

CONSULTANT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Issued on: 29 July 2014

ORGANIZATIONAL LOCATION:	UN-HABITAT
DUTY STATION:	HOME BASED
FUNCTIONAL TITLE:	Consultant on National Urban Policies in Arab States
DURATION:	30 days of work within 3 months
CLOSING DATE:	15 August 2014

BACKGROUND

The main objective of this consultancy is to identify and analyze existing National Urban Policies (NUP) or other systemic frameworks affecting urbanization and urban development in the Arab States, mainly to establish the key trends and influences that shape the processes of formulation, implementation, and evaluation of NUP and urban policy frameworks in the Arab states, taking into account the political, socio-economic and ideological conditions in each case-study country. The findings will eventually inform the foundation of general policy guidance for member states towards the formulation of NUP in their countries.

National Urban Policies

There is growing recognition by national governments that National Urban Policies (NUP) are essential for urban sustainable development. An example of countries that have recently formulated or are formulating national urban policies include Australia, Samoa, Ghana, Uganda, Chile, Germany, Zambia, Rwanda etc. Over time, a majority of countries have also developed a plethora of urban policies to respond to urban challenges.

UN-Habitat is promoting the development of National Urban Policies as a key endeavour to reassert urban space and territoriality and to provide the needed direction and course of action to support sustainable urban development. A National Urban Policy provides an overarching coordinating framework to address the most pressing issues related to rapid urban development, including slum prevention and regularization, access to land, basic services and infrastructure.

Approved at the highest level, a National Urban Policy should provide a reference for all actors in urban governance to foster sustainable urban development through more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected, and climate resilient cities. Furthermore, in addition to being the key reference for regulatory institutional reform, the National Urban Policy is also a good instrument to increase awareness from both public and political spheres of the gains earned from sustainable urban development.

Through the development of a National Urban Policy the following results are expected: (a) the identification of urban development priorities towards socially and economically equitable and environmentally friendly urban and territorial development; (b) guidance on the future development of the national urban system and its spatial configuration concretized through National and Regional Spatial Plans for Territorial Development; (c) better coordination and guidance of actions by national actors, as well as all levels of government in all sectors; (d) increased and more coordinated private and public investments in urban development and consequent improvement of cities productivity, inclusiveness and environmental conditions, subnational and local governments, financial flows, urban planning regulations, urban mobility and urban energy requirements, as well as job creation.

The strategic focus on National Urban Policies (“NUP”) is underpinned by, amongst others, the following:

- (a) The commitment made in the Rio +20 Outcome document, in particular, paragraphs 134 and 135, recognizing “the need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements that provides for affordable housing and infrastructure and prioritizes slum upgrading and urban regeneration and committing... to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements”.
- (b) The UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 24/5 of 19 April 2013, which mandates UN-Habitat to promote sustainable development through national urban policies as a key strategy for national socio-economic development, environmental sustainability, maximizing the national and local benefits of urbanization, while mitigating potential adverse externalities, and as a coordination mechanism amongst different sectors and line ministries. The mandate, inter alia, is to assist member states when developing, implementing and tracking progress of their urban policies and in mobilizing adequate resources to achieve sustainable urban development through the implementation of national urban policies and planned city extensions.
- (c) The 4th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (“AMCHUD”), held in Nairobi in March 2012, which paved the way to a new reflection on the development of transformative National Urban Policies in Africa aiming at supporting “more creative, productive and inclusive urban development”;
- (d) Also, UN-Habitat’s Strategic Plan 2014-19, Sub-programme 2 on urban planning and design, sets the following as its strategic result: “to improve policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change, at the city, regional and national levels.” In order to achieve that it proposes “improved national urban policies and spatial frameworks for systems of compact, socially inclusive, integrated and connected cities adopted by partner metropolitan, regional and national authorities” to be achieved through “appropriate guidelines, platforms, advisory services, capacity development and field projects on regional and metropolitan planning.”

To further promote development of urban policies conducive to sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat endeavours to take global stock of the past and current policies. Regional assessments have been undertaken to inform the global perspectives and trends. This project, in particular, constitutes some of the complementary work to address sustainable urban development through the development and implementation of National Urban Policies worldwide, but with particular attention to less urbanized countries, including Arab States. The regional stocktaking will contribute to the global state of urban policies.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The consultant shall produce a regional NUP assessment report that describes and analyses, for a selection of countries, the following:

- i. Background conditions and evolution of the policy over time,
- ii. Current policy; vision, mission, goals and objectives;
- iii. Methods of implementation, including policy instruments, resources committed and institutional arrangements, monitoring mechanisms
- iv. The nature and extent of stakeholder involvement,
- v. The approach of policy development (bottom-up or top-down approach)
- vi. Evidence of policy impact and effectiveness,
- vii. Overall assessment of the policy's strengths and weaknesses,
- viii. Its relationship to any national spatial framework or equivalent policies

The consultant shall undertake at least five in-depth case studies (countries), based on at least a representative Arab States and may include Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Turkey, Yemen, Palestine Territories, Egypt, Algeria, Bahrain, Morocco, Kuwait, Jordan etc. There shall be an effort to demonstrate geographical diversity in the selection of cases, chosen in consultation with UN-Habitat.

