Proposals submitted by two (2) or more Bidders 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

	<ul> <li>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 Bidder regarding this RFP process;</li> <li>e) they are subcontractors to each other's Proposal, or a subcontractor to one Proposal also submits another Proposal under its name as lead Bidder; or</li> <li>f) some key personnel proposed to be in the team of one Bidder participates in more than one Proposal received for this RFP process. This condition relating to the personnel, does not apply to subcontractors being included in more than one Proposal.</li> </ul>
16. Proposal Validity Period	16.1 Proposals shall remain valid for the period specified in the BDS, commencing on the Deadline for Submission of Proposals. A Proposal valid for a shorter period may be rejected by UNDP and rendered non-responsive.
	During the Proposal validity period, the Bidder shall maintain its original Proposal without any change, including the availability of the Key Personnel, the proposed rates and the total price.
17. Extension of Proposal Validity Period	17.1 In exceptional circumstances, prior to the expiration of the proposal validity period, UNDP may request Bidders 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.
	17.2 If the Bidder agrees to extend the validity of its Proposal, it shall be done without any change in the original Proposal.
	17.3 The Bidder has the right to refuse to extend the validity of its Proposal, and in which case, such Proposal will not be further evaluated.
18. Clarification of Proposal	18.1 Bidders may request clarifications on any of the RFP documents no later than the date indicated in the BDS. Any request for clarification must be sent in writing in the manner indicated in the BDS. If inquiries are sent other than specified channel, even if they are sent to a UNDP staff member, UNDP shall have no obligation to respond or confirm that the query was officially received.
	18.2 UNDP will provide the responses to clarifications through the method specified in the BDS.
	18.3 UNDP shall endeavor to provide 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.
19. Amendment of Proposals	19.1 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 Bidder, modify the RFP in the form of an amendment to the RFP. Amendments will be made available to all prospective bidders.
	19.2 If the amendment is substantial, UNDP may extend the Deadline for submission of proposal to give the Bidders reasonable time to incorporate the amendment into their Proposals.
20. Alternative Proposals	20.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, alternative proposals shall not be considered. If submission of alternative proposal is allowed by BDS, a Bidder may submit an alternative proposal, but only if it also submits a proposal conforming to the RFP requirements. UNDP shall only consider the alternative proposal offered by the Bidder whose conforming proposal ranked the highest as per the specified evaluation method. 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.

	20.2 If multiple/alternative proposals are being submitted, they must be clearly marked as "Main Proposal" and "Alternative Proposal"
21. Pre-Bid Conference	21.1 When appropriate, a Bidder's conference will be conducted at the date, time and location specified in the BDS. All Bidders are encouraged to attend. Non-attendance, however, shall not result in disqualification of an interested Bidder. Minutes of the Bidder's conference will be disseminated on the procurement website and shared by email or on the e-Tendering platform as specified in the BDS. No verbal statement made during the conference shall modify the terms and conditions of the RFP, unless specifically incorporated in the Minutes of the Bidder's Conference or issued/posted as an amendment to RFP.
C. SUBMISSION AND (	DPENING OF PROPOSALS
22. Submission	22.1 The Bidder shall submit a duly signed and complete Proposal comprising the documents and forms in accordance with the requirements in the BDS. The submission shall be in the manner specified in the BDS.
	22.2 The Proposal shall be signed by the Bidder or person(s) duly authorized to commit the Bidder. The authorization shall be communicated through a document evidencing such authorization issued by the legal representative of the bidding entity, or a Power of Attorney, accompanying the Proposal.
	22.3 Bidders must be aware that the mere act of submission of a Proposal, in and of itself, implies that the Bidder fully accepts the UNDP General Contract Terms and Conditions.
Hard copy (manual) submission	22.4 Hard copy (manual) submission by courier or hand delivery allowed or specified in the BDS shall be governed as follows:
	a) The signed Proposal shall be marked "Original", and its copies marked "Copy" as appropriate. The number of copies is indicated in the BDS. All copies shall be made from the signed original only. If there are discrepancies between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail.
	b) The Technical Proposal and the Financial 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 SHALL clearly indicate the name of the Bidder. The outer envelopes shall:
	i. Bear the name and address of the bidder.
	ii. Be addressed to UNDP as specified in the BDS
	iii. Bear a warning that states "Not to be opened before the time and date for proposal opening" as specified in the BDS.
	If the envelopes and packages with the Proposal are not sealed and marked as required, UNDP shall assume no responsibility for the misplacement, loss, or premature opening of the Proposal.
	22.5 Email submission, if allowed or specified in the BDS, shall be governed as follows:
Email Submission	a) Electronic files that form part of the proposal must be in accordance with the format and requirements indicated in BDS.
	b) The Technical Proposal and the Financial Proposal files MUST BE COMPLETELY SEPARATE. The financial proposal shall be encrypted with different passwords and clearly labelled. The files must be sent to the dedicated email address specified in the BDS.

		c) The password for opening the Financial Proposal should be provided only upon request of UNDP. UNDP will request password only from bidders whose Technical Proposal has been found to be technically responsive. Failure to provide correct password may result in the proposal being rejected.
eTendering submission	22.6	Electronic submission through eTendering, if allowed or specified in the BDS, shall be governed as follows:
Cremating submission		<ul> <li>Electronic files that form part of the proposal must be in accordance with the format and requirements indicated in BDS;</li> </ul>
		b) The Technical Proposal and the Financial Proposal files MUST BE COMPLETELY SEPARATE and each of them must be uploaded individually and clearly labelled.
		d) The Financial Proposal file must be encrypted with a password so that it cannot be opened nor viewed until the password is provided. The password for opening the Financial Proposal should be provided only upon request of UNDP. UNDP will request password only from bidders whose technical proposal has been found to be technically responsive. Failure to provide the correct password may result in the proposal being rejected.
		c) Documents which are required to be in original form (e.g., Bid Security, etc.) must be sent via courier or hand delivery as per the instructions in BDS.
		d) Detailed instructions on how to submit, modify or cancel a bid in the eTendering system are provided in the eTendering system Bidder User Guide and Instructional videos available on this link: <a href="http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/business/procurement-notices/resources/">http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/business/procurement-notices/resources/</a>
23. Deadline for Submission of Proposals and Late Proposals	23.1	Complete Proposals must be received by UNDP in the manner, and no later than the date and time, specified in the BDS. UNDP shall only recognize the date and time that the bid was received by UNDP
Froposais	23.2	UNDP shall not consider any Proposal that is submitted after the deadline for the submission of Proposals.
24. Withdrawal, Substitution, and	24.1	A Bidder may withdraw, substitute or modify its Proposal after it has been submitted at any time prior to the deadline for submission.
Modification of Proposals	24.2	Manual and Email submissions: A bidder may withdraw, substitute or modify its Proposal by sending a written notice to UNDP, 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, if any, must accompany the respective written notice. All notices must be submitted in the same manner as specified for submission of proposals, by clearly marking them as "WITHDRAWAL" "SUBSTITUTION," or "MODIFICATION"
	24.3	eTendering: A Bidder may withdraw, substitute or modify its Proposal by Canceling, Editing, and re-submitting the proposal directly in the system. It is the responsibility of the Bidder to properly follow the system instructions, duly edit and submit a substitution or modification of the Proposal as needed. Detailed instructions on how to cancel or modify a Proposal directly in the system are provided in Bidder User Guide and Instructional videos.
	24.4	Proposals requested to be withdrawn shall be returned unopened to the Bidders (only for manual submissions), except if the bid is withdrawn after the bid has been opened
25. Proposal Opening	25.1	There is no public bid opening for RFPs. UNDP shall open the Proposals in the presence of an ad-hoc committee formed by UNDP, consisting of at least two (2) members. In the case of e-Tendering submission, bidders will receive an automatic

