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Request for Proposal

**On**

**BCC2026-015**

Priority Project Identification and Development  
for the Sahel Connectivity Program (SCP)  
Portfolio

**For**

Islamic Development Bank HQ

**March 2026**

## LETTER OF INVITATION

29 March 2026

### **Priority Project Identification and Development for the Sahel Connectivity Program (SCP) Portfolio**

1. The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has approved an administrative budget for financing consulting services for the above project. IsDB will select and engage the Consultants in accordance with the IsDB Corporate Procurement Policy (Policy).
2. IsDB now invites Proposals to provide the consulting services (Services) as described in the Terms of Reference. The firm will be selected using *Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)* following the procedures in this Request for Proposal (RFP).
4. The RFP includes the following documents:
  - Letter of Invitation (LOI)
  - Section 1: Definitions
  - Section 2: Instructions to Consultants (ITC)
  - Section 3: Data Sheet
  - Section 4: Eligibility Requirements
  - Section 5: Evaluation Criteria
  - Section 6: Standard Forms for Proposal Submission
  - Section 7: Terms of Reference (TOR)
  - Section 8: General Conditions of Agreement
  - Section 9: Consultancy Services Agreement (Particular Conditions of Agreement)
4. Please acknowledge the receipt of this Letter of Invitation and inform IsDB within 5 working days from the date of receipt of this Letter of Invitation:
  - (a) Whether or not you will be submitting a Proposal; and
  - (b) If so, whether you will be submitting a Proposal alone, as a Joint Venture or as a Lead Firm in an Association;
  - (c) In the case of a Joint Venture, whether or not you will be submitting as the Lead Partner.

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Yours sincerely,

**Tarek Wassal**

OIC, Director, Administrative Services Department / Procurement Manager  
Administrative Services Department



## SECTION 1 DEFINITIONS

**“IsDB”** means **“Islamic Development Bank”**.

**“IsDB Corporate Procurement Policy”** is IsDB’s policy that sets out the general principles governing corporate procurement of IsDB. For details, please refer to [www.isdb.org](http://www.isdb.org).

**“Close relative”** is defined as son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, adopted son, adopted daughter, mother, father, brother, sister, niece, nephew, grandmother, grandfather, granddaughter, grandson, aunt, uncle, cousin, stepmother, stepfather, stepsister, stepbrother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law..

**“Consultancy Inputs”** means the amount of the time in which the Consultant’s services are required to be performed during the term of the Contract. Unless otherwise provided in the Contract, Consultancy Inputs are measured in the unit of “Working Day”.

**“Consultant”**, for the purpose of this RFP, means “consulting firm”. A consulting firm may be private or public entity, or a non-government organization (NGO) or a Joint Venture of any of aforementioned, that has consultancy capacity and is invited to submit a proposal for the services and, if selected, shall provide the Services to IsDB.

**“Contract”** means the contract signed by the IsDB and the Consultant and all the attached documents listed in the Contract.

**“Counterpart Facilities”** means the facilities specified in the Data Sheet that shall be provided by the IsDB to the Consultant free of cost, and may include office accommodation, transportation equipment and other services.

**“CQS”** means Consultant’s qualification Selection.

**“ETP”** stands for **“Evaluated Total Price”**.

**"Data Sheet"** means the section of the RFP that contains specific data and information on the selection process and the services.

**"Day"** means calendar day, except where otherwise stated.

**"Field Work"** means the Consultant's work at an assignment location other than the city or province where the Consultant holds permanent residence or office.

**"FBS"** means "Fixed Budget Selection".

**"Full-Time Employee"** is an individual who is currently employed under a Contract or agreement of employment with the Consultant or the Sub-Consultant; has been employed by the Consultant or the Sub-Consultant for the last 12 consecutive months preceding the date of submission of the Proposal; is entitled to receive regular remuneration and benefits (e.g. social security, pension or medical contributions) from the Consultant or the Sub-Consultant; and is engaged to work for the Consultant or the Sub-Consultant for the number of hours per day and days per year that are considered the norm for full-time employees in the country of employment or in the country in which the person is assigned.

**"Home Office"** means the Consultant's work at the Consultant's own office or residence.

**"HRMD"** standards for **"Human Resources Management Department"**.

**"Joint Venture"** means a Consultant which comprises two or more Partners, each of which shall be jointly and severally liable to IsDB, if selected, for all the Consultant's obligations under the Contract.

**"Lead Partner"** is the Partner designated in the Power of Attorney to represent the Joint Venture or an association. Lead Partner is the Lead Firm in a Joint Venture.

**"LCS"** means "Least Cost Selection".

**"Location of Assignment"** means the place where the consultant is required to stay for providing the services in accordance with the contract. Further definitions are provided in the definitions of "On-Site Assignment" and "Off-Site Assignment".

**"On-site assignment"** means an assignment that requires the consultant to work on the Bank's premises (headquarters, Regional Offices, Country Gateway Offices).

**“Off-site assignment”** means an assignment that requires the consultant to work at a location other than IsDB’s premises.

**“Partner”** means any of the entities that make up the Joint Venture and Partners means all such entities.

**“Personnel”** means qualified individuals provided by the Consultant and assigned to perform the Services or any part thereof. In this RFP, the term "personnel" may be used interchangeably with the term "expert(s)" or "member(s) of the Consultant team".

**“Proposal”** means a technical proposal or a financial proposal, or both.

**“QBS”** means Quality-based Selection.

**“QCBS”** means Quality- and Cost-based Selection.

**“RFP”** means this Request for Proposal.

**“Requesting Department”** or **“RD”** means the department within IsDB that requests for the Services.

**“Services”** means the work to be performed as described in the Terms of Reference and pursuant to the Contract.

**“Shortlisted Consultant”** means the firms and/or joint ventures invited by this RFP for submitting proposals.

**“SSS”** means “Single Source Selection”.

**“Sub-Consultant”** means any person or entity with whom the Consultant associates for the execution of any part of the Services and for whom the Consultant is fully responsible.