The case study analysis shall also consider four cross-cutting variables, and through the consideration of the policy background, policy process, and policy integration, evaluate if and to what extent the policy promotes more compact, better integrated and connected, socially inclusive and climate-resilient cities. A framework has been developed to assess if a national urban policy satisfactorily meets these qualifiers.

The report shall provide conclusions and recommendations, along with final observations regarding the policies that have been the most effective in promoting sustainable urban development in the studied countries and what gaps and shortcomings may be evident in the trends and influences identified through case study analysis. Emphasis should be on a synthesis of findings, lessons learnt, and use of other resource documents to draft the background paper to support UN-Habitat NUP framework, with a view to shaping the agency's approach to National Urban Policies, in particular in the Arab States.

The consultant will use a range of methods including desk study, survey and interviews with knowledgeable informants in each country. The consultant will be provided with background documents including guidance note on undertaking case study and national urban policy frameworks and relevant UN-Habitat documents.

The consultant will do his/her best to obtain as much relevant information as possible in the time available. He/She will source and review relevant documents, including legislation, government guidelines, policy reports and academic papers, making contact with urban experts who may have additional knowledge on the urban policy situation in each country, such as the UN-Habitat country officers.

Results/outputs expected

The Outputs of this consultancy will include:

1. An inception report, including a draft methodology/framework of analysis and draft list of countries (based also on the available data), a commented and annotated outline and a list of existing information for the document on Arab States NUP
2. Draft and Final Report on Arab States NUP which shall be presented through a Skype conference before final submission to UN-Habitat; the submission shall also include the background paper on UN-Habitat's NUP.
3. Database with a compilation of electronic copies of relevant policies and documents

COMPETENCIES

- **Professionalism:** Knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts and approaches relevant to National Urban Policies. Ability to conduct data collection using various methods. Conceptual analytical and evaluative skills to conduct independent research and analysis, including familiarity with and experience in the use of various research sources, including electronic sources on the internet, intranet and other databases. Ability to creatively package results of data collection, research and analysis to convey key messages. Ability to apply judgment in the context of assignments given, plan own work and manage conflicting priorities. Shows pride in work and in achievements; Demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; Is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; Is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; Shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; Remains calm in stressful situations.
- **Teamwork:** Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; Solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; Is willing to learn from others; Places team agenda before personal agenda; Supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; Shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings.
- **Planning & Organizing:** Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; Identifies priority activities and assignments; Adjusts priorities as required; Allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; Foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; Monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; Uses time efficiently.
- **Client Orientation:** Considers all those to whom services are provided to be "clients" and seeks to see things from clients' point of view; Establishes and maintains productive partnerships with clients by gaining their trust and respect; Identifies clients' needs and matches them to appropriate solutions; Monitors ongoing developments inside and outside the clients' environment to keep informed and anticipate problems; Keeps clients informed of progress or setbacks in projects; Meets timeline for delivery of products or services to client.

- **Communication:** Speaks and writes clearly and effectively. Listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately. Asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication. Tailors language, tone, style and format to match the audience. Demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed.

EDUCATION

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in Urban/Regional Planning, Geography, Economics, Sociology, Architecture, Political Science or related field that is relevant for urban policy analysis. A first-level university degree in combination with qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

WORK EXPERIENCE

A minimum of seven years of experience in urban planning or sustainable urban development including policy analysis, of which at least three at the international level with substantial recent work experience in developing countries, a significant part of which should be directly related to different aspects of urban planning such as settlements infrastructure, community development, urban geography, strategic planning or land management. Experience in activities of the United Nations, both in field projects and policy dialogues with member states of developing countries are desirable. Experience in Policy analysis, especially in NUP in the region is an asset.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For this consultancy, fluency in oral and written English and ability to comprehend documents in French/Arabic and other languages in the region are an asset. Although not a requirement, knowledge of a complementary UN official language will be an advantage.

OTHER SKILLS

- Good Research Skills
- Excellent analytical and writing skills
- Proficient use of the Microsoft packages

REMUNERATION

Payments will be based on deliverables over the consultancy period. There are set remuneration rates for consultancies. The rate is determined by functions performed and experience of the consultant. The fees will be paid as per agreement.

Applications should include:

- Cover memo or motivation letter (maximum 1 page)
- Technical proposal of about 5 pages explaining how the assignment would be undertaken.
- Summary CV (maximum 5-10 pages), indicating the following information:
 1. Educational Background (incl. dates)
 2. Professional Experience (assignments, tasks, achievements, duration by years/ months)
 3. Other Experience and Expertise (e.g. Internships/ voluntary work, etc.)
 4. Expertise and preferences regarding location of potential assignments
 5. Expectations regarding remuneration
- UN Personal History Form (please use the United Nations standard personal history form available upon request or via:
<http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=24&catid=435&id=3867>)
- Evidence of relevant work in policy analysis (at least two)

Please be advised that since April 15th 2010, applicants for consultancies must be part of the UN-HABITAT e-Roster in order for their application to be considered. You can reach the e-Roster through the following link: <http://e-roster.unhabitat.org>

All applications should be submitted to:

Ms. Caroline Murihia

UN-Habitat

P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Email: Caroline.Murihia@unhabitat.org and cc: themba.phakathi@unhabitat.org

UN-Habitat does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process. If you have any questions concerning persons or companies claiming to be recruiting on behalf of these offices and requesting the payment of a fee, please contact: recruitment@unon.org