	notification once their proposal is opened.		
D. EVALUATION OF PR	OPOSA	LS	
26. Confidentiality	26.1	Information relating to the examination, evaluation, and comparison of Proposals, and the recommendation of contract award, shall not be disclosed to Bidders or any other persons not officially concerned with such process, even after publication of the contract award.	
	26.2	Any effort by a Bidder or anyone on behalf of the Bidder 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 and may be subject to the application of prevailing UNDP's vendor sanctions procedures.	
27. Evaluation of Proposals	27.1	The Bidder is not permitted to alter or modify its Proposal in any way after the proposal submission deadline except as permitted under Clause 24 of this RFP. UNDP will conduct the evaluation solely on the basis of the submitted Technical and Financial Proposals.	
	27.2	<ul> <li>Evaluation of proposals is made of the following steps:</li> <li>a) Preliminary Examination</li> <li>b) Minimum Eligibility and Qualification (if pre-qualification is not done)</li> <li>c) Evaluation of Technical Proposals</li> <li>d) Evaluation of Financial Proposals</li> </ul>	
<b>Examination</b> respect to minimum documentary requirements, whether the been properly signed, and whether the Proposals are generally		UNDP shall examine the Proposals to determine whether they are complete with respect to minimum documentary requirements, whether the documents have been properly signed, and whether the Proposals are generally in order, among other indicators that may be used at this stage. UNDP reserves the right to reject any Proposal at this stage.	
29. Evaluation of Eligibility and Qualification	29.1	Eligibility and Qualification of the Bidder will be evaluated against the Minimum Eligibility/Qualification requirements specified in the Section 4 (Evaluation Criteria).	
	29.2	<ul> <li>In general terms, vendors that meet the following criteria may be considered qualified:</li> <li>a) They are not included in the UN Security Council 1267/1989 Committee's list of terrorists and terrorist financiers, and in UNDP's ineligible vendors' list;</li> <li>b) They have a good financial standing and have access to adequate financial resources to perform the contract and all existing commercial commitments,</li> <li>c) They have the necessary similar experience, technical expertise, production capacity where applicable, quality certifications, quality assurance procedures and other resources applicable to the provision of the services required;</li> <li>d) They are able to comply fully with UNDP General Terms and Conditions of Contract;</li> <li>e) They do not have a consistent history of court/arbitral award decisions against the Bidder; and</li> <li>f) They have a record of timely and satisfactory performance with their clients.</li> </ul>	
and Financial Proposals  of their responsiveness to the Terms of Reference and other applying the evaluation criteria, sub-criteria, and point system Section 4 (Evaluation Criteria). A Proposal shall be rendered non-reconstructed to achieve the minimum indicated in the BDS. When necessary and if stated in the BDS, technically responsive bidders for a presentation related to		The evaluation team shall review and evaluate the Technical Proposals on the basis of their responsiveness to the Terms of Reference and other RFP documents, applying the evaluation criteria, sub-criteria, and point system specified in the Section 4 (Evaluation Criteria). A Proposal shall be rendered non-responsive at the technical evaluation stage if it fails to achieve the minimum technical score indicated in the BDS. When necessary and if stated in the BDS, UNDP may invite technically responsive bidders for a presentation related to their technical proposals. The conditions for the presentation shall be provided in the bid document where required.	
	30.2	In the second stage, only the Financial Proposals of those Bidders who achieve the minimum technical score will be opened for evaluation. The Financial Proposals	

	corresponding to Technical Proposals that were rendered non-responsive shall remain unopened, and, in the case of manual submission, be returned to the Bidder unopened. For emailed Proposals and e-tendering submissions, UNDP will not request for the password of the Financial Proposals of bidders whose Technical Proposal were found not responsive.  30.3 The evaluation method that applies for this RFP shall be as indicated in the BDS, which may be either of two (2) possible methods, as follows: (a) the lowest priced method which selects the lowest evaluated financial proposal of the technically responsive Bidders; or (b) the combined scoring method which will be based on a combination of the technical and financial score.  30.4 When the BDS 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:
	Combined Score = (TP Rating) x (Weight of TP, e.g. 70%) + (FP Rating) x (Weight of FP, e.g., 30%)
31. Due Diligence	31.1 UNDP reserves the right to undertake a due diligence exercise, also called post qualification, aimed at determining to its satisfaction, the validity of the information provided by the Bidder. Such exercise shall be fully documented and may include, but need not be limited to, all or any combination of the following:
	<ul> <li>a) Verification of accuracy, correctness and authenticity of information provided by the Bidder.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>c) Inquiry and reference checking with Government entities with jurisdiction on the Bidder, or with previous clients, or any other entity that may have done business with the Bidder.</li> <li>d) Inquiry and reference checking with previous clients on the performance on on-going or contracts completed, including physical inspections of previous works, as necessary.</li> </ul>
	<ul><li>e) Physical inspection of the Bidder's offices, branches or other places where business transpires, with or without notice to the Bidder.</li><li>f) Other means that UNDP may deem appropriate, at any stage within the selection process, prior to awarding the contract.</li></ul>
32. Clarification of Proposals	<ul> <li>32.1 To assist in the examination, evaluation and comparison of Proposals, UNDP may, at its discretion, ask any Bidder for a clarification of its Proposal.</li> <li>32.2 UNDP's request for clarification and the response shall be in writing and no change in the prices or substance of the Proposal shall be sought, offered, or permitted,</li> </ul>
	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.  32.3 Any unsolicited clarification submitted by a Bidder 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.

