



United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

This notice is placed by UNECA. The accuracy, reliability and completeness of the contents of furnished information is the responsibility of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). You are therefore requested to direct all queries regarding this EOI to United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) using the fax number or e-mail address provided below.

Title of the EOI:

Provision of subscription for access to statistical databases and knowledge products for 3 years

Date of this EOI: 23 July 2021**Closing Date for Receipt of EOI:** 8 August 2021**EOI Number:** EOIUNECA18733**Beneficiary Country/Territory:** Ethiopia**Commodity/Service category:** Professional Services**Address EOI response by fax or e-mail to the Attention of:** Getachew Sahle; Ali Assaad**Fax Number:** N/A**E-mail Address:** mengistu5@un.org; assaad@un.org**UNSPSC Code:** 81112000,80000000**DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS**

High debt-to-GDP levels, high fiscal deficits, high costs of borrowing, and depreciation of many African currencies against the euro and the dollar have been the main challenges facing African countries even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Most African governments have taken steps over the past few years to strengthen their debt management strategies and procedures. However, these have not been very effective as debt levels remain relatively high in most African countries. Before the COVID-19 outbreak, already 22 African countries recorded debt-to-GDP ratio of above the continental average of 61 per cent whilst 18 countries are either in debt distress or at high risk of it. Indeed, evidence abound that, the structure of the portfolio of the African debt has changed, with the external foreign-currency debt accounting for about 60 per cent of total debt.

High debt levels, coupled with the health and economic effects of COVID-19 are posing a formidable challenge for most African countries, raising doubts about the sustainability of debt dynamics in most African countries in the short- to medium-term. COVID-19 is further weakening an already fragile macroeconomic outlook, where debt accumulation has outpaced the growth of income, even before the crisis. With the prevailing consequential health and economic effects of COVID-19, the continent's is experiencing an



unanticipated increase in government spending with very limited fiscal space and domestic revenue. Borrowing appears to come in handy for countries hence increasing the already high debts further hampering Africa's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Falling oil and commodity prices and a decline in global demand have led to a decline in export revenues hence experiencing severe contractions in foreign exchange flows which exacerbate balance of payments pressures and debt distress, raising the likelihood of sovereign defaults.

It is for this reason that United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) made an urgent call to mobilize an initial \$100 billion for economic stabilisation in Africa from the international community, and a debt-servicing freeze window for 2 to 3 years to provide fiscal space for the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak. Efforts to stabilize the macroeconomy through infusion of new capital is timely. However, this will have long-term effects due to the accumulation of public debt post COVID-19.

These developments call for robust and coordinated immediate responses guided by evidence-based-and-driven research that leverages on multilateral cooperation to address and mitigate these challenges. Befitting to its think-tank role, the current situation provides immense opportunities for ECA to provide thought leadership, looking beyond the current emergency phase, to rethink traditional development models that could enhance the continent's recovery. As the continent embarks on its recovery efforts, it is imperative for ECA to seize this opportunity and put forward an alternative vision that could break the vicious cycle of indebtedness and aid dependence and increase access to debt markets at relatively lower borrowing costs.

To fulfill this mandate the ECA needs to have access to and utilize comprehensive analytical knowledge products and the associated real time or most recent datasets pertaining to countries' performance in Africa and beyond.

It is in this regard that the ECA seeks the services of an institution or a company to provide the necessary data and knowledge products that could help ECA in its economic growth, fiscal and monetary policy management support to African countries as they respond and recover from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, including, but not limited to the envisaged economic vulnerabilities as a result of high debt risk or debt distress and high fiscal deficits.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS / INFORMATION (IF ANY)

1. Terms of References for the entire contract period will be provided in the solicitation document.
2. Proposers must provide Secure and reliable links for data and knowledge products download.
3. Proposers should have prior experience of providing similar services to international organisations

NOTE

Information on tendering for the UN Procurement System is **available free of charge** at the following



address: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice>

Only the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) has been authorised to collect a nominal fee from vendors that wish to receive automatically Procurement Notices or Requests for Expression Of Interest. Vendors interested in this Tender Alert Service are invited to subscribe on <http://www.ungm.org>

Vendors interested in participating in the planned solicitation process should submit the Vendor Response Form of this EOI electronically (through the link available on the next page) before the closing date set forth above.