**“Terms of Reference”** or **“TOR”** means the Section 7 of the RFP, which explains the objectives, scope of work, activities, and tasks to be performed, respective responsibilities of ISDB and the Consultant, and expected results and deliverables of the Contract.

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**“Working Day”** or **“WD”** means in the Terms of Reference (TOR) the day when the Consultant’s services are required or means in the Consultant’s invoices for payment the day the Consultant is required by the TOR to perform the services and the Consultant has done so.

## SECTION 2. INSTRUCTIONS TO CONSULTANTS

1. **Selection Method** - IsDB intends to select Consultant using QCBS for providing Services to the IsDB in accordance with the TOR in Section 7.
2. **Client** – The IsDB is the Client of the Services. The Requesting Department, the authorized representative of the IsDB and the contact details are indicated in the Data Sheet.
3. **Contract** - The Consultants are invited to submit Proposals for the Services. The Proposal will be the basis for contract negotiations. The Form of Contract is in Section 8.
4. **Reservation Clause** - Consultants shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of their Proposals and contract negotiation, if selected. The IsDB is not bound to accept any proposal, and reserves the right to postpone or annul the selection process at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Consultants.
5. **Counterpart Support** - Where specified in the Data Sheet and at no cost to the Consultant, the IsDB shall provide the Counterpart Facilities for contract implementation specified in the Data Sheet and make available relevant data and documents relevant to the Services.
6. **Conflict of Interest** – IsDB considers a conflict of interest to be a situation in which a party has interests that could improperly influence that party's performance of official duties or responsibilities, contractual obligations, or compliance with IsDB's policies, rules and procedures, or applicable laws and regulations and that such conflict of interest may contribute to or constitute a prohibited practice under IsDB's Group Integrity Policy which is accessible at [www.isdb.org](http://www.isdb.org).
7. **Conflicting Activities** - Without limitation on the generality of the foregoing, Consultants (including Sub-Consultants) shall not be recruited under the circumstances set below:

- (a) Conflict between consulting activities and procurement of goods, works or services: Consultants that have been engaged by IsDB to provide goods, works or services for a project shall be disqualified from providing consulting services related to such project. Conversely, a Consultant hired to provide consulting services for the preparation of bidding documents shall be disqualified from subsequently providing goods, works or services resulting from or directly related to the consultant's services for such preparation.
  - (b) Conflict among consulting assignments: Consultants shall not be hired for any assignment that, by its nature, may be in conflict with another assignment of the Consultant. As an example, Consultants hired to implement a project shall not be hired again to conduct post evaluation of the same project.
  - (c) Relationship with IsDB staff: Consultants that have a business or family relationship with the IsDB staff member(s) who are directly or indirectly involved in any part of (i) the preparation of the TOR of the Contract, (ii) the recruitment process for such Contract, or (iii) supervision of such Contract may not be awarded a Contract, unless the conflict stemming from this relationship has been resolved in a manner acceptable to IsDB throughout the recruitment process and the execution of the Contract.
8. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest** - Consultants have an obligation to disclose any situation of actual or potential conflict of interest. Failure to disclose such situations may lead to the disqualification of the Consultant or the termination of its Contract.
9. **Anticorruption** - IsDB's Corporate Procurement Policy requires that all IsDB staff as well as Consultants under IsDB Contracts, observe the highest standard of ethics during the selection process and in execution of such Contracts. IsDB:
- (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the consultant recommended for award has directly, or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, or coercive practices in competing for the Contract in question;

- (b) will sanction a party, including declaring ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, such party from participation in IsDB financed activities if it at any time determines that the consultant has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices in competing for, or in executing, an IsDB financed contract; and
  - (d) will have the right to require consultants to permit IsDB or its representative to inspect their accounts and records and other documents relating to consultant selection and to the performance of the Contract and to have them audited by auditors appointed by IsDB.
10. **Validity** - The time period during which the Consultants' Proposals must remain valid from the deadline for the submission of Proposals is indicated in the Data Sheet. During this period, Consultants shall maintain the availability of their personnel nominated in the Proposal. The IsDB will make its best effort to complete negotiations within this period. Should the need arise, the IsDB may request Consultants to extend the validity period of Proposals. Consultants have the right to refuse to extend the validity of their Proposals.
11. **Eligibility** – The Consultant and all personnel proposed in the Consultant's Proposal must meet IsDB's eligibility requirements in accordance with IsDB's Corporate Procurement Policy. Details are in **Section 4 Eligibility Requirements**. Consultants must seek clarifications following instructions in 15 if the Consultants have any question on eligibility.
12. **IsDB Member Country Preference** – The Consultant should check the Data Sheet if any preference is to be given to consultants from IsDB member countries for this selection. If a preference is indicated in the Data Sheet, Section 5 shall contain evaluation criteria on how such preference will be applied in the evaluation.