33. Responsiveness of Proposal	33.1	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
		not subsequently be made responsive by the Bidder by correction of the material deviation, reservation, or omission.	
34. Nonconformities, Reparable Errors and Omissions	34.1	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.	
	34.2	UNDP may request the Bidder 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 Bidder to comply with the request may result in the rejection of its Proposal.	
	34.3	For Financial Proposal that has been opened, UNDP shall check, and 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.	
	34.4	If the Bidder does not accept the correction of errors made by UNDP, its Proposal shall be rejected.	
E. AWARD OF CONTRA	ACT		
35. Right to Accept, Reject, Any or All Proposals	35.1	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 awar of contract, without incurring any liability, or obligation to inform the affecte Bidder(s) of the grounds for UNDP's action. UNDP shall not be obliged to award the contract to the lowest priced offer.	
		Prior to expiration of the proposal validity, UNDP shall award the contract to the qualified Bidder based on the award criteria indicated in the BDS.	
37. Debriefing	37.1	In the event that a Bidder is unsuccessful, the Bidder may request a debriefing from UNDP. The purpose of the debriefing is to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Bidder's submission, in order to assist the Bidder in improving its future proposals for UNDP procurement opportunities. The content of other proposals and how they compare to the Bidder's submission shall not be discussed.	
<b>Requirements at the</b> services and/or goods, by up to a maximum twenty-five per cent		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.	

Bidder shall sign and date the Contract and return it to UNDP. Failure to constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment of the award, and forfer		Bidder shall sign and date the Contract and return it to UNDP. Failure to do so may 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
General Terms and and Conditions, as specified in BDS, can be		http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/procurement/business/how-we-
41. Performance Security	41.1	40.1 A performance security, if required in BDS, shall be provided in the amount specified in BDS and form available at <a href="https://popp.undp.org/layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_D">https://popp.undp.org/layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_D OCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PSU_Solicitation_Performance%20Guarantee%20Form.docx&amp;action=default within fifteen (15) days of the contract signature by both parties. Where a performance security is required, the receipt of the performance security by UNDP shall be a condition for rendering the contract effective.</a>
42. Bank Guarantee for Advanced Payment	42.1	Except when the interests of UNDP so require, it is UNDP's preference to make no advance payment(s) (i.e., payments without having received any outputs). If an advance payment is allowed as per BDS, and exceeds 20% of the total contract price, or USD 30,000, whichever is less, the Bidder shall submit a Bank Guarantee in the full amount of the advance payment in the form available at <a "="" business="" content="" en="" home="" href="https://popp.undp.org/layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PSU_Contract%20Management%20Payment%20and%20Taxes_Advanced%20Payment%20Guarantee%20Form.docx&amp;action=default&lt;/a&gt;&lt;/th&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;th colspan=2&gt;&lt;/th&gt;&lt;th&gt;If specified in BDS, UNDP shall apply Liquidated Damages resulting from the Contractor's delays or breach of its obligations as per the Contract.&lt;/th&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;th&gt;44. Payment Provisions&lt;/th&gt;&lt;th&gt;44.1&lt;/th&gt;&lt;th&gt;Payment will be made only upon UNDP's acceptance of the work performed. The terms of payment shall be within thirty (30) days, after receipt of invoice and certification of acceptance of work issued by the proper authority in UNDP with direct supervision of the Contractor. Payment will be affected by bank transfer in the currency of contract.&lt;/th&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;th colspan=2&gt;persons or firms did not award a contract through a process. In the event that a Bidder believes that it following link provides further details regarding UNDP&lt;/th&gt;&lt;th&gt;persons or firms did not award a contract through a competitive procurement process. In the event that a Bidder believes that it was not treated fairly, the following link provides further details regarding UNDP vendor protest procedures: &lt;a href=" http:="" operations="" procurement="" undp="" www.undp.org="">http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/business/</a>
46. Other Provisions	46.1	In the event that the Bidder offers a lower price to the host Government (e.g., General Services Administration (GSA) of the federal government of the United States of America) for similar services, UNDP shall be entitled to same lower price. The UNDP General Terms and Conditions shall have precedence.
	46.2	UNDP is entitled to receive the same pricing offered by the same Contractor in contracts with the United Nations and/or its Agencies. The UNDP General Terms and Conditions shall have precedence.
	46.3	The United Nations has established restrictions on employment of (former) UN staff who have been involved in the procurement process as per bulletin ST/SGB/2006/15 <a href="http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view doc.asp?symbol=ST/SGB/2006/15&amp;referer">http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view doc.asp?symbol=ST/SGB/2006/15&amp;referer</a>

## Section 3. Bid Data Sheet

The following data for the services to be procured shall complement, supplement, or amend the provisions in the Request for Proposals. In the case of a conflict between the Instructions to Bidders, the Data Sheet, and other annexes or references attached to the Data Sheet, the provisions in the Data Sheet shall prevail.

BDS No.	Ref. to Section.2	Data	Specific Instructions / Requirements
1	7	Language of the Proposal	English
2		Submitting Proposals for Parts or sub-parts of the TOR (partial bids)	Not Allowed
3	20	Alternative Proposals	Shall not be considered
4	21	Pre-proposal conference	Will not be conducted
5	10	Proposal Validity Period	90 days
6	14	Bid Security	Not Required
7	41	Advanced Payment upon signing of contract	Not Allowed
8	42	Liquidated Damages	Will not be imposed
9	40	Performance Security	Not Required
10	18	Currency of Proposal	Local currency Ugandan Shillings
11	31	Deadline for submitting requests for clarifications/ questions	3 days before the submission deadline
12	31	Contact Details for submitting clarifications/questions	Focal Person in UNDP: The Head of Procurement E-mail address: ug.procurement@undp.org

