

Posting Title : One (1) Consultant to Support and Undertake the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

Department/ Office : United Nations Environment Programme

Location : Home based

Posting Period : 12 March 2020 - 25 March 2020

Job Opening number : 20-United Nations Environment Programme-133352-Consultant

United Nations Core Values: Integrity, Professionalism, Respect for Diversity

Duties And Responsibilities

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. UNEP's Ecosystems Division works with international and national partners, providing technical assistance and advisory services for the implementation of environmental law and policy, and strengthening the environmental management capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The consultancy assignment is for the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Athens, Greece.

Organizational Unit: Coordinating Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) – Barcelona Convention Secretariat

Background: Mid-Term Evaluations of two key strategic and policy documents of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system that are aligned with global processes

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 was adopted through Decision IG.22/2 by the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. The Strategy provides an integrative policy framework for securing a sustainable future for the Mediterranean region consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP Action Plan) was also adopted at COP 19 (Decision IG.22/5), as a forward-looking framework, to complement and work in full synergy with existing national and regional policy frameworks, and to support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The SCP Action Plan is an integral part of the MSSD Objective 5 "Transition

towards a Green and Blue Economy", which identifies the promotion of and support to green businesses as key in the transition towards a more circular economy.

In terms of follow-up, a Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard consisting of a living list of indicators was established by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to ensure the monitoring of the MSSD implementation. In 2018-2019, under the guidance of the MCSD Steering Committee, Plan Bleu finalized the update of this dashboard, with a revised list of 28 indicators – most of which corresponding or being linked to SDG indicators or SEIS II/Horizon 2020 indicators. In addition, a list of 25 SCP indicators, developed by SCP/RAC in cooperation with Plan Bleu, to monitor the progress of the implementation of SCP in the Mediterranean region was welcomed and taken note by COP 20.

At COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), through Decision IG.24/3, the Contracting Parties welcomed the work done, took note of the updated list of indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, and requested the Secretariat to populate the indicators. They recognized the living nature of this list of indicators and the need to keep it under review under. They also requested the integration of the list of SCP indicators in the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard.

The MSSD Regional Action 7.2.4 recommends to "Undertake a participatory mid-term evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 based on the first 5 years of data regarding its implementation, using indicators associated with the actions, as well as the proposed dashboard of Sustainability Indicators". In addition, Decision IG.22/05 on the SCP Action Plan requested the MAP Coordinating Unit in coordination with SCP/RAC to undertake in 2020 an indicator-based mid-term evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan.

During the 2020-2021, one of the key milestones for the MAP system will be the preparation of the UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027. This important process must benefit from the MSSD and SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluations. The MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations will inform the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027, the three processes being expected to go in parallel following a transversal approach based on common methods/tools.

The 18th Meeting of the MCSD (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019) recommended to the Secretariat to define a crosscutting approach, taking advantage of common methodologies and tools, joint events/workshops, to address in parallel the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027 and the mid-term evaluations of the MSSD and of the SCP Action Plan . The MCSD considered that the participatory MSSD mid-term evaluation is a good opportunity to enhance the strategy implementation and make it more efficient by focusing on gaps and challenges during its second phase.

COP 21 approved the "Roadmap of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)" and the "Roadmap of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)", as set out in Annexes II and III of Decision IG.24/3, and requested the Secretariat to undertake those evaluations in 2020-2021 for submission of the results to COP 22.

The mid-term evaluations provide an opportunity to make the MSSD and SCP Action Plan implementation, at their respective second phase, more efficient and focusing on gaps, shortcomings and opportunities.

As indicated above, the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit requires the services of a regional consultant to support and undertake the MSSD mid-term evaluation, taking into account the complementarity between the three processes, i.e. MTS, MSSD, and SCP Regional Action Plan. The mid-term evaluations of the MSSD and SCP Action Plan should be conducted in parallel and inform both the evaluation of the MTS 2016-2021 and the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027, with a strong coordination along the way.

Requirement for consultancy: In line with Decision IG.24/3 and the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 (Decision IG.24/14), the overall objective of this consultancy, is to assist the Secretariat in the following tasks:

- Prepare and support the launch of the MSSD mid-term evaluation process;
- Conduct the participatory MSSD mid-term evaluation under the guidance of the MCSD Steering Committee and in close co-operation with the Secretariat;
- Finalize the participatory MSSD mid-term evaluation towards submission of results for approval by relevant MAP bodies.

Legislative authority reference:

- Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 Regional Action 7.2.4.
- Decision IG.24/3: Implementation, Monitoring and Mid-Term Evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (Annex II in particular).
- UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 (Decision IG.23/14) – Activity 1.1.2.5.

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of the Programme Management Officer in charge of Socio-Economic Affairs, in close cooperation with Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC, with the overall guidance of the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator.

Work Location

Home based

Expected Duration

The contract will be for a period of 3 months spread over 18 months in 2020-2021, starting from the date of last signature.

Result Of Service

The ultimate result of services is that the MCSD and its Steering Committee, as well as the Secretariat and Contracting Parties are informed with key findings of the status of the MSSD

implementation, including achievements and lessons learned, plus recommendations to focus on identified gaps in the remaining period (2021-2025) and on possible directions for future related development within the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system.

Qualifications/Special Skills

Competency: Demonstrated firm understanding, if not actual work experience in, the UNEP/MAP–Barcelona Convention system is desirable

Academic Qualifications: Advanced university degree, Master's degree or equivalent in socioeconomics or policy sciences, environmental sciences, sustainable development, international relations, engineering or in a related field from a reputable university is required

Experience: At least 7 years' experience in governance and support to international/regional policymaking, preferably in the Mediterranean, are required. Proven experience on sustainable development related work especially on policy and strategy development and/or evaluation, including knowledge of the sustainable development agenda at the global and regional/Mediterranean level is required

Language: Good communication skills: very good command of both written and spoken English is required (knowledge of French and/or Arabic is an asset).

United Nations Considerations

The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs. (Charter of the United Nations - Chapter 3, article 8). The United Nations Secretariat is a non-smoking environment.

As per UN policy, Consultants and Individual Contractors may not apply for or be appointed to any position in the Professional or above categories and for positions at the FS-6 and FS-7 levels in the Field Service category within six months of the end of their current or most recent service. This restriction does not apply to associate experts (Junior Professional Officers) appointed under the Staff Rules.

No Fee

THE UNITED NATIONS DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE AT ANY STAGE OF THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS (APPLICATION, INTERVIEW MEETING, PROCESSING, OR TRAINING). THE UNITED NATIONS DOES NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH INFORMATION ON APPLICANTS' BANK ACCOUNTS.