- 13. Registration in IsDB's Database for Consultants (SAP ARIBA)** – Consulting Firm to participate in the bidding process for the Services through SAP ARIBA Registration, a consulting firm must first be a legally recognized entity. Additionally, if the firm is chosen for contract award and has not previously registered in SAP ARIBA, it must complete the registration process in SAP ARIBA. before engaging in contract negotiations if they have not previously registered in the platform. Please find the link for the registration : <http://isdb.supplier.ksaprv.cloud.ariba.com/ad/selfRegistration/>
- 14. Clarification of RFP-** Consultants may request a clarification of any contents of the RFP no later than seven days (7) before the deadline for the submission of Proposals. The request for clarification must be sent by email to the IsDB's authorized representative whose contact details are in Data Sheet. The IsDB will respond by email. The response (including an explanation of the query but without identifying the source of inquiry) will also be sent by email and fax to all shortlisted Consultants except for cases where the query and answer involve company commercial information or personal information or information that is not appropriate for disclosure to a third party. Should the IsDB deem it necessary to amend the RFP as a result of a clarification, it shall do so following the procedure under 15.
- 15. Amendment of RFP/Extension of Submission Deadline** - At any time before the deadline for the submission of Proposals, the IsDB may amend the RFP by issuing an addendum. The addendum will be sent to all shortlisted Consultants by e-mail and fax and will be binding on them. Consultants shall acknowledge receipt of all amendments through by email and/or fax. If the amendment is substantial, the IsDB may extend the deadline for the submission of Proposals in order to give Consultants reasonable time for taking the amendment into account in their Proposals. In any event, the IsDB can extend the deadline for the submission of Proposals at its discretion.
- 16. Language** - The Proposal, as well as all related correspondences exchanged by the Consultants and the IsDB, shall be in Arabic, and/or English, and/or French.

17. **Compliance with RFP** - In preparing their respective Proposals, Consultants are expected to examine in detail the documents comprising the RFP. Consultants whose proposals do not meet the requirements of the RFP may fail to meet the minimum qualifying score as indicated in the Evaluation Criteria in Section 5.
18. **Joint Venture** - For the purpose of submitting a proposal, a shortlisted Consultant may enhance its expertise for the assignment by forming a Joint Venture with non-shortlisted firms, in which case the Consultant and the Partners of the Joint Venture shall be jointly and severally liable under the Contract.
- a) In the event that the Consultant constitutes a Joint Venture, the Consultant shall submit (i) a copy of the Joint Venture Agreement with its Technical Proposal and (ii) a power of attorney (executed by all partners) that authorizes the designated Lead Partner of the Joint Venture to act for and on behalf of the Joint Venture and to legally bind such Joint Venture in any contractual or similar documentation. Any Joint Venture agreement and Joint Venture power of attorney shall be attached to the Technical Proposal of such Consultant.
- b) No shortlisted Consultant (including any Joint Venture partner) can associate with another shortlisted Consultant, and every Full-Time Employee of a shortlisted Consultant is not eligible to participate as an associate or Sub-Consultant of another Consultant shortlisted for the Assignment.
- c) A shortlisted Consultant, in the case of a Joint Venture or an association (i.e., lead firm and sub-consultants), may add additional partners or associates/sub-consultants, subject to the restrictions in (ii) above, in its Proposal to broaden its range of expertise and experience.
- d) The Joint Venture Agreement shall identify the Lead Partner. All Partners in a Joint Venture shall sign the Proposal unless the Lead Partner is nominated to do so in the power of attorney.

**19. Proof of Status** - Prior to contract negotiations, the selected Consultant will be required to update or confirm its legal status as registered in the DACON. The proof of the legal status that should be entered into DACON may include certificate of incorporation (or registration, in the case of a partnership or joint venture) or any document required by the commercial laws of the relevant country establishing the Consultant's status to conduct or transact business as a legal entity.

**20. Technical Proposal**

- a) The Consultants are required to submit a Technical Proposal. The Technical Proposal shall provide the information required in the Technical Forms provided in Section 6.
- b) The Consultants must submit one CV for each and every position of key personnel as indicated in the Technical Proposal Evaluation Summary Sheet in Section 5. Proposals which do not comply with this requirement may be rejected.
- c) Should the Consultant wish to propose different number and combination of positions, it may do so by including a section named "Adjusted Team Composition" in its Proposal and attach the relevant CVs to this Section. Justifications must be provided if the adjusted team composition is proposed. The Client may consider this adjusted team composition after the Firm is selected based on the evaluation of its Proposal that complies with the original requirement in 21. a).

**21. No price in Technical Proposal** - The Technical Proposal shall not include any financial information. A Technical Proposal containing financial details will be declared non-responsive.

**22. Financial Proposals** - The Consultants are required to prepare the Financial Proposal using the Financial Forms provided in Section 6. All activities and items described in the Technical Proposal must be priced in the Financial Proposal. For non-remuneration (e.g. out-of-pocket) related omissions, any activities or items described in the Technical Proposal but not priced,

shall be assumed to have been included in the prices of other activities or items provided for in the Financial Proposal.

23. **Maximum budget** – Consultants must check Data Sheet whether there is an indication of maximum budget. If a maximum budget is indicated, Consultant must prepare financial proposal within the maximum budget. Proposals with a total price, inclusive of provisional sums and contingency when applicable, exceeding the maximum budget may be rejected.
24. **Currencies** - Consultants may express the price of their services in any fully convertible currency of an IsDB member country, singly or in combination. The same currency/currencies shall be used in the Contract for payment if the Consultant is awarded a Contract.
25. **Exchange Rates** – For evaluation purposes, all currencies in the financial proposals will be converted into US Dollars using the exchange rates prevailing on the Proposal Submission Date. The source of the exchange rate data is indicated in the Data Sheet.
26. **Submission of Proposals**
  - a) An authorized representative of the Consultant will sign the Technical Proposal Submission Letter and the Financial Proposal Submission Letter separately in the format provided in Section 6. The authorization shall be in the form of a written power of attorney accompanying each of the two separate Letters demonstrating that the representative has been duly authorized to sign. An authorized representative of the Consultants shall also initial all pages of the Financial Proposals.
  - b) The Technical Proposal file shall be submitted to the email address shared in the Datasheet.
  - c) The Financial Proposal file shall be submitted in electronic format in PDF encrypted or password protected.

d) Financial Proposal Key/Password will be shared only with the authorized Corporate Procurement Representative separately as mentioned in datasheet.

e) The two files containing the Technical and Financial Proposals separately shall be send through email to the email mentioned in Datasheet.

f) The Proposals must be sent to the IsDB's authorized email address indicated in the Data Sheet and received by the IsDB at the specified email address no later than the time and the date indicated in the Data Sheet, or any extension to this date in accordance with 16. Any proposal received by the IsDB after the deadline for submission shall be returned unopened.

g) The IsDB shall open the Technical Proposal immediately after the deadline for their submission. The envelopes with the Financial Proposal shall remain sealed and securely stored.