13	18, 19 and 21	Manner of Disseminating Supplemental Information to the RFP and responses/clarifications to queries	Direct communication to prospective Proposers by email
14	23	Deadline for Submission	11:59pm local time 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
14	22	Allowable Manner of Submitting Proposals	x by email, to <u>tenders.kampala@undp.org</u> not later than 11:59pm local time 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
15	22	Proposal Submission Address	By email; tenders.kampala@undp.org
16	22	Electronic submission (email or eTendering) requirements	<ul> <li>Format: PDF files only</li> <li>File names must be maximum 60 characters long and must not contain any letter or special character other than from Latin alphabet/keyboard.</li> <li>All files must be free of viruses and not corrupted.</li> <li>Password for financial proposal must not be provided to UNDP until requested by UNDP</li> <li>Mandatory subject of email for clarifications: CLARIFICATION UNDP/UGA/RFP/2022/006</li> </ul>
17	27 36	Evaluation Method for the Award of Contract	Combined Scoring Method, using the 70%-30% distribution for technical and financial proposals respectively  The minimum technical score required to pass is 70%.
18		Expected date for commencement of Contract	June 15, 2022
19		Maximum expected duration of contract	7 months
20	35	UNDP will award the contract to:	One or more Proposers, depending on the following factors:  Award will be made to proposer as shown in the Terms of Reference based on the evaluation criteria indicated in 17 above
21	39	Type of Contract	Purchase Order and Contract for Goods and Services for UNDP <a href="http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/procurement/business/how-we-buy.html">http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/procurement/business/how-we-buy.html</a>
22	39	UNDP Contract Terms and Conditions that will apply	UNDP General Terms and Conditions for Professional Services  http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/procurement/business/how -we-buy.html
23		Other Information Related to the RFP	Not applicable

## Section 4. Evaluation Criteria

## **Preliminary Examination Criteria**

Proposals will be examined to determine whether they are complete and submitted in accordance with RFP requirements as per below criteria on a Yes/No basis:

- Appropriate signatures
- Minimum documents provided
- Technical and Financial Proposals submitted separately
- Bid Validity

# Minimum Eligibility and Qualification Criteria

Eligibility and Qualification will be evaluated on Pass/Fail basis.

If the Proposal is submitted as a Joint Venture/Consortium/Association, each member should meet minimum criteria, unless otherwise specified in the criterion.

Subject	Criteria	Document Submission requirement
ELIGIBILITY		
Legal Status	Vendor is a legally registered Business Membership Organisations (BMOs) entity.	Form B: Bidder Information Form
Eligibility	Vendor is not suspended, nor debarred, nor otherwise identified as ineligible by any UN Organization or the World Bank Group or any other international Organization in accordance with ITB clause 3.	Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form
Conflict of Interest	No conflicts of interest in accordance with ITB clause 4.	Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form
Bankruptcy	Not declared bankruptcy, not involved in bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, and there is no judgment or pending legal action against the vendor that could impair its operations in the foreseeable future.	Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form
QUALIFICATION		
History of Non- Performing Contracts	Non-performance of a contract did not occur as a result of contractor default for the last 3 years.	Form D: Qualification Form
Litigation History	No consistent history of court/arbitral award decisions against the Bidder for the last 3 years.	Form D: Qualification Form
Previous Experience	Minimum 2 years of relevant experience.	Form D: Qualification Form
	Minimum 2 contracts of similar value, nature and complexity implemented over the last 3 years.  (For JV/Consortium/Association, all Parties cumulatively should meet requirement).	Form D: Qualification Form
Financial Standing	Bidder must demonstrate the current soundness of its financial standing and indicate its prospective long-term profitability.  (For JV/Consortium/Association, all Parties cumulatively should meet requirement).	Form D: Qualification Form
	Any additional criteria if required	

# **Technical Evaluation Criteria**

Summary of Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms		Points Obtainable
1.	Bidder's qualification, capacity, and experience	300
2.	Proposed Methodology, Approach, and Implementation Plan	400
3.	Management Structure and Key Personnel	300
	Total	1000

Section 1. Bidder's qualification, capacity, and experience		
1.1	Reputation of Organization and Staff Credibility / Reliability / Industry Standing	70
	<ul> <li>Legally registered in Uganda, with a valid operating license</li> </ul>	
1.2	General Organizational Capability which is likely to affect implementation: management structure, financial stability and project financing capacity, project management controls, extent to which any work would be subcontracted  • Should be financially sound and stable with latest Audited Financial Statement — income statement and balance sheet to indicate its financial stability, liquidity, credit	100
	standing, and market reputation, etc.	
1.3	Relevance of specialized knowledge and experience on similar engagements done in the region/country  • Good track record; should have at least Five (5) years' experience conducting	80
	systems development in an emergency setting	
1.4	Quality assurance procedures and risk mitigation measures	50
	Total Section 1	300

Section 2. Proposed Methodology, Approach, and Implementation Plan		
2.1	Understanding of the requirement: Have the important aspects of the task been addressed in sufficient detail? Are the different components of the project adequately weighted relative to one another?  Familiar with the industry and/ Engagement of SMEs Business methodologies and the UN operating procedures and policies.	60
2.2	Description of the Offeror's approach and methodology for meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Terms of Reference	120
2.3	Details on how the different service elements shall be organized, controlled, and delivered	50

2.4	Description of available performance monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and tools; how they shall be adopted and used for a specific requirement	50
2.5	Assessment of the implementation plan proposed including whether the activities are properly sequenced and if these are logical and realistic  • Previous experience in the areas of project implementation will be an added advantage.	50
2.6	Demonstration of ability to plan, integrate and effectively implement sustainability measures in the execution of the contract	70
	Total Section 2	400

Section 3. Management Structure and Key Personnel			Points obtainable
3.1	Composition and structure of the team proposed. Are the proposed roles of the management and the team of key personnel suitable for the provision of the necessary services?		60
3.2	Qualifications of key personnel proposed		
3.2 a	Team Leader (1)		
	<ul> <li>Advanced degree in economics, business studies, international trade, or another relevant field</li> <li>Minimum of 7 years' relevant experience</li> <li>Minimum of 5 years' demonstrated expertise and experience in project management</li> <li>Demonstrated experience in managing a myriad of stakeholders and partners, including</li> <li>Government, private sector, media and international organizations.</li> <li>Substantive knowledge and understanding of domestic, regional and global trade development issues and an in-depth understanding of AfCFTA and trade dynamics in Africa</li> <li>Excellent writing, editing, reporting and oral communication skills</li> </ul>	80	80
3.2 b	Enterprise Growth Expert (1)		

- Advanced degree in economics, business studies, international trade, entrepreneurship, or another relevant field	80	80
- Minimum of 7 years' relevant experience supporting manufacturing enterprise establishment,		
management, business plan formulation, growth, and competitiveness		
- Minimum of 5 years' relevant experience in providing enterprises and entrepreneurs with		
training, mentorship, and coaching		
- Ability and demonstrated experience in providing guidance, mentoring, training & delegate responsibilities to entrepreneurs.		
- Substantive knowledge and understanding of domestic, regional and global trade development issues		
- Excellent communication and training facilitation skills		
3.2c Trade Facilitation Expert (1)		
- Advanced degree in economics, international trade, trade policy, or another relevant field	80	80
- Expertise and proven track record of at least 3 years in trade facilitation, Rules of Origin		
negotiations, and economic analysis		
<ul> <li>Demonstrated expertise and experience in conducting market research and identifying potential markets / new business opportunities, and application of analytical works into management of international trade</li> </ul>		
- Substantive knowledge and understanding of regional and global trade development issues with the ability to support the practice architecture		
- In-depth understanding of AfCFTA and the trade dynamics in Africa.		
- Excellent writing, reporting and oral communication skills		
Tota	al Section 3	300

