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Resilient nations.

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Services/Work Description:	Evaluation of and comments on papers submitted for African Economic Conference 2022 and compilation of long list
Project/Program Title:	Review of papers submitted to African Economic Conference 2022
Duty Station:	Home-based
Type of the Contract:	Institutional Contract or Contract for Professional Services
Duration:	35 working days
Expected Start Date:	30 August 2022

I. BACKGROUND / RATIONALE

African governments are now confronted with battling the adverse consequences of climate change, with limited resources, along with many other pressing development challenges. Despite accounting for less than 3% of cumulative global carbon dioxide emissions over 1850–2020, Africa is burdened with disproportionately high economic, social, and environmental effects of climate change. It is the least climate-resilient region in the world, and the most vulnerable to climate disasters after South Asia (African Development Bank [AFDB], 2022). Five of the ten countries most affected by climate-related extreme weather events in 2019 were African (Global Climate Risk Index 2021). From hurricane cyclones, Idai and Kenneth in Southern Africa to locust invasions in East Africa, to drought in the Sahel region, and, most recently, extreme rainfall on the eastern coast of South Africa, no part of Africa is spared.

Changing rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, and more frequent extreme weather events contributed to food insecurity, poverty, and displacement in Africa in 2020, compromising health, and exacerbating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of the 2,000-plus public health events recorded in Africa between 2001 and 2021, over half were climate-related. Rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns are nurturing biting insects' habitats and boosting the transmission of vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever, malaria, and yellow fever.

Climate change threatens food security too, in terms of affordability, accessibility, and self-sufficiency. A 2°C warming is likely to cause a 10% drop in agricultural yields across Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050, and more warming could cause the yield to fall by 15–20%. Cereal output is expected to decline by 16–27% on average in Africa—and up to 60% in some countries—by 2080 as climate change progresses.

The economic costs of extreme weather events in Africa are projected at US\$45–50 billion per year by 2040 and up to 70% of Africa's annual gross domestic product (GDP) on average by 2100. Recent estimates predict a fall in GDP per capita growth of 5% in Central Africa by 2050. In North and Southern Africa, the loss would be even more severe, at about 10%, and as much as 15% in East and West Africa. Climate change poses a risk to African economies, threatens the livelihoods of millions of people, particularly those dependent on rain-fed agriculture, and could reverse progress towards some of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union's Agenda 2063, national development priorities, and the respective institutional mandates of the AEC partners.

The Conference

To address this important and pressing development issue, the 2022 African Economic Conference (AEC 2022), jointly organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is planned with the theme “**Supporting Climate-Smart Development in Africa**”. It will be held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 9-11 December 2022.

The conference will bring together a variety of stakeholders—including policymakers, climate experts, the private sector, researchers, and youth—to discuss the challenges posed by climate change, identify opportunities and strategies for adaptation and mitigation, draw lessons from successes, identify key strategies for financing mobilization and draft an action plan to support the low-carbon and climate-resilient development of Africa.

The AEC 2022 will be an opportunity to reflect deeply on the institutional capacities to build climate-smart development mechanisms and support our regional member countries to build resilience and transition to low-carbon development pathways. It will also be an occasion to reflect on how countries can actively rebuild better from the COVID-19 pandemic with climate-smart solutions.

The conference will provide a platform for established academics and young researchers alike to present their solution-oriented research to policymakers and decision-makers on how to strengthen Africa’s response to climate change and its ripple effects.

The main objectives of the African Economic Conference series are:

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

The Conference will comprise a number of plenary sessions, which will feature presentations, and discussions by prominent academics, policy makers, business actors and opinion leaders, as well as representatives from development partner organizations.

Conference papers will be selected based on key solutions in relation to the following four thematic areas in which the papers will focus on key solutions to building, adopting, and implementing climate-smart strategies: Energy mix, technology, and innovation in African economies; Climate change, food system, and ocean economies; Climate-smart industrialization of Africa; Africa’s governance, strategies, financing, and policies to building and mainstreaming resilient and sustainable climate-change adaptation and mitigation.