**27. No Influence on Evaluation** - From the deadline for the submission of Proposals to the time the Contract is awarded, the Consultants should not contact the IsDB on any matter related to the Proposal. Any effort by Consultants to influence the IsDB in the evaluation and recommendation for award of Contract will result in the rejection of the Proposal.

**28. Evaluation of Technical Proposals** - The IsDB shall evaluate the Technical Proposals on the basis of their responsiveness to the TOR, applying the evaluation criteria, specified in Section 5. Each responsive Proposal will be given a technical score. A Proposal shall be rejected at this stage if it does not respond to a mandatory requirement of the RFP or if it fails to achieve the minimum qualifying technical score of as indicated in Section 5.

**29. Notification of Technical Evaluation Results** - After the technical evaluation is completed, the IsDB shall notify those Consultants whose Proposals did not meet the minimum qualifying

technical score or were considered non-responsive to the RFP, indicating that their Financial Proposals will be returned unopened after completing the selection process.

**30. Opening of Financial Proposals** – Financial Proposals shall be opened by the Consultant Selection Panel in the presence of a representative from IsDB's Group Internal Audit Department.

**31. Evaluation of Financial Proposals** - The IsDB will review the detailed content of a Financial Proposal. Financial Proposals will be reviewed to ensure they are complete (i.e. whether Consultants have priced all items of the corresponding Technical Proposal). For material omissions in remuneration, the IsDB will price them by application of the highest unit cost and quantity of the omitted item as provided in the other Financial Proposals and add their cost to the offered price and correct any arithmetical errors. If less than the prescribed minimum person months inputs are provided, the IsDB will increase the cost of the Proposal by applying the highest remuneration rate for the personnel, as the case may be, set out in the Proposal. When correcting computational errors, in case of discrepancy between a partial amount and the total amount the partial amount shall prevail; in case of discrepancy between words and figures, the words shall prevail. The evaluated total price (ETP) for each Financial Proposal will be determined. The ETP excludes non-competitive components (i.e. contingencies and provisional sums). The ETP will be converted to US dollars in accordance with Para 26 of this Section.

(a) To allow comparison on a common basis, each Financial Proposal will be carefully scrutinized and an ETP in US dollars will be determined. The lowest evaluated Financial Proposal will receive the maximum score of 100 Points. The score for each other Financial Proposal is inversely proportional to its ETP and will be computed as follows:

$$Sf = 100 \times Fm / F$$

Where: Sf is the financial score of the Financial Proposal being evaluated,  
Fm is the ETP of the lowest priced Financial Proposal,  
F is the ETP of the Financial Proposal under consideration.

- (b) Following completion of evaluation of Technical and Financial Proposals, final ranking of the Proposals will be determined. The final ranking will be in a descending order of the combined total scores of each set of Technical and Financial Proposals. The total score is computed as follows:

$$S = Wt*St + Wf*Sf$$

Where:

- S is the combined total score,  
Wt is the weight of the technical score as indicated in Para 2 Section 5 Evaluation Criteria,  
St is the technical score,  
Wf is the weight of the financial score as indicated in Para 2 Section 5 Evaluation Criteria,  
Sf is the financial score,

- (c) The first-ranked Consultants (with the highest total combined score) will be invited to contract negotiations.

**32. Negotiations** – Unless otherwise indicated in the invitation to contract negotiations, the negotiations will be held at the date and address indicated in the Data Sheet or through correspondence. The invited Consultant will, as a pre-requisite for attendance at the negotiations, confirm by email or fax availability and DACON registration of all experts named in its Proposal. Failure in satisfying such requirements may result in the IsDB proceeding to initiate the negotiation process with the next-ranked Consultant. Representatives conducting negotiations on behalf of the Consultant must have written authority to negotiate and conclude a Contract.

- 33. Technical Negotiations** - Negotiations will include a discussion of the Technical Proposal, the proposed technical approach and methodology, work plan and schedule, organization and Personnel, and any suggestions made by the Consultant to improve the TOR. The IsDB and the Consultant will finalize the TOR, Personnel schedule, work schedule, logistics, and reporting. These documents will then be incorporated in the Contract as "Scope of Services/TOR." Special attention will be paid to clearly defining the Consultancy Inputs and facilities required from the IsDB to ensure satisfactory implementation of the assignment.
- 34. Financial Negotiations** - The financial negotiations will generally fine-tune the duration of the Consultancy Inputs, and the quantities of out-of-pocket expenditure items may be increased or decreased from the relevant amounts shown or otherwise agreed in the Financial Proposal. The details of an expert's remuneration and specific unit rates for out-of-pocket expenditures will not be subject to negotiations unless there is a budget constraint.
- 35. Availability of Personnel** - Having selected the Consultant on the basis of, among other things, an evaluation of proposed Personnel, the IsDB expects to negotiate a Contract on the basis of the Personnel named in the Proposal. Before contract negotiations commence, the IsDB will require written assurances that the Personnel will be actually available. The IsDB will not consider substitutions prior to or during contract negotiations unless both parties agree that undue delay in the selection process makes such substitution unavoidable or for reasons such as death or medical incapacity. The IsDB may also request the replacement of any expert nominated by the invited firm who received a rating below 70% (average) or is deemed to be unsuitable for a proposed position. In the event that the IsDB requests a replacement, such replacement shall not have a unit rate exceeding the remuneration proposed for the original candidate by the firm in its Financial Proposal. Any proposed replacement shall have equivalent or better qualifications and experience than the original candidate and be submitted by the Consultant within the period of time specified in the letter of invitation to negotiate. Failure to meet either of these requirements may result in disqualification.