#### Section 5. Terms of Reference

General Information

**Description of Assignment:** Strengthening SME competitiveness and export readiness for the AfCFTA market

Location: Uganda
Geographical Scope: Countrywide

**Type of Contract:** Contract for Goods and Services

**Duration of Assignment:** 150 working days spread over the period June 2022 to February 2023

Start Date: 15 June 2022

## Background

Trade remains one of the most important drivers of economic growth; and underpins efforts to achieve the Global Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union. However, Africa has not fully captured trade's growth-enhancing benefits. According to UNCTAD, for the period (2015 - to 2019) the total African trade average value was USD 760 billion per year which represents 29 percent of Africa's GDP. Although trends in intra-African trade point toward progress, trade within Africa remains very low in proportion to total global trade, highlighting the need for enhanced intra-African trade.

In March 2018, African countries signed a landmark trade agreement - the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) - a legal instrument establishing a free trade area among the African Union Member States. AfCFTA targets areas across investment, trade in goods and services, intellectual property rights, and competition policy. AfCFTA become operational on 01 January 2021 creating a single African market of over 1.3 billion consumers - the World's largest free trade area - with a total GDP of over USD 3.4 trillion.

Beyond its groundbreaking size, the AfCFTA provides an opportunity for countries in the region to competitively integrate into the global economy, reduce poverty, and promote inclusion. Full implementation of the AfCFTA is expected to contribute to advancing Africa's structural transformation and reshaping markets and economies across the region. Ultimately, the AfCFTA presents a major opportunity for African countries to boost intracontinental exports by over 81 percent; lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty, and raise the incomes of 68 million more that live on less than \$5.50 per day

The Agreement's promising future hinges on the African private sector's ability to leverage it to boost cross-border trade. The private sector in Uganda accounts for over 80 percent of total production, two-thirds of total investment, and three-fourths of lending within the economy. The sector also provides jobs for about 90 percent of the employed working-age population. Further, Small Medium Enterprise (SMEs) are the backbone of Uganda's private sector accounting for over 90 percent of businesses in Uganda. SMEs represent the bulk of production in manufacturing and an even larger share in services. SMEs, therefore, have a key role to play in realizing AfCFTA 'S promise as they are the actual traders and investors; responsible for moving goods and services across the border.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uganda developed and is implementing the "Trading Beyond EAC and COMESA; Unlocking the Potential of Uganda in the AfCFTA", a project designed to enable the country to harness the enormous potential that the trade agreement portends. Through the project, UNDP is supporting the Government of Uganda to boost trade between Uganda and other African countries.

While AfCFTA objectives are well-grounded, they will remain elusive if SMEs in Uganda are unable to take full advantage of the opportunities in terms of trade and investment. It is therefore critical that the SMEs effectively engage in the implementation process, and that women and young entrepreneurs are aware of the benefits of the evolving single market. In this regard, UNDP is also supporting efforts to strengthen the competitiveness and export readiness of Uganda's SMEs as one of the strategic interventions to structurally transform the country's industrialization agenda into jobs and livelihood opportunities for her citizenry.

## Rationale

Much like similar trade blocs composed of developing nations, the AfCFTA is marked by the homogeneity of product offerings from the different countries. This provides a key challenge to trade competitiveness since participating countries will opt to lockout products similar to those already produced within their own countries. The ability to export is a result of developing the competitiveness and readiness of domestic SMEs for most manufacturing SMEs.

Business Membership Organisations (BMOs) have a pivotal role to play in enabling SMEs to maximize the advantages presented by the AfCFTA Agreement. They are uniquely positioned to lead efforts to identify and address SME competitive and export readiness capacity gaps. BMOs are also able to bring onboard experience and expertise from businesses not only operating locally but also regionally. They, therefore, have the technical expertise required to equip their members with the appropriate knowledge skills, and tools to access and navigate trade and investment spaces.

In addition, BMOs can support SMEs by providing them with up-to-date market information and trade opportunities so that businesses are well informed about doing business thus boosting their participation in the new single market. Over the period October 2021 to March 2022, UNDP partnered with five BMOs to create awareness on AfCFTA amongst SMEs. This process highlighted several challenges constraining the competitiveness and export readiness of Uganda's SMEs including lack of market intelligence, poor packaging, and branding, inability to comply with product Quality and Certification standards, and limited availability of affordable quality business development services.

Building on these efforts, UNDP Uganda is seeking to partner with three BMOs in Uganda to strengthen the enterprise competitiveness and export readiness as well as support SMEs to identify and access new business and market opportunities in the AfCFTA.

#### Scope of Work

The selected BMOS will be required to:

- i) In consultation with the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives (MTIC) and UNDP, organize a stakeholders' workshop to identify Uganda's niche products and service value chains; and focus markets within the AfCFTA.
- ii) In consultation with UNDP, develop a selection criterion and identify 600 SMEs in the niche value chains interested in exporting through AfCFTA. The selection criteria should take into account regional and gender considerations.
- iii) Using agreed-upon tools, conduct competitiveness and export Readiness assessments on selected SMEs and develop a capacity-building programme (including training manuals and guides) intended to address the capacity gaps identified.
- iv) Implement the capacity-building programme targeting the selected SMEs. This will include training, provision of onsite business coaching, mentoring, and business advisory support to targeted SMEs.
- v) Facilitate business-to-business linkages between Ugandan SMEs and enterprises in focus markets within the AfCFTA.
- vi) Contribute to the development of the national AfCFTA strategy through the organizing of consultations with

The scope of work above is indicative. UNDP and the selected BMOs may by mutual agreement, amend part or the whole scope of work as may be deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of the assignment.

#### Deliverables

The selected BMO is expected to deliver the following outputs within the duration of the project:

- a) Inception report detailing the approach and methodology to the assignment and proposed work plan and schedule of activities.
- b) A report on the stakeholders' workshop to identify Uganda's niche products and service value chains; and focus markets within the AfCFTA.
- c) A comprehensive capacity needs assessment report detailing the constraints hindering SMEs' competitiveness and barriers to their engagement in export trade.
- d) A detailed capacity-building programme including training manuals and guides.
- e) A report on the training, onsite business coaching, mentoring, and advisory support provided to the targeted SMEs including a list of at least 20 business-to-business linkages created during this period.