The four pillars are as follows:

1. **Energy mix, technology, and innovation in African economies** – While the share of fossil-based energy sources in Africa’s energy mix are relatively modest compared to that of other global regions (AfDB, 2022), innovation in energy technology is essential for African economies to prepare for a more sustainable, competitive, and secure energy transition. Under this pillar, papers will analyze how much clean energy resources are utilized in Africa; consider strategies to move from significant reliance on fossil fuels toward clean energy use; and evaluate the financial impact of such transitions. Clean energy resources could include nuclear, hydropower, wind, geothermal, solar, and green minerals. Particular attention will be paid to innovative, cost-effective, and replicable solutions. This session will also analyze the governance environment – including an approach for enhancing integrated energy resource planning to support energy

system resilience and transition to a low carbon emission energy system development pathway while enhancing socio-economic benefits.

2. **Climate change, food system, and ocean economies.** While climate change will have a serious impact on agriculture and food system, building climate smart agriculture and food system will offer opportunities for effective structural transformation. This will also enable the development of a sustainable value chain to enhance African farmers' climate-adaptive capacities and improve livelihood resilience including reducing poverty and food insecurity. The adoption of cost-effective climate-smart agriculture practices and financing mechanisms, including digital technologies and climate risk financing tools, has become essential and should be the focus of future initiatives. Papers under this pillar will look at (i) the impact of climate change on African livelihoods, particularly those of rural residents and farmers; (ii) how farmers are adapting to such impact, including management of water-related resources; and (iii) how private sector engagement with smallholder farmers can be strengthened by building on significant advances in digitization. Papers under this pillar may also consider the issue of climate-resilient ocean economies. Papers may explore (i) the impact of climate change on ocean systems; (ii) cascading impacts on key economic sectors, including direct losses (in the form of fish catch or tourism revenue) and increased uncertainty; and (iii) policies and strategies to ensure resilience and sustainability of ocean potential for helping reduce carbon emissions whilst stimulating economic growth in coastal and small island states.
3. **Climate-smart industrialization of Africa.** Under this pillar, papers will address Africa's industrialization issues, taking climate change into account, to meet the basic needs of growing populations and create jobs and wealth. Papers may focus on i) green industrial policies; ii) efficient exploitation of the continent's natural resources for inclusive growth; and iii) appropriate strategies to dissociate industrial growth from negative environmental externalities by maximizing the use of clean energy and green-production technologies without disrupting productivity enhancements in Africa.
4. **Africa's governance, strategies, financing, and policies to building and mainstreaming resilient and sustainable climate-change adaptation and mitigation.** Papers in this category will explore the inclusivity of existing financial and social policies around climate change for vulnerable groups and fragile states. Given the low share of climate finance in Africa, papers will discuss how to promote the mobilization of climate finance resources and efficiently allocate them to effect climate-smart development while balancing adaptation and mitigation. Finally, papers will investigate whether climate change mitigation policies are robust and responsive to the African landscape and may focus on the link between green financing and the generation of jobs, especially for youth and women.

Papers Selection Process

Selected papers for presentation will comprise original work not previously published. The organizers are particularly interested in policy-oriented papers that are linked to the overall theme of "Supporting Climate-Smart Development in Africa".

The selection process will take place in two stages. At the first stage, the institution selected under the present Terms of Reference (referred to hereafter as "the consulting institution") will assist in preparing for the 2022 conference by providing **an anonymous, independent and objective review of the full papers submitted for presentation at the conference**. Then at the second stage, based upon the consulting institution's recommendations, the AEC partners will finalize the selection so as to limit the number of papers and establish an interesting agenda for the AEC 2022.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE SERVICE / WORK

- a. To produce a selection of approximately 60 papers of superior quality from among the submitted papers, to be sent to AfDB, ECA and UNDP by **30 September 2022**.

III. SCOPE OF THE SERVICE / WORK

The specific tasks assigned to the consulting institution will include:

- a. The selected institution is required to draw on its network of researchers, policy makers, resource persons, universities, research institutions, trainers and Africans in the Diaspora to constitute a panel of experts to peer-review and recommend suitable full papers for presentation at the AEC;
- b. The selected institution is required to provide ratings on all papers submitted via the AEC website within the specified timeframe in the present Terms of Reference;
- c. The selected institution is required to provide comments on all papers submitted via the AEC website within the timeframe specified in the call for papers;
- d. The selected institution is required to officially transmit the reviews with a list showing the rating of each full paper along their specific comments/observations to AfDB, ECA and UNDP by **30 September 2022**.