- 36. Conclusion of the negotiations** - Negotiations will conclude with a review of the draft Contract. To complete negotiations, the IsDB and the Consultant will sign the agreed Contract. If negotiations fail, the IsDB will invite the Consultant whose Proposal received the second highest score to negotiate a Contract.
- 37. Award of Contract and Commencement of Services**- After completing negotiations, the IsDB will award the Contract to the selected Consultant and notify the other Consultants who were unsuccessful of such result. The Consultant is expected to commence the Services on the date and at the location specified in the Data Sheet unless otherwise notified by IsDB in the Notice to Proceed.
- 38. Debriefing** - Consultants who were not awarded the Contract may request a debriefing from the IsDB within seven (7) days after receiving a regret letter from the IsDB, with respect to their respective Proposals.
- 39. Confidentiality** - Information relating to the evaluation of Proposals and recommendations concerning award shall not be disclosed to the Consultants who submitted the Proposals or to other persons not officially concerned with the process until the publication of award of contract, except for the information explicitly permitted in this ITB.

## SECTION 3 DATA SHEET

SR	Subject	Specifics for this RFP
1	Selection Method	QCBS
2	Client	Islamic Development Bank Administrative Service Department
3	Client's Authorized Representative	Wahidullah Alokozay Corporate Procurement Division Administrative Services Department
4	Client's Authorized Representative Physical Address	8111 King Khalid Road, Al Nuzlah Al Yamaniyah, Jeddah 22332-2444, KSA
5	Client's Authorized Representative telecommunication and electronic mail	Tel: +966 502116576 Email: <a href="mailto:walokozay@isdb.org">walokozay@isdb.org</a>
6	The deadline for Request for Clarification	<b>April 9, 2026</b>
7	Deadline for Submission	<b>April 16, 2026</b>
8	Counterpart Support	Proposal Submission and Clarification - BCC2026-015 Priority Project Identification and Development for the Sahel Connectivity Program Portfolio <a href="mailto:3953f959.isdb.org@emea.teams.ms">3953f959.isdb.org@emea.teams.ms</a>
9	Proposal Submission	Proposal Submission and Clarification - BCC2026-015 Priority Project Identification and Development for the Sahel Connectivity Program Portfolio <a href="mailto:3953f959.isdb.org@emea.teams.ms">3953f959.isdb.org@emea.teams.ms</a>
10	Financial Proposal Submission	The Financial Proposals shall be submitted as a separate, password protected file. The Consultant will be requested to provide the password by email to <a href="mailto:walokozay@isdb.org">walokozay@isdb.org</a> at the time of the financial opening / upon request from the Client. Only Financial Proposals of Consultants who achieve the minimum technical qualifying score (75 points) will be opened.

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11	Validity	90 days
12	IsDB Member Country Preference	N/A
23	Maximum Budget	N/A
24	Exchange Rates	a. The single currency for the conversion of the all prices expressed in various currencies into a single one is USD. b. the date of the exchange rate is 16 April 2026
35	Expected Date of Contract Negotiations	10/05/2026
316	Expected Date and Location of Commencement of Services	31/05/2026

## SECTION 4 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### 1. General Eligibility Requirements

- 1.1 The IsDB has no restrictions on the source of its corporate procurement provided such sources comply with the Boycott Regulations of the Organization of Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States and the African Union.
- 1.2 A consultant or consulting firm that is on any IsDB sanction or suspension list due to misconduct, administrative actions, integrity violations, poor performance or on any recognized terrorism list shall be ineligible for IsDB corporate procurement contract.

### 2. Specific Eligibility Requirements for Consultants

- 2.1. IsDB prefers to hire consultants from Member Countries. When such preference is to be applied in selecting consultants, the invitation for expression of interest and/or the request for proposals shall define how such preference will be applied in the selection process.
- 2.2. Consultants must be competent and qualified for the work they are hired to perform.
- 2.3. Consultants must be medically fit for their assignments, including any travel.
- 2.4. There shall be generally a six-month "cooling period" after an IsDB staff or a member of IsDB Board of Executive Directors has retired or resigned from IsDB before the person can be hired as consultant by IsDB.
- 2.5. Human Resources Management Department (HRMD) clears proposals to engage former Bank personnel for the first time as consultants to be contracted by the Bank.
- 2.6. Former Bank personnel normally shall not be contracted by Bank as consultant for an assignment longer than six (6) months.
- 2.7. Former Bank personnel whose employments with the Bank were terminated due to disciplinary actions shall be ineligible for being hired as consultant by the Bank.

- 2.8. There are generally no restrictions on hiring spouse, close relatives of Bank personnel as consultant provided that the consultant is not hired for an assignment in the same department of, or supervised directly or indirectly, by the consultant's spouse or close relative. Close relative is defined as close relatives as son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, adopted son, adopted daughter, mother, father, brother, sister, niece, nephew, grandmother, grandfather, granddaughter, grandson, aunt, uncle, cousin, stepmother, stepfather, stepsister, stepbrother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law.
- 2.9. Close relatives of consultants currently engaged by the Bank may not work as consultants if such engagement creates an actual or potential conflict of interest situation.
- 2.10. Civil servants (public sector employees working for a government department or agency) may only be hired under consulting service contracts with the Bank, either as individuals or as team members of a consulting firm, if they are on leave of absence without pay, and are duly authorized to work under an IsDB consulting service contract and their employment would not create a conflict of interest. A letter from the candidate's agency may be required to certify that these requirements are met. Once engaged by IsDB as consultant, such individuals shall serve in their own capacity and shall not represent any government organization or any entity external to IsDB.
- 2.11. A consultant who is currently contracted by the Bank on a full-time assignment must not work as a consultant, resource person or service provider for another Bank financed contract, and for any other employer or project. A consultant who is currently engaged on an intermittent assignment for the Bank is allowed to work on another intermittent assignment, provided that the user-departments concerned are convinced that there would be no overlapping in working days and no conflict in time schedule and no conflict of interest between the assignments in question.