The BMOs will be responsible for all the deliverables as detailed above in this ToR. All the deliverables need to meet UNDP quality standards. All the deliverables should be verifiable through appropriate documentation maintained by the BMO and made available for any cross-checking within the project period.

Approval of expenditure will only be made for work satisfactorily completed and accepted by UNDP which reserves the right to request a refund of the monies advanced if performance is unsatisfactory, if work/outputs are incomplete, not delivered, or for failure to meet deadlines.

## **Duration of Assignment**

The expected duration of the assignment is 150 working days spread over the period 15<sup>th</sup> June to 15 February 2023.

## Schedule of Payments

A strong performance regime will operate – with payments made to the service provider on an output basis. Payment to the BMOs will be made in two installments upon satisfactory completion and approval of the deliverables by the technical committee. The payment schedule includes:

#	Deliverable	Due Date	Payment Release
1	Inception report detailing the approach and methodology to the assignment and proposed work plan and schedule of activities	Within 05 working days after the inception meeting.	25%
2	<ul> <li>A report on the stakeholders' workshop to identify Uganda's niche products and service value chains; and focus markets within the AfCFTA</li> <li>A comprehensive capacity needs assessment report detailing the constraints hindering SMEs' competitiveness and barriers to their engagement in export trade.</li> <li>A detailed capacity-building programme including training manuals and guides.</li> </ul>	Within 40 working days of signing the contract	60%
3	A report on the training, onsite business coaching, mentoring, and advisory support provided to the targeted SMEs including a list of at least 20 business-to-business linkages created during this period.	Within 150 working days of signing the contract	15%

#### Management Arrangements

The BMOs will report to the Team Leader, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Programme, UNDP Uganda who oversee the service provision, ensure compliance with the terms of reference, and agreed upon inception report of the assignment. The BMO will work closely with other staff in the Country Office, the private sector, and the Government as appropriate.

UNDP will be responsible for field supervision, monitoring of the progress of implementation of activities, and quality assurance of the deliverables.

#### Required Skills and Experience

Interested Business Membership Organisations are required to present a detailed methodology to perform the requested services showing their understanding of the Terms of Reference and comments made on it if any, activity schedule, staff schedule, and work plan between team members as per the Terms of Reference.

The Business Membership Organisations will be responsible for the creation of an implementation team. The key experts whose involvement is considered instrumental to achieve the deliverables of the assignment include:

- 1) Team Leader
- 2) Enterprise development expert
- 3) Trade and marketing expert

#### Qualifications and Experience of the Proposed Team:

#### a) Team leader

The Team Leader should have an advanced degree in International Trade, Economics, Business Administration, or related field with at least 10 years of relevant professional experience in conducting market intelligence analysis, market feasibility studies, Cost-benefit and profitability analysis, and value chain analysis in Africa; demonstrated experience in managing a myriad of stakeholders and partners, including Government, private sector, media, and international organizations; substantive knowledge and understanding of domestic, regional and global trade development issues and an in-depth understanding of AfCFTA and trade dynamics in Africa; and excellent writing, editing, reporting, and oral communication skills.

#### b) Enterprise development expert

The enterprise development expert should have an advanced degree in economics, business studies, international trade, entrepreneurship, or other relevant fields with a minimum of 7 years of relevant experience supporting SME establishment, management, business plan formulation, growth, and competitiveness (including packaging, product standardization, and certification) as well as substantive knowledge and understanding of domestic, regional and global trade development issues. S/he should also have excellent communication and facilitation skills with a minimum of 5 years of demonstrated experience in providing enterprises and entrepreneurs with training, mentorship, and coaching.

#### c) Trade and marketing expert

The trade and marketing expert should have an advanced degree in economics, international trade, trade policy, or another relevant field; expertise and proven track record of at least 5 years in trade facilitation, Rules of Origin negotiations, and economic analysis; demonstrated expertise and experience in conducting market research and identifying potential markets / new business opportunities, and application of analytical works into the management of international trade; substantive knowledge and understanding of regional and global trade development issues with the ability to support the practice architecture; in-depth understanding of AfCFTA and the trade dynamics in Africa; and excellent writing, reporting, and oral communication skills.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals from suitable Business Membership Organisations will be examined to determine whether they are complete and submitted in accordance with RFP requirements. Incomplete submissions will be rejected. Only proposals meeting the mandatory criteria will be evaluated.

## **Technical Proposal (70%)**

- ☑ Expertise of the Firm 30%
- Methodology, Its Appropriateness to the Condition and Timeliness of the Implementation Plan 40%
- ☑ Management Structure and Qualification of Key Personnel 30%

## Financial Proposal (30%)

- To be computed as a ratio of the Proposal's offer to the lowest price among the proposals received by UNDP.
- Proposals of what shall be used delivery of set outputs
- Distribution of the resources allocated for human resources

## Section 6: Returnable Bidding Forms / Checklist

This form serves as a checklist for preparation of your Proposal. Please complete the Returnable Bidding Forms in accordance with the instructions in the forms and return them as part of your Proposal submission. No alteration to format of forms shall be permitted and no substitution shall be accepted.

Before submitting your Proposal, please ensure compliance with the Proposal Submission instructions of the BDS 22.

## **Technical Proposal Envelope:**

Have you duly completed all the Returnable Bidding Forms?	
<ul><li>Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form</li></ul>	
Form B: Bidder Information Form	
<ul><li>Form C: Joint Venture/Consortium/ Association Information Form</li></ul>	
Form D: Qualification Form	
<ul><li>Form E: Format of Technical Proposal</li></ul>	
<ul><li>Form H: Proposal Security Form</li></ul>	
[Add other forms as necessary]	
Have you provided the required documents to establish compliance with the evaluation criteria in Section 4?	

## Financial Proposal Envelope

(Must be submitted in a separate sealed envelope/password protected email)

-	Form F: Financial Proposal Submission Form	
-	Form G: Financial Proposal Form	

#### Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form

Name of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bidder]	Date:	Select date
RFP reference:	[Insert RFP Reference Number]		

We, the undersigned, offer to provide the services for [Insert Title of services] in accordance with your Request for Proposal No. [Insert RFP Reference Number] and our Proposal. We are hereby submitting our Proposal, which includes this Technical Proposal and our Financial Proposal sealed under a separate envelope.