VENDOR RESPONSE

NOTICE

- Companies can only participate in solicitations of the UN Secretariat after completing their registration (free of charge) at the United Nations Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org).
- As you express interest in the planned solicitation by submitting this response form, please verify that your company is registered under its **full legal** name on the United Nations Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org) and that your application has been submitted to the **UN Secretariat**.
- While companies can participate in solicitations after completion of registration at Basic Level, we strongly recommend all companies to register at least at **Level 1** under the United Nations Secretariat prior to participating in any solicitations.

PLEASE NOTE: You should express your interest to this EOI electronically at:
<https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/node/add/interest-expressed?EOI=EOIUNECA18733>

In case you have difficulties submitting your interest electronically, please contact mengistu5@un.org; assaad@un.org directly for instructions.



EOI INSTRUCTIONS

1) Registering as a Vendor with the United Nations

Vendors interested in fulfilling the requirement described above must be registered at the UN Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org) with the UN Secretariat in order to be eligible to participate in any solicitation. Information on the registration process can be found at <https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/vendors>.

Prerequisites for Eligibility

In order to be eligible for UN registration, you must declare that:

- A. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary or affiliate companies) is not listed in, or associated with a company or individual listed in:
 - I. the Compendium of United Nations Security Council Sanctions Lists (<https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/un-sc-consolidated-list>), or
 - II. the IIC Oil for Food List website or, if listed on either, this has been disclosed to the United Nations Procurement Division in writing.
- B. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary or affiliate companies) is not currently removed or suspended by the United Nations or any other UN organisation (including the World Bank);
- C. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary or affiliate companies) is not under formal investigation, nor have been sanctioned within the preceding three (3) years, by any national authority of a United Nations Member State for engaging or having engaged in proscribed practices, including but not limited to: corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion, obstruction, or any other unethical practice;
- D. Your company has not declared bankruptcy, are not involved in bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, and there is no judgment or pending legal action against your company that could impair your company's operations in the foreseeable future;
- E. Your company does not employ, or anticipate employing, any person(s) who is, or has been a UN staff member within the last year, if said UN staff member has or had prior professional dealings with the Vendor in his/her capacity as UN staff member within the last three years of service with the UN (in accordance with UN post-employment restrictions published in ST/SGB/2006/15).
- F. Your company undertakes not to engage in proscribed practices (including but not limited to: corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion, obstruction, or any other unethical practice), with the UN or any other party, and to conduct business in a manner that averts any financial, operational, reputational or other undue risk to the UN.

For Registered Vendors: Vendors already registered at the UN Global Marketplace with the UN Secretariat must ensure that the information and documentation (e.g. financial statements, address, contact name, etc.) provided in connection with their registration are up to date in UNGM. Please verify and ensure that your company is registered under its full legal name.

For Vendors Interested in Registration: Vendors not yet registered should apply for registration on the United Nations Global Marketplace (<http://www.ungm.org>); information on the registration process can be found at <https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/vendors>. Vendors must complete the registration process prior to the closing date of the REOI. Vendors who have not completed the UNGM registration process with the UN Secretariat before the closing date of the REOI are not considered eligible to participate in solicitations of the UN Secretariat. We strongly recommend all companies to register at least at Level 1 under the UN Secretariat prior to participating in any solicitations.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Any false, incomplete or defective vendor registration may result in the rejection of the application or cancellation of an already existing registration.

2) EOI Process

Vendors interested in participating in the planned solicitation process should forward their expression of interest (EOI) to United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) (UNECA) by the closing date set forth in this EOI. *Due to the high volume of communications UNECA is not in a position to issue confirmation of receipt of EOIs.*

Please note that no further details of the planned solicitation can be made available to the vendors prior to issuance of the solicitation documents.

This EOI is issued subject to the conditions contained in the EOI introductory page available at <https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/eoi>.