## SECTION 5 EVALUATION CRITERIA

### 1. Technical Evaluation Criteria

1.1 **Technical Proposal Evaluation Summary Sheet** - Each consulting firm submitting proposal shall be evaluated based on the criteria specified in the table below.

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Max. Weight	Firm 1	Firm 2	Firm 3	Firm 4	Firm
<b>Relevant Experience of the Firm/Consultant</b>	Regional experience in the Sahel/similar fragile contexts (12 P)	30					
	Partner collaboration with IsDB, UN, Regional Organizations and other MDBs. (10 P)						
	Thematic & sectoral depth in specified sectors. (8 P)						
<b>Technical Approach &amp; Methodology</b>	Understanding of ToR & strategic approach (10 P)	30					
	Methodological soundness and risk-mitigated work plan (12 P)						
	Knowledge management & sustainability approach.(8 P)						
<b>Qualifications of Key Personnel</b>	Team Leader qualifications and experience. (15 P)	40					

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	Sectoral Experts qualifications and experience (15 P)						
	Cross-Cutting Themes Expert qualifications and experience (10 P)						
<b>Total</b>		<b>100 P</b>					

1.2 Personnel **Evaluation Sheet** - Each member of key personnel proposed by each consulting firm shall be evaluated based on the criteria specified in the table below.

Position/Area of Expertise	Name	General Qualification		Specific Experiences Relevant to TOR		Experience in the Region		Language		Total
		20%		60%		15%		5%		
		Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	
a.	Team Leadership *									
b.	Team Member 1 Nominated as Team Leader									
c.	Team Member 2									
d.	Team Member 3									
e.	Team Member 4									
f.	Team Member 5									
g.	Team Member 6									
h.	Team Member 7									

**Rating** : Excellent 95%-100% Very Good 90%-94% Above Average 80%- 89% Average 70%-79% , Below Average <70%, Non-Complying 0%

**Score** : Rating x percentage assign\*

\* *The Team Leader must be expert*

1.3 Minimum Qualifying Technical Score: 75

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## 2. Weight Distribution in Final Score:

2.1 Technical Proposal: 70%

2.2 Financial Proposal: 30%

Commented [WA1]: CSP to review and confirm if this is Ok

3. IsDB Member Country Preference: Not applicable ( N/A )

## SECTION 6. STANDARD FORMS FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

[Instructions to Consultants: *Comments in brackets [ ] provide guidance to the Consultants for the preparation of their Technical Proposals; they should not appear on the Technical Proposals to be submitted.*]

### 6.1 Standard Forms for Technical Proposals

TECH-1 Technical Proposal Submission Form

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- TECH-2 Consultant's Organization and Experience
- TECH-3 Description of the Approach, Methodology and Work Plan
- TECH-4 Curriculum Vitae (CV) for Proposed Professional Experts
- TECH-5 Personnel Schedule
- TECH-6 Work Schedule

#### 6.2 Standard Forms for Financial Proposals

- FIN-1 Financial Proposal Submission Form
- FIN-2 Summary of Financial Proposal
- FIN-3 Remuneration
- FIN-4 Other Expenses

#### Form TECH-1 Technical Proposal Submission Form

[Location, Date]

To: [Name and address of IsDB]

Dear Sirs:

We, the undersigned, offer to provide the consulting services for [Insert title of assignment] in accordance with your Request for Proposal dated [Insert Date] and our Proposal. We are hereby



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submitting our Proposal, which includes this Technical Proposal, and a Financial Proposal sealed under a separate envelope.

We are submitting our Proposal in association with \_\_\_\_\_/as a Joint Venture: *[Insert a list with full name and address of each joint venture partner or associated firm]*.<sup>1</sup> Attached is the following documentation: [Joint Venture Agreement or letters of association]<sup>2</sup>

We hereby declare that all the information and statements made in this Proposal are true and accept that any misinterpretation contained in it may lead to our disqualification.

Our technical and financial proposals shall remain valid for the period as defined in the Data Sheet of your Request for Proposal. If negotiations are held during the validity period, we undertake to negotiate on the basis of the proposed personnel. Our Proposal is binding upon us and subject to the modifications resulting from contract negotiations.

We undertake, if our Proposal is accepted, to initiate the consulting services related to the assignment not later than the date indicated in Clause Reference 37 of the Data Sheet.

We understand you are not bound to accept any Proposal you receive.

We remain,

Yours sincerely,

Authorized Signature *[In full and initials]*: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> *[Delete in case no association or Joint Venture is proposed.]*

<sup>2</sup> The relevant agreement must identify the lead Joint Venture partner or associate and specify the lead firm's authority to sign for, and on behalf of, the Joint Venture or association. For Joint Ventures, the Joint Venture agreement must include an undertaking of joint and several liability by each Joint Venture partner

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Name and Title of Signatory: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



## Form TECH-2 Consultant's Organization and Experience

### 1. Consultant's Organization

*[Provide here a brief (not more than two pages) description of the background and organization of the Consultant (including associate firms) and, if applicable, Sub-Consultant and each joint venture partner for this assignment.]*

## 2. Consultant's Experience

*[Using the format below, provide information on each assignment for which your firm, and each associated firm or joint venture partner for this assignment, was legally contracted either individually as a corporate entity or as one of the major companies within an joint venture for carrying out consulting services similar to the ones requested under this assignment. Please include not more than 10 of the most recently completed assignments.]*

Assignment name:	Approx. value of the contract (in current US\$ or Euro):
Country: Location within country:	Duration of assignment (months):
Name of IsDB:	Total N° of person-months of the assignment:
Address:	Approx. value of the services provided by your firm under the contract (in current US\$ or Euro):
Start date (month/year): Completion date (month/year):	N° of professional person-months provided by the associated firms or joint venture partners or the Sub-Consultants:
Name of Joint venture partner, if any:	Name of senior regular full-time employees of your firm involved and functions performed (indicate most significant profiles such as Project Director/Coordinator, Team Leader):
Narrative description of Project:	

