**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANT**

**United Nations Statistics Division/DESA**

**Consultancy to prepare a review of user experience and potential demand for the UN Global Platform, in the context of the evolving landscape of data infrastructures**

The UN Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for official statistics agreed to construct the UN Global Platform (UNGP) in its Bogota Declaration of November 2017 (see <https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/documents/Bogota%20Declaration%20-%20final.pdf>).

UNGP is a collaborative research and development environment for the global statistical community. It offers technology infrastructure for data innovation and the ability to scale, connect, and work with many partners, including private sector, civil society and academia, both virtually and physically in a shared state-of-the-art technology and institutional environment for official statistics. Over the past 5 years, the GWG has produced methodological handbooks, algorithms, and training courses on compiling statistics and SDG indicators using satellite data, mobile phone data, scanner data or AIS vessel tracking data. GWG task teams have focused on projects requiring active data collaboration, which are more difficult and more costly to develop by each of the statistical institutes individually.

Access to UNGP can help especially national statistical offices (NSOs), which have otherwise no easy access to global data sets or to advanced technologies. Moreover, the expert network around UNGP can help NSOs from developing countries both in project development and in delivery of training. UNGP makes it possible to share data, services, methods and tools. The intention is that this will be useful for monitoring and analysis of global emerging issues, such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as reducing barriers to start new initiatives and enabling algorithm development and code sharing.

UNGP exists in an environment where many other public good data infrastructures, at national, regional and global level, are being tested and developed. This consultancy will develop proposals for the next stage of evolution of the UNGP, in the light of the needs of current and potential users and the evolving global data ecosystem.

**Objective**

The objective of this consultancy is to produce recommendations for the development of the next stage of the UNGP. In doing so, the consultant should conduct in-depth assessments of:

* The experience of current users of the platform, including the user experience, the extent to which the platform is supplying services that cannot be obtained from elsewhere, and any suggestions for improvement.
* The wider pool of potential users, and their experience of current barriers and gaps in the current ecosystems that could be filled by the UNGP, especially for statisticians and user groups in developing countries.
* The evolving landscape of data infrastructures in public and private sector, including models for data sharing, the development of common standards and frameworks, the economic landscape and market drivers.

The consultant will work closely with an informal advisory group drawn from different sectors to ensure input from multiple perspectives.

The output will be specific recommendations for the evolution of the UNGP, in the light of an assessment of the evolving landscape and market for data infrastructures.

**Work Assignment**

The consultant will undertake the following tasks with regards to the preparation of the evaluation and recommendations:

1. Review the reports and documents pertaining to the work of the various stakeholder communities of the platform;
2. Review and map the landscape of public good data infrastructures and initiatives, inside and outside the UN;
3. Interview the various stakeholder communities, including the Technical Delivery Board, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), current UNGP users, developers and others.
4. Work closely with an informal advisory group to test emerging conclusions and explore options.
5. Prepare a document with the evaluation of the needs and demands of the user community and the wider data ecosystem, and recommendations for the next phase of development of the UN Global Platform.

**Duration of Contract**

The consultant will work for a total period of 40 working days during the period from 15 August 2020 to 31 October 2020

**Duty Station or Location of Assignment**

The consultant is expected to work from home. Participation in regular video/call conferences will be required.

**Travel**

No travel is foreseen under this contract.

**Expected Outputs and Delivery Dates**

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| **Expected Outputs** | **Delivery dates** |
| Detailed workplan and list of interviewees | 1 week after contract begins |
| Interim conclusions for discussion by advisory group | 30 September 2020 |
| Final report | 31 October 2020 |

**Fee and Payment Schedule**

The consultant would be paid in two instalments:

1. $10,000 upon the satisfactory submission of interim report by 30 September 2020;
2. $10,000 upon the satisfactory submission of final report by 31 October 2020.

**Performance Indicators**

* Timeliness of submissions;
* Demonstrated expert knowledge of the subject area;
* Receptiveness/responsiveness to feedback from the Technical Delivery Board, GPSDD, the task teams and the Regional hubs;
* Quality of clear recommendations;

**Qualifications**

Education: An advanced degree (Master’s or equivalent) in information technology, statistics, agronomy, economics, environmental science or related field. A first-level university degree in these disciplines may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree if combined with a minimum of 10 years of qualifying experience in the relevant domain as mentioned in the work assignment of the consultancy.

Experience:

* A minimum of 10 years of professional experience in providing technical assistance to developing and/or least developed countries at a senior information technology and management level and usage of data across national statistical systems;
* Documented experience in information technology, management of integrated statistical systems.
* Expertise and experience with production of electronic reports, manuals, guidelines, papers and other documents.

**Supervisor/Project Manager**

The consultant would work under the supervision of

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