IV. EXPECTED OUTPUTS / DELIVERABLES

- a. Reviews of all papers submitted via the AEC website within the timeframe specified in the call for papers
- b. A list showing the rating of each full paper along their specific comments/observations

V. METHODOLOGY / APPROACH OF THE SERVICE (WORK)

- a. The selection criteria are the following: (i) Adequacy of research questions and literature review (ii) Methodological innovation, originality (iii) Recommendations justified by the results (iv) Policy relevance for Africa and (v) Clarity in language and presentation. Rating scale for these criteria ranges from 1 (worst) to 5 (best) (see attached rating sheet). The rating sheet should be completed for each paper. The consulting institution will provide a list of detailed comments and suggestions in order to improve the work when assessing (i) the substance (including the theme, the ideas, the conclusions as well as the originality of the paper and the updating of information and data), (ii) the analytical quality (methodology, scientific rigor, references) and the writing quality (presentation, framework, clarity, etc.). Comments should be made in the original version of the paper (French or English).

VI. LOCATION, DURATION AND TIMEFRAME OF THE WORK /DELIVERABLES/OUTPUT

- a. The location for the work is home-based. No travel will be required.
- b. The service provider is not required to report, aside from posing any clarificatory questions as needed

No.	Deliverables	Implementing Partners (IP) if any	Location and Action to be Undertaken	Duration (approx.)
1	Reviews of all papers submitted by AEC organizers within the timeframe specified in the call for papers		Home-based	30 working days
2	A list showing the rating of each full paper along their specific comments/observations			5 working days
Total Working Days				35 working days

VII. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT / REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

- a. Reporting will be to Mr El Hadji Fall

- b. Reporting is to take place once, at the end of the assignment
- c. The service provider is not expected to liaise or interact with any other institutions, organizations or individuals during the assignment
- d. Identify institutions/organizations/individuals with whom the Service Provider is expected to liaise/interact/collaborate/meet with in the course of performing the work (e.g., other agencies, project co-implementors, donors, communities, local government units, etc.)
- e. AfDB, ECA and UNDP will all be involved in evaluating the contractor's performance
- f. The AEC partner institutions will not provide any support personnel, support services, or logistics.

VIII. PAYMENT MILESTONES AND AUTHORITY

- a. Specify the key outputs or milestone activities for which payments will be made, the corresponding percentage of the contract price that will be paid per milestone/output, including all the conditions/documentations required prior to the release of any tranches of payment.

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

Installment of Payment/ Period	Deliverables or Documents to be Delivered	Approval should be obtained from:	Percentage of Payment
1 st Installment	Submission of plan of work including staff assigned to paper review one week after signature of contract.	Mr. El Hadji Fall	20%
2 nd Installment	Reviews of all papers submitted via the AEC website within the timeframe specified in the call for papers and a list showing the rating of each full paper along their specific comments/observations	Mr. El Hadji Fall	80%

IX. MINIMUM ORGANIZATION AND CONSULTANCY TASK FORCE REQUIREMENTS

9.1 Minimum Organization Requirements

- a. The type of firm required is one with technical expertise in African development issues in general (in all its economic, social, political, environmental dimensions) and in socio-economic resilience, inclusive and sustainable development in particular.
- b. The ability to review and evaluate hundreds of academic papers on the theme of the conference. The firm should have at least 10 years of relevant experience undertaking work related to the topic. The minimum annual turnover for the past three years is \$0 (zero dollars). The minimum net working capital for the past three years is \$0 (zero dollars).
- c. Proven experience in reviewing academic papers, dissertations or theses will be advantageous and vital to the success of the work implementation.
- d. Other qualities of the ideal entity would be a several number of academic staff, either qualified to PhD level or undertaking a PhD, specialized in the area of inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. There must be not less than 2 reviewers per paper.
- e. The prospective Service Provider is expected to meet the following minimum requirements:
 - It must have at least 10 years of practical experience in the academic study of socio-economic resilience as well as inclusive and sustainable development

- Knowledge of relevant sectors and access to stakeholders and relevant information sources, especially of the African region.
- Experience working with UN or other international organizations beneficial.
- Capability to deploy strong analytical aptitude, communication and presentation expertise.
- Capability to deploy good communication expertise in English and French language(s)
- It must have experience in the African Region
- It shall demonstrate its capabilities, understanding of the TOR, and methodology of audit approach
- The team leader and all team members and other experts must either hold a PhD or be currently enrolled in a PhD programme in either African studies, development studies, economics or political science. The minimum number of years of work experience in the preferred field of practice is 5 years. Experience in reviewing academic papers, dissertations or theses will be advantageous and vital to the success of the work implementation.