Description of actual services provided in the assignment:

Firm's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Form TECH- 3 Description of Approach, Methodology and Work Plan for Performing the Assignment**

*[Technical approach, methodology and work plan are key components of the Technical Proposal. You are suggested to present your Technical Proposal in the following three chapters:*

#### **1) Technical Approach and Methodology**

*[In this chapter you should explain your understanding of the objectives of the assignment, approach to the services, methodology for carrying out the activities and obtaining the expected output, and the degree of detail of such output. You should highlight the problems being addressed and their importance, and explain the technical approach you would adopt to address them. You should also explain the methodologies you propose to adopt and highlight the compatibility of those methodologies with the proposed approach.]*

#### **2) Work Plan**

*[In this chapter you should propose the main activities of the assignment, their content and duration, phasing and interrelations, milestones, and delivery dates of the reports. The proposed work plan should be consistent with the technical approach and methodology,*

*showing understanding of the TOR and ability to translate them into a feasible working plan. A list of the final documents, including reports, drawings, and tables to be delivered as final output, should be included here. The work plan should be consistent with the Work Schedule of Form TECH-7.*

### **3) Organization and Personnel**

*[In this chapter you should propose the structure and composition of your team. You should list the main disciplines of the assignment, the key expert responsible, and proposed technical and support personnel. You shall also specify if you will be the lead firm in a joint venture. For joint ventures, you must attach a copy of the relevant agreement.]*

## Form TECH- 4 Curriculum Vitae (CV) for Proposed International or National Experts

1. **Proposed Position** [*only one candidate shall be nominated for each position*]: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Name of Firm** [*Insert name of firm proposing the expert*]: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Name of Expert** [*Insert full name*]: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Citizenship:** \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Education** [*Indicate college/university and other specialized education of expert, giving names of institutions, degrees obtained, and dates of obtainment*]: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. **Membership in Professional Associations:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. **Other Trainings** [*Indicate significant training since degrees under 5 - Education were obtained*]:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. **Countries of Work Experience:** [*List countries where expert has worked in the last ten years*]:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Languages** *[For each language indicate proficiency: good, fair, or poor in speaking, reading, and writing]:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Employment Record** *[Starting with present position, list in reverse order every employment held by expert since graduation, giving for each employment (see format here below): dates of employment, name of employing organization, positions held.]:*

FROM [YEAR]: \_\_\_\_\_ To [YEAR]: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITIONS HELD: \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>11. DETAILED TASKS ASSIGNED</b></p> <p><i>[LIST ALL TASKS TO BE PERFORMED UNDER THIS ASSIGNMENT]</i></p>	<p><b>12. Work Undertaken that Best Illustrates Capability to Handle the Tasks Assigned</b></p> <p><i>[Among the assignments in which the expert has been involved, indicate the following information for those assignments that best illustrate the expert's capability to handle the tasks listed in line 11.]</i></p> <p>Name of assignment or project: _____</p> <p>Year: _____</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p>IsDB: _____</p> <p>Main project features: _____</p> <p>Positions held: _____</p> <p>Activities performed: _____</p>
--	--

**13. Certification:**

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I, the undersigned, certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that

- (i) this CV correctly describes my qualifications and my experience;
- (ii) I am not a close relative\* of a current IsDB staff member;
- (iii) In the absence of medical incapacity, I will undertake this assignment for the duration and in terms of the inputs specified for me in the Personnel Schedule in Form TECH-5 provided team mobilization takes place within the validity of this proposal or any agreed extension thereof;
- (iv) I am committed to undertake the assignment within the validity of Proposal;
- (v) I am not sanctioned (ineligible for engagement) by IsDB.

I understand that any willful misstatement described herein may lead to my disqualification or dismissal, if engaged.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature of expert or authorized representative of the firm]<sup>3</sup> Day/Month/Year*

Full name of authorized representative: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* 'Close relative' for this purpose is defined in Section 4 of this RFP.

<sup>3</sup> This CV can be signed by a senior representative of the Consultant provided that if the Consultant's proposal is ranked first, a copy of the CV signed by the expert and/or specialist must be submitted to the IsDB prior to the commencement of contract negotiations.

Form TECH- 5 Personnel Schedule

	Name of Team member /Position	Team Members input (in the form of a bar chart)													Total person-month/weeks input	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	n	Total	
1	Assignment Location															
2	Assignment Location															
3	Assignment Location															
	Assignment Location															
n	Assignment Location															
<b>Total</b>																





## Form FIN-1 Financial Proposal Submission Form

[*Location, Date*]

To: [*Name and address of IsDB*]

Dear Sirs:

We, the undersigned, offer to provide the consulting services for [*Insert title of assignment*] in accordance with your Request for Proposal dated [*Insert Date*] and our Technical Proposal. Our attached Financial Proposal is for the sum of [*Insert amount(s) in words and figures*].

Our Financial Proposal shall be binding upon us subject to the modifications resulting from Contract negotiations, up to expiration of the validity period of the Proposal indicated in Clause Reference 11 of the Data Sheet.

If negotiations are held during the validity of the proposal, we confirm availability of our team of proposed personnel. Our proposal is binding upon us and subject to the modifications resulting from contract negotiations.

We undertake, if our proposal is accepted, to initiate the consulting services for the services by the date indicated in Clause Reference 38 of the Data Sheet.

We hereby certify on behalf of the Consultant and myself that information provided in the Technical and Financial Proposals (collectively "Proposals") submitted by us for the Services is true, correct and accurate to the best of our knowledge and belief. We further certify that we have not taken any action which is or constitutes a corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practice and is not subject to any conflict of interest as defined in your RFP; and we agree to allow the IsDB, at its option, to inspect and audit all accounts, related documents, and records relating to the Proposals and, if we are engaged, to the ensuing contract.