We hereby declare that our firm, its affiliates or subsidiaries or employees, including any JV/Consortium /Association members or subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the contract:

- a) is not under procurement prohibition by the United Nations, including but not limited to prohibitions derived from the Compendium of United Nations Security Council Sanctions Lists;
- b) have not been suspended, debarred, sanctioned or otherwise identified as ineligible by any UN Organization or the World Bank Group or any other international Organization.
- c) have no conflict of interest in accordance with Instruction to Bidders Clause 4;
- do not employ, or anticipate employing, any person(s) who is, or has been a UN staff member within the last year, if said UN staff member has or had prior professional dealings with our firm in his/her capacity as UN staff member within the last three years of service with the UN (in accordance with UN post-employment restrictions published in ST/SGB/2006/15);
- e) have not declared bankruptcy, are not involved in bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, and there is no judgment or pending legal action against them that could impair their operations in the foreseeable future;
- f) undertake not to engage in proscribed practices, including but not limited to corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion, obstruction, or any other unethical practice, with the UN or any other party, and to conduct business in a manner that averts any financial, operational, reputational or other undue risk to the UN and we embrace the principles of the United Nations Supplier Code of Conduct and adhere to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact.

We declare that all the information and statements made in this Proposal are true and we accept that any misinterpretation or misrepresentation contained in this Proposal may lead to our disqualification and/or sanctioning by the UNDP.

We offer to provide services in conformity with the Bidding documents, including the UNDP General Conditions of Contract and in accordance with the Terms of Reference

Our Proposal shall be valid and remain binding upon us for the period of time specified in the Bid Data Sheet.

We understand and recognize that you are not bound to accept any Proposal you receive.

I, the undersigned, certify that I am duly authorized by [Insert Name of Bidder] to sign this Proposal and bind it should UNDP accept this Proposal.

Name:	
Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	
•	

[Stamp with official stamp of the Bidder]

# Form B: Bidder Information Form

Legal name of Bidder	[Complete]
Legal address	[Complete]
Year of registration	[Complete]
Bidder's Authorized Representative Information	Name and Title: [Complete] Telephone numbers: [Complete] Email: [Complete]
Are you a UNGM registered vendor?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, [insert UGNM vendor number]
Are you a UNDP vendor?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, [insert UNDP vendor number]
Countries of operation	[Complete]
No. of full-time employees	[Complete]
Quality Assurance Certification (e.g. ISO 9000 or Equivalent) (If yes, provide a Copy of the valid Certificate):	[Complete]
Does your Company hold any accreditation such as ISO 14001 related to the environment? (If yes, provide a Copy of the valid Certificate):	[Complete]
Does your Company have a written Statement of its Environmental Policy? (If yes, provide a Copy)	[Complete]
Contact person UNDP may contact for requests for clarification during Proposal evaluation	Name and Title: [Complete] Telephone numbers: [Complete] Email: [Complete]
Please attach the following documents:	<ul> <li>Company Profile, which should not exceed fifteen (15) pages, including printed brochures and product catalogues relevant to the goods/services being procured</li> <li>Certificate of Incorporation/ Business Registration</li> <li>Tax Registration/Payment Certificate issued by the Internal Revenue Authority evidencing that the Bidder is updated with its tax payment obligations, or Certificate of Tax exemption, if any such privilege is enjoyed by the Bidder</li> <li>Trade name registration papers, if applicable</li> <li>Local Government permit to locate and operate in assignment location, if applicable</li> <li>Official Letter of Appointment as local representative, if Bidder is submitting a Bid in behalf of an entity located outside the country</li> <li>Power of Attorney</li> </ul>

# Form C: Joint Venture/Consortium/Association Information Form

Name	of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bido	Date:	Select date						
RFP re	RFP reference: [Insert RFP Reference Number]									
	ompleted and ret e/Consortium/Ass	urned with your Propo ociation.	sal if the Prop	osal is	submitted as a	Joint				
No		r and contact informaters, fax numbers, e-mo					of responsibilities (in %) and ses to be performed			
1	[Complete]				[Complete]					
2	[Complete]				[Complete]					
3	[Complete]		[Complete]							
Nome	e of leading partne									
(with Assoc the ev	authority to bind	the JV, Consortium, RFP process and, in	[Complete]							
the cor □ Letto We he	We have attached a copy of the below document signed by every partner, which details the likely legal structure of and the confirmation of joint and severable liability of the members of the said joint venture:  Letter of intent to form a joint venture **OR** UV/Consortium/Association agreement  We hereby confirm that if the contract is awarded, all parties of the Joint Venture/Consortium/Association shall be jointly and severally liable to UNDP for the fulfillment of the provisions of the Contract.									
					of partner:					
Signature:			Signature:							
Date:				Date:						
	of partner:				of partner:					
Signa	ture:			Signa	ture:					

## Form D: Qualification Form

Name of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bidder]	Date:	Select date
RFP reference:	[Insert RFP Reference Number]		

If JV/Consortium/Association, to be completed by each partner.

## **Historical Contract Non-Performance**

☐ Contract non-performance did not occur for the last 3 years										
☐ Contract(	☐ Contract(s) not performed for the last 3 years									
Year	Non- performed portion of contract	Contract Identification	Total Contract Amount (current value in US\$)							
		Name of Client: Address of Client: Reason(s) for non-performance:								

# **Litigation History** (including pending litigation)

□ No litigation history for the last 3 years									
☐ Litigation History as indicated below									
Year of dispute	Amount in dispute (in US\$)	Contract Identification	Total Contract Amount (current value in US\$)						
		Name of Client:							
		Address of Client:							
		Matter in dispute:							
		Party who initiated the dispute:							
		Status of dispute:							
		Party awarded if resolved:							

#### Previous Relevant Experience

Please list only previous similar assignments successfully completed in the last 3 years.

List only those assignments for which the Bidder was legally contracted or sub-contracted by the Client as a company or was one of the Consortium/JV partners. Assignments completed by the Bidder's individual experts working privately or through other firms cannot be claimed as the relevant experience of the Bidder, or that of the Bidder's partners or sub-consultants, but can be claimed by the Experts themselves in their CVs. The Bidder should be prepared to substantiate the claimed experience by presenting copies of relevant documents and references if so requested by UNDP.

Project name & Country of Assignment	Client & Reference Contact Details	Contract Value	Period of activity and status	Types of activities undertaken

Bidders may al	lso attach theii	own Project Da	ta Sheets with r	more details	for assignments	above.
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$\Box$ A	Attached	are t	he Statements o	of Satis	factory P	erformance	from t	he Top	3 (th	ree)	Clients o	r more
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## **Financial Standing**

Annual Turnover for the last 3 years	Year Year	USD USD
Latest Credit Rating (if any), indicate the source	Year	USD

Financial information (in US\$ equivalent)	Historic information for the last 3 years							
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3					
	Information from Balance Sheet							
Total Assets (TA)								
Total Liabilities (TL)								
Current Assets (CA)								
Current Liabilities (CL)								
	Info	ormation from Income Staten	nent					
Total / Gross Revenue (TR)								
Profits Before Taxes (PBT)								
Net Profit								
Current Ratio								

☐ Attached a	re copies	of the	audited	financial	statements	(balance	sheets,	including	all	related	notes,	and	income
statements) for	or the yea	rs requ	ired abo	ve compl	ying with the	following	g conditi	ion:					

- a) Must reflect the financial situation of the Bidder or party to a JV, and not sister or parent companies.
- b) Historic financial statements must be audited by a certified public accountant.
- c) Historic financial statements must correspond to accounting periods already completed and audited. No statements for partial periods shall be accepted.

