

Terms of Reference

Posting Title:	Technical Assistance Consultant/Fisheries Expert (Project of Assistance to Strengthen Participation in and Implementation of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA POA))
Department/Office:	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (the Division)
Duty Station :	Home based (remote work, some field work may be necessary)
Type of Contract :	Consultancy
Post Level :	Consultant, Level B
Languages Required :	English
Starting Date : (date when the selected candidate is expected to start)	15 May 2024
Duration:	60 days over 5 months
Contract sum:	\$21,000 USD

Background

The Project of Assistance to Strengthen Participation in and Implementation of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA POA) is a project funded by the European Union through a contribution made to the Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which is administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Project is implemented by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), in cooperation with the FAO. The UNFSA POA aims to contribute to improving the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, in accordance with the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), through a series of activities over a three-year period. The UNFSA POA seeks to address critical capacity barriers and raise awareness at the regional and national levels for the participation in and implementation of the Agreement, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, in accordance with the Agreement. The Project also aims to provide demand-driven technical assistance to strengthen capacity of developing States Parties to implement UNFSA through bilateral assistance, which may include needs assessment, legal and policy framework review, and policy recommendations.

Work Location

Home-based, some field work may be necessary.

Expected duration

The duration of the contract will be approximately 60 days over 5 months

Scope of work and deliverables

Under the overall supervision of the Head of the Capacity-building and Trust Funds Unit of the Division, and under the day-to-day supervision of the DOALOS Project focal point, and in cooperation with the Focal Point for Maldives, the Consultant is expected to:

- Develop a project implementation plan.
- Conduct a needs assessment and gap-analysis of Maldives' capacity and the level of understanding among government staff in relevant agencies regarding the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), UNFSA, and other related legal instruments for the sustainable management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. Travel may be required for stakeholder consultations.

The needs assessment will be conducted through the gathering of both quantitative and qualitative data, including questions covering various aspects of UNCLOS, UNFSA and related instruments, such as:

- Understanding of the key provisions and principles outlined in UNCLOS and UNFSA regarding the sustainable management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks;
 - Understanding of the implications of UNCLOS and UNFSA on maritime boundaries, jurisdiction, rights and responsibilities of coastal States, and conservation and management of marine resources;
 - Awareness of international dispute settlement mechanisms and procedures outlined in UNCLOS and UNFSA with regard to management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks;
 - Awareness of regional and international cooperation frameworks related to fisheries management and marine conservation, including relevant obligations under regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements relevant to the implementation of UNFSA;
 - Awareness of monitoring, control and surveillance, and enforcement mechanisms in UNCLOS and UNFSA through regional fisheries management organisations. and
 - Awareness of the relevance of UNCLOS, UNFSA, and other implementing agreements in addressing challenges in the context of Maldives.
- Prepare a targeted inventory of recommended capacity development interventions addressing the gaps identified in the assessment.
 - The consultant will also prepare monthly progress reports that will be shared with the Division and the Government Focal Point.

Travel expenses for fieldwork are to be paid from the contract sum. Initial payment of 20% is payable upon approval of the project implementation plan (phase 1). Remaining payment is due upon completion of phase 2 (first draft of needs assessment reviewed by the Division, 30%), and phase 3 (final drafts of all outputs reviewed by the Division and satisfactorily accepted by the Government, 50%).

Education

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in international law, law of the sea, sustainable development, environment/ocean-based science, fisheries management,

marine economy-related development or a related field. A first-level university degree in combination with additional relevant work experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Work Experience

A minimum of eight years of progressively responsible experience in fisheries law and policy, or a related field, in the South Asian or Indian Ocean context is required.

Experience in ocean affairs or related fields is required.

Experience in international fisheries law is required.

Experience in preparing analytical reports, legal research and organizing multi-stakeholder meetings is required.

Experience in ocean affairs and fisheries in Maldives is highly desirable.

Experience conducting needs assessments or gap-analysis in relation to governmental capacity is highly desirable.

Previous work experience in the UN system is highly desirable.

Experience working with regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements is highly desirable.

Languages

For this position, fluency in English with excellent drafting skills is required. Fluency in Dhivehi would be an asset.

TO APPLY TO THIS CONSULTANCY:

- 1) Complete the application form available at the following link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/89ph370Pyi>
- 2) After completing the form, please send a CV and cover letter to
amber.maggio@un.org (with a copy to doalos@un.org) with the email subject line
“Technical Assistance Consultant/Fisheries Expert: Maldives (UNFSA POA)”

The documents should be named as follows:

surname of candidate_CV

surname of candidate_cover_letter

Only applications that follow both stages of the application process will be considered.

EXTENDED DEADLINE - Closing date: 12 April 2024

Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Individuals in active government service, including employees of institutions under direct management of a government, are not eligible for selection for this consultancy.