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We certify that neither the Consultant (including any associate firm) nor any Sub-Consultant or Joint Venture Partner, or expert nominated in these Proposals has been sanctioned by the IsDB.

We understand you are not bound to accept any Proposal you receive.

We remain,

Yours sincerely,

Authorized Signature [*In full and initials*]: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title of Signatory: \_\_\_\_\_

For and on behalf of: \_\_\_\_\_ [Name of Firm]

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**FIN-2: Summary of Financial Proposal**

Item	Amount		
	Currency 1	Currency 2	Currency 3
Remuneration			
Other Expenses			
Total			

**FIN-3: Remuneration**

Team Leader	Regular Employee of The Firm (Y/N)	Currency	Remuneration Rate per working day	Inputs in working days	Subtotal Remuneration for the assignment
Team Leader					
Team Member 1					
Team Member 2					
Team Member 3					
.....					
Team Member N					
Total					

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#### FIN-4: Other Expenses

Item	Unit	Currency	Unit Cost	Qty	Subtotal
Per Diem (daily subsistence allowance) <sup>1</sup>					
Air Travel <sup>2</sup>					
[Other Expenses, if any]					

1 Covering cost for lodging, meals, local transportation, and other misc. Expenses for work outside the team member's home office or permanent residency  
2 Via most direct route

## SECTION 7. TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Priority Project Identification and Development for the Sahel Connectivity Program (SCP) Portfolio

#### I. BACKGROUND

1. The Sahel region represents a vast geographic belt that extends along the southern periphery of the Sahara Desert, encompassing ten Member Countries (MCs) of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB): Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and The Gambia. With a population exceeding 300 million, the region is endowed with substantial natural and human resources, as well as significant potential for development. Nonetheless, it is confronted with a series of complex and interrelated challenges, including conflicts, inadequate infrastructure, climate vulnerability, and insufficient levels of regional economic integration.
2. Despite the presence of shared cultural and economic ties, regional integration in the Sahel has historically encountered impediments attributed to weak institutional frameworks, limited cross-border infrastructure, regulatory fragmentation, and underdeveloped trade corridors. These constraints hinder collective development efforts, deter investment, and limit the capacity of Sahelian nations to effectively utilize economies of scale.
3. The IsDB, a multilateral development institution founded in 1975, is committed to fostering economic development and social progress within its 57 Member Countries, adhering to the principles of Islamic finance. The Bank has consistently supported developmental initiatives in the Sahel through investments in infrastructure, education, health, and capacity development activities.
4. In collaboration with the Office of the UN Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel (OSCDS) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the IsDB has initiated preparations for a regional program aimed at addressing both the hard (infrastructure)

dimensions and soft (policy and institutional capacity) dimensions of regional integration in the Sahel.

5. The proposed Sahel Connectivity Program (SCP) is envisioned as a transformative platform to unlock cross-border opportunities, catalyze resource mobilization, and drive inclusive, sustained development across the region. It is informed by a mapping study that was conducted in 2024. To support this subsequent phase, the IsDB seeks to hire a Consulting Firm (henceforth “the Firm”) that will ensure the timely and high-quality achievement of the proposed SCP portfolio’s design and preparation milestones.

## II. OBJECTIVE OF ASSIGNMENT

6. The Firm will identify and develop an initial portfolio of projects with strong buy-in from the Sahel countries in line with (i) the criteria and specifications outlined in this section and Annex-I, and (ii) the recommendations identified in the regional mapping study (2024) undertaken by the IsDB and SCP partners. These projects will constitute the Sahel Connectivity Program’s Portfolio (henceforth SCP Portfolio, or the Portfolio).
7. The SCP portfolio pipeline will be categorized into two Priority Areas:
  - **Priority A Category:** Minimum five (5) Comprehensive Concept Notes (CCN) that have been endorsed by relevant governments and SCP partners (please see Annex-I for the content and outline of CCN),
  - **Priority B Category:** Minimum ten (10) Project Scoping Notes (PSN) that have been endorsed by relevant governments and SCP partners (please see Annex-I for the content and outline of PSN).

### Priority “A” Category Projects:

8. Priority A category projects should include:
  - Minimum one (1) Energy project,
  - Minimum two (2) Transport projects, one of which is preferably structured as a Public Private Partnership (PPP),

- Minimum one (1) ICT & Digitalization project,
- Minimum one (1) project focusing on any combination of the SCP cross-cutting thematic areas: (i) Food Security, (ii) Jobs and Livelihoods (including support to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises), (iii) Cross-border Cooperation and Trade, (iv) Access to Basic Social Services (health, education, water and sanitation), (v) Climate Smart Development, (vi) Natural Resource Management, (vii) Gender, (viii) Youth.

9. Furthermore, all Priority A category projects should include:

- A component on Capacity Development tailored to the specific needs of the national and regional implementing partners,
- where relevant, any combination of the above-mentioned eight target cross-cutting thematic areas: (i) Food Security, (ii) Jobs and Livelihoods, (iii) Cross-Border Cooperation and Trade, (iv) Access to Basic Social Services, (v) Climate Smart Development, (vi) Natural Resource Management, (vii) Gender, (viii) Youth.

#### **Priority “B” Category Projects:**

10. Priority B category projects should comprise minimum of 10 projects broken down as follows:

- Minimum three (3) projects targeting: Energy, Transport, ICT & Digitalization.

11. The remaining Priority B category projects (from the total minimum of 10) shall focus on:

- any combination of the above-mentioned eight cross-cutting thematic areas.

12. Furthermore, all Priority B category projects should include:

- A component on Capacity Development tailored to the specific needs of the national and regional implementing partners.

13