#### Form E: Format of Technical Proposal

Name of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bidder]	Date:	Select date
RFP reference:	[Insert RFP Reference Number]		

The Bidder's proposal should be organized to follow this format of Technical Proposal. Where the bidder is presented with a requirement or asked to use a specific approach, the bidder must not only state its acceptance, but also describe how it intends to comply with the requirements. Where a descriptive response is requested, failure to provide the same will be viewed as non-responsive.

#### SECTION 1: Bidder's qualification, capacity and expertise

- 1.1 Brief description of the organization, including the year and country of incorporation, and types of activities undertaken.
- 1.2 General organizational capability which is likely to affect implementation: management structure, financial stability and project financing capacity, project management controls, extent to which any work would be subcontracted (if so, provide details).
- 1.3 Relevance of specialized knowledge and experience on similar engagements done in the region/country.
- 1.4 Quality assurance procedures and risk mitigation measures.
- 1.5 Organization's commitment to sustainability.

#### SECTION 2: Proposed Methodology, Approach, and Implementation Plan

This section should demonstrate the bidder's responsiveness to the TOR by identifying the specific components proposed, addressing the requirements, providing a detailed description of the essential performance characteristics proposed and demonstrating how the proposed approach and methodology meets or exceeds the requirements. All important aspects should be addressed in sufficient detail and different components of the project should be adequately weighted relative to one another.

- 2.1 A detailed description of the approach and methodology for how the Bidder will achieve the Terms of Reference of the project, keeping in mind the appropriateness to local conditions and project environment. Details how the different service elements shall be organized, controlled and delivered.
- 2.2 The methodology shall also include details of the Bidder's internal technical and quality assurance review mechanisms.
- 2.3 Explain whether any work would be subcontracted, to whom, how much percentage of the work, the rationale for such, and the roles of the proposed sub-contractors and how everyone will function as a team.
- 2.4 Description of available performance monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and tools; how they shall be adopted and used for a specific requirement.
- 2.5 Implementation plan including a Gantt Chart or Project Schedule indicating the detailed sequence of activities that will be undertaken and their corresponding timing.
- 2.6 Demonstrate how you plan to integrate sustainability measures in the execution of the contract.
- 2.7 Any other comments or information regarding the project approach and methodology that will be adopted.

#### SECTION 2A: Bidder's Comments and Suggestions on the Terms of Reference

Provide comments and suggestions on the Terms of Reference, or additional services that will be rendered beyond the requirements of the TOR, if any.

#### **SECTION 3: Management Structure and Key Personnel**

- 3.1 Describe the overall management approach toward planning and implementing the project. Include an organization chart for the management of the project describing the relationship of key positions and designations. Provide a spreadsheet to show the activities of each personnel and the time allocated for his/her involvement.
- 3.2 Provide CVs for key personnel that will be provided to support the implementation of this project using the format below. CVs should demonstrate qualifications in areas relevant to the Scope of Services.

## Format for CV of Proposed Key Personnel

Name of Personnel	[Insert]		
Position for this assignment	[Insert]		
Nationality	[Insert]		
Language proficiency	[Insert]		
Education/ Qualifications	[Summarize college/university and other specialized education of personnel member, giving names of schools, dates attended, and degrees/qualifications obtained.]  [Insert]		
Professional certifications	<ul> <li>[Provide details of professional certifications relevant to the scope of services]</li> <li>Name of institution: [Insert]</li> <li>Date of certification: [Insert]</li> </ul>		
Employment Record/ Experience	[List all positions held by personnel (starting with present position, list in reverse order), giving dates, names of employing organization, title of position held and location of employment. For experience in last five years, detail the type of activities performed, degree of responsibilities, location of assignments and any other information or professional experience considered pertinent for this assignment.]		
	[Insert]		
	[Provide names, addresses, phone and email contact information for two (2) references]		
References	Reference 1: [Insert]		
	Reference 2: [Insert]		

	Reference 2: [Insert]			
I, the undersigned, certify that t my experiences, and other relev	•	 these data c	orrectly describe	my qualifications,
Signature of Personnel		Date (	Day/Month/Year)	

## Form F: Financial Proposal Submission Form

Name of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bidder]	Date:	Select date
RFP reference:	[Insert RFP Reference Number]		

We, the undersigned, offer to provide the services for [Insert Title of services] in accordance with your Request for Proposal No. [Insert RFP Reference Number] and our Proposal. We are hereby submitting our Proposal, which includes this Technical Proposal and our Financial Proposal sealed under a separate envelope.

Our attached Financial Proposal is for the sum of [Insert amount in words and figures].

Our Proposal shall be valid and remain binding upon us for the period of time specified in the Bid Data Sheet.

We understand you are not bound to accept any Proposal you receive.

Name:	
Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	

[Stamp with official stamp of the Bidder]

Form G: Financial Proposal Form

Name of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bidder]	Date:	Select date
RFP reference:	[Insert RFP Reference Number]		

The Bidder is required to prepare the Financial Proposal following the below format and submit it in an envelope separate from the Technical Proposal as indicated in the Instruction to Bidders. Any Financial information provided in the Technical Proposal shall lead to Bidder's disqualification.

The Financial Proposal should align with the requirements in the Terms of Reference and the Bidder's Technical Proposal.

**Currency of the proposal:** [Insert Currency]

Currency of the Bid: UGX

## **Breakdown of Professional Costs**

No	Description	UOM	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Amount
			(No.	(UGX)	(UGX)
			Months)		
			,		
1	Team Leader	1	5		
2	Enterprise Growth Expert	1	5		
3	Trade Facilitation Expert	1	5		
	Sub Total				
	Other Costs				
1	Travel costs	Lumpsum	1		
2	Accommodation	Lumpsum	1		
3	Workshops	Lumpsum	1		
4	Management fee of not more than	Lumpsum	1		
	5% of the total cost				
	Sub Total			<u> </u>	1
	,				
GRAND	TOTAL				-

Name of Bidder:	
Authorised signature:	
Name of authorised signatory:	
Functional Title:	