

**Terms of Reference for National Consultant**  
**ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND POLICY DIVISION**  
**United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

**Background**

The UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP) examines the development progress of the graduating and graduated countries and report to ECOSOC in case it finds any signs of regression of those countries with a risk to fall back to the LDC category. The importance of monitoring will acquire new magnitude as 16 countries are currently progressing towards graduation. These graduating countries are characterized by, among others, macroeconomic imbalances, geographical handicaps, fragility and conflicts, and climate emergency. The developmental circumstances of these countries may also come under pressure due to the loss of international support measures, particularly in the area of trade and finance. The current COVID-19 pandemic is also going to have far-reaching detrimental impact on these countries, putting their achievements at risk.

To assist graduating and graduated countries to build resilience, the Economic Analysis and Policy Division (EAPD) aims to explore a process to establish a crisis response mechanism that can be used by the CDP in situations when graduating or graduated countries are subject to a variety of crises and emergencies that can undermine their economic and social development efforts. EAPD will develop country-specific the crisis response process in which particular crisis indicators to monitor constantly and to establish thresholds that may trigger specific types of actions and support in the case of a severe economic, environmental, or health crisis caused by exogenous shocks that affect a graduating or graduated country.

Building crisis response process within the monitoring mechanism will contribute to preparing and implementing national development strategies of LDCs, particularly the component on smooth transition strategies. As CDP recommended in its annual report to ECOSOC, it is critically important to integrate the smooth transition strategy with their own national development plans.

The activities of the present project are a response to the mandate by the ECOSOC resolution on CDP report in 2021 (E/RES/2021/11), paragraph 2, “[ECOSOC] Notes the work carried out by the Committee on... (e) an enhanced monitoring and mechanism and graduation process...”, and paragraph 6, “[ECOSOC] Notes that the Committee will pay special attention to the impacts of the pandemic on achieving Agenda 2030 when monitoring graduating and recently graduated countries in the coming years, and in this context calls upon Member States and relevant UN entities to support the Committee’s efforts to enhance the existing monitoring mechanism;

Particularly, the main activities of the consultancy are: 1) to identify country-specific crisis monitoring indicators and thresholds that may trigger specific types of actions and support in the case of a severe economic, environmental, or health crisis caused by exogenous shocks that affect graduating or graduated countries; 2) to provide the data to a consolidated database of DESA which can alert the CDP Secretariat and CDP country rapporteurs in case certain indicators passes the thresholds; 3) to train Government officials on updating the data for the crisis monitoring indicators and thresholds.

## **Work Assignment**

The specific responsibilities/tasks are to:

1. Produce and submit an inception report with less than 600 words, describing the methodology and processes to be used in undertaking the work and a detailed work plan. EAPD will provide necessary background information including relevant CDP reports, outcome of the consultation with Government and other stakeholders, if any;
2. Produce a report with less than 8,000 words which includes the following:
  - a. Review the economic structure, health sector situation, and geographical characteristics to identify particular vulnerabilities of the country;
  - b. Review of any existing national indicators or systems in place to monitor crises and emergencies;
  - c. Prepare a list of possible high-frequency indicators as the crisis monitoring indicators and select about 10, as priority indicators covering 3 categories – macroeconomics, natural disasters, health and other emergencies. At least one indicator should be suggested for each of the 3 categories. The indicators should be able to provide early warnings of a crisis. For instance, international oil prices for oil-exporting countries, natural disasters indicators for small island countries, number of new confirmed cases of communicable diseases for countries with poor health system. Other possible indicators include export earnings, remittances inflows, real or near-term indicators on economic production, external debt and so on. If the indicator requires a constant series of data (i.e., the total manufacturing export value), the data need to be available either daily, weekly or monthly and with minimal delay. If the indicator requires ad hoc data of a critical event (i.e., total number of people affected by a category 5 hurricane), the data need to be available within 2 weeks of the critical event. Review the availability, frequency and timeliness of national and international sources for the selected indicators.
  - d. Based on the selected crisis monitoring indicators, review the crises and emergencies in the historical data;
  - e. Based on the indicators and historical occurrences, identify a threshold for each of the selected crisis monitoring indicators. The threshold will be used to alert CDP to conduct a full evaluation of the crisis situation of the country.
3. Provide the data for the selected crisis monitoring indicators, starting from 2000 to the latest day/week/month available, to be consolidated in the DESA monitoring database.
4. Present the result to the Government focal point on LDC graduation, and train agencies responsible for data/monitoring with respect to each indicator how to update the data and to monitor the indicators and thresholds.

## **Contract Duration**

The national consultant will be engaged from 20 July to 30 September 2021.

## **Duty Station**

The national consultant will work remotely for most of the contract and remain available for regular supervisory and review teleconferences.

## **Travel**

No travel is expected.

## **Expected Outputs and Delivery Dates**

The national consultant shall work along the following deadlines:

1. Submit the inception report describing the methodology by 31 July 2021.
2. Submit a draft report and data by 31 August 2021.
3. Incorporate comments by DESA and submit the final report and data by 15 September 2021.
4. Conduct a training and consultation (one-to-one or a workshop, virtual or in-person) for Government officials by 30 September 2021.

## **Performance Indicators**

1. Successful and timely submission of deliverables as specified in the work plan.
2. Report that has adequate information for enhanced monitoring mechanism of the CDP.
3. Capacity building and presentation of the report and guide at the training and consultation.

## **Competencies and Qualifications**

The national consultant shall have the following competencies and qualifications:

1. At least 5 years' experience in development policy analysis;
2. Have demonstrated technical/scientific expertise relating to public policy;
3. Excellent policy analytical, technical, managerial and drafting skills;
4. Have a university degree in economics, social, environmental studies, natural sciences, development studies, or any related discipline;
5. Ability to prepare and present reports in English;

## **Supervision**

The national consultant will work under the direct supervision of Mr. Namsuk Kim, Projects Coordinator, EAPD.

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