

Expression of Interest for the recruitment of International Consultants (Technical experts)

One Trade Africa (AfCFTA) International Trade Centre (ITC)

Title of the programme: One Trade Africa (AfCFTA)

Title of the consultant: International Consultant (Technical expert: Trade in goods and services with specialization in, gender mainstreaming, youth development, investment, digitalization, value chain development, access to finance, entrepreneurship, green and sustainable development, trade facilitation, Public Private Dialogue)

Start Date: 1 August 2021

End Date: 20 December 2021

Duty station: Home-based

Remuneration: offered as per academic background and the relevant experience

Application process

1. Create and fill your profile on ITC's consultant's roster: http://bit.ly/ITC_consultant_roster

*Only applicants that have completed their profile in the roster will be considered.

2. Send your letter of motivation and curriculum vitae to: chevalley@intracen.org

*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

3. Candidates are also invited to provide a written paper (max. 2 pages A4) which explains how the operationalization of the AfCFTA will be of benefit to the private sector. The paper can either be in English or French.

Background:

One Trade Africa is ITC's new flagship programme to support the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The AfCFTA is the most important achievement of the African Union since its creation. The objective of the AfCFTA is to create a single market of 1.3 billion consumers and to increase intra-African trade flows. The direct beneficiary of the Agreement is the African private sector and particularly microenterprises and MSMEs (mostly in the informal sector), women and youth entrepreneurs.

With its track record in supporting the regional integration process across the African continent, ITC is poised to bring a meaningful contribution to the implementation of this landmark Agreement. Based on requests received from Member states, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the AfCFTA Secretariat, ITC has designed the One Trade Africa programme which follows a programmatic approach by delivering a set of coordinated trade-related interventions to support the operationalization of the new single market.

The programme will thus be at the heart of ITC's work in Africa. It is a multidisciplinary initiative with four intermediate outcomes with each focusing on a specific target audience.

The outcomes are:

1. The competitiveness of MSMEs, women and youth entrepreneurs at national level enhanced;
2. The (sub) regional business ecosystem for more intra-African transactions improved;
3. MSMEs, women and youth in the continental trade agenda are prioritized;
4. African / Global public goods to foster the participation of the African business community in the new single market developed.

For the implementation of the One Trade Africa Programme, ITC wishes to build a pool of consultants based on the ground with expertise in trade in goods and services and with specialization in the following areas:

- Gender mainstreaming
- Youth development
- Investment
- Digitalization
- Value chain development (in relation with enterprise competitiveness)
- Access to finance
- Entrepreneurship
- Green and sustainable development
- Trade facilitation (particularly informal cross-border trade)
- Public Private Dialogue

Duties:

Under the direct supervision of the Senior AfCFTA Coordinator and the overall coordination of the Chief Office for Africa (Division of Country Programmes), the Consultants will fulfil the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Support the implementation of the One Trade Africa workplans for the Northern, Southern, Central, Eastern and Western Africa sub-regions.
2. Liaise with programme stakeholders and partners on the ground to ensure the alignment of the implementation process of the One Trade Africa Programme with national and regional AfCFTA strategies.
3. Develop AfCFTA reports, publications and sensitization materials to support and inform Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Government Institutions, Business Support Organizations, civil society platforms, academics and other key stakeholders with up-to-date market intelligence.
4. Deliver training workshops (webinars), seminars, conferences as trainers and represent ITC at various fora on the AfCFTA as resource persons.

5. Ready to work directly with ITC's relevant technical sections to complement their existing offering in line with the priorities of the One Trade Africa Programme (OTA)

Key Work Outputs and Expectations:

- Support the coordination of the implementation of the OTA's work plans
- Spearhead and support programme partnerships and stakeholder engagement on the ground
- Carry out needs assessment missions
- Deliver technical contributions (through workshops, seminars, training sessions), write articles, review and enrich reports, compile presentations and share contributions
- Support OTA communication and awareness raising initiatives

Audit

The selected candidates are obliged to provide full access to ITC external and internal auditors to documents and information related to this assignment. In addition, the consultants shall comply with any audit undertaken in line with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations. The consultants will also be expected to provide relevant information to future evaluators of the One Trade Africa programme.

Copyright clause

The consultants must ensure that s/he has obtained the necessary permissions with regard to intellectual property rights required to perform his/her services under this consultancy contract and for the subsequent dissemination by ITC in any form. Documentary proof is to be submitted to ITC. Should any license fee be due for the use of copyrighted materials of third parties, the consultants shall request the prior written permission from ITC.

Qualifications, competencies and experience required:

Education: Master's degree in business administration, international business, policy studies, international relations, law or related disciplines

Competencies: Integrity, pragmatism, teamwork, excellent writing skills

Experience:

1. Track record working on the regional integration process in Africa particularly in the context of the AfCFTA
2. Good understanding of the implications of the AfCFTA for the private sector particularly MSMEs, women and youth
3. Ability to develop and propose concrete solutions to operationalize the AfCFTA for the benefit of the African business community
4. Ability to sensitize and to engage the private sector on opportunities to be offered from the new single market
5. Ability to keep up to date on the AfCFTA negotiations and on developments around the operationalization of the agreement
6. Ability to develop content and conduct training sessions on technical subjects covered by the AfCFTA (e.g., rules of origins, dispute settlement, cross-border trade, competition policy, investment, e-commerce, services exports, women and youth empowerment)
7. Familiarity with identifying proposed and developing relevant relationships with government and private sector stakeholders at both regional and national levels.

Language: Good knowledge of English and French (written, spoken and reading), Portuguese or Arabic is an added advantage.

Remuneration

Fees are subject to the national income taxes, where applicable. If the contract is to be issued in a currency other than USD, the UN exchange rate on the date of the contract issuance will be applicable.