The multi-disciplinary team should comprise members with the following educational qualifications, experience and competencies:

9.2 Task Manager / Team Leader

Academic Qualification:

- At least a PhD degree or being enrolled in a PhD programme in African studies, development studies, economics or political science or related fields.

Experience:

- A minimum of 10 years of relevant professional experience in either African studies, development studies, economics or political science.

Competencies:

- Ability to provide general leadership and direction to the work;
- Excellent understanding of resilience, socio-economic resilience and recovery, inclusive and sustainable development
- Strong organizational skills;
- Strong communication skills;
- Proficiency should be in English or French;

9.3 Lead Consultant / Senior Expert

Academic Qualification:

- A PhD degree or being enrolled in a PhD programme in African studies, development studies, economics or political science or related fields or a related discipline.

Experience:

- A minimum of 7 years of proven experience of working in African studies, development studies, economics or political science or related fields. Experience in research and policy advisory services for sustainable development planning, implementation and monitoring will be an advantage

Competencies:

- Excellent understanding of socio-economic recovery, inclusive and sustainable development.
- Ability to work under pressure and to deliver in a timely manner without compromising quality standards;
- Strong communication skills;
- Proficiency should be in English.
- Excellent command on both written and spoken English or French is essential.

9.4 Project Staff / Associate Consultants / Team Members

Academic Qualification:

- A minimum of a University PhD Degree or enrolment in a PhD programme in African studies, development studies, economics or political science or a relevant area.

Experience:

- A minimum of 5 years of professional experience and proven expertise and experience in African studies, development studies, economics or political science or related fields or a related discipline.

Competencies:

- Strong understanding of socio-economic recovery, inclusive and sustainable development
- Strong communication skills;
- Proficiency should be in English and/or French, and the team must include sufficient members who are fluent in English and sufficient members who are proficient in French such that the team is able to review all of the papers submitted for the conference in accordance with the other provisions of these terms of reference

X. CRITERIA FOR SELECTING THE BEST OFFER

Upon the advertisement of the Procurement Notice, qualified Consultancy Firm is expected to submit both the Technical and Financial Proposals. Accordingly, the firm will be evaluated based on Cumulative Analysis as per the following conditions:

- Responsive/compliant/acceptable as per the Instruction to Bidders (ITB) of the Standard Bid Document (SBD), 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%

XI. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

List logistical support the Requesting Unit will offer to prospect Service Provider such as:

- UNDP will ensure that the Consultancy Firm receives an electronic copy of each of the papers to be reviewed and email addresses to send the paper evaluations and accompanying list of evaluations.

XII. RECOMMENDED PRESENTATION OF TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

For purposes of generating proposals whose contents are uniformly presented and to facilitate their comparative review, the Service Provider is advised to use a proposed Table of Contents. Hence, the Technical Proposal document must have at least the preferred content as outlined in the respective RFP Proposal Submission Form.

XIII. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROPRIETARY INTERESTS

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

XIV. ANNEXES TO THE TOR

The concept note and call for papers are annexed to this ToR.

PROPOSED STANDARD TECHNICAL PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Herewith please find the **Standard Technical Proposal Evaluation Criteria** along with respective allocated weight template for Requester's subsequent review. As per the relevance of the proposed criteria it can either:

- Redistribute the allocated weight;
- Delete specific criteria if you find it irrelevant or less relevant; or
- Replace with new criteria along with corresponding allocated weight

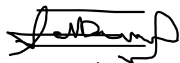
Summary of Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms		Score Weight	Points Obtainable
1	Quantity and technical expertise of the personnel to be assigned to review papers	100%	1000
TOTAL		100%	1000

Technical Proposal Evaluation (FORM I)		
Quantity and technical expertise of the personnel to be assigned to review papers		Points Obtainable
1.1	Mean average level of expertise in Macroeconomy, Public Finance, and development financing of staff to be assigned to review papers	333
1.2	Mean average level of experience in drafting or reviewing academic papers in African studies, development studies, economics or political science of staff assigned to review papers	333
1.3	Assignment of either: a) team members sufficiently proficient in English and team members sufficiently proficient in French to ensure that papers can be reviewed in both languages, or b) team members proficient in both English and French to ensure that papers can be reviewed in both languages.	334
SUB TOTAL		1000
Aggregate		1000

This TOR is approved by:

Name: El Hadji Fall

Designation: Strategic Advisor, SART, UNDP

Signature: 

Date Signed: 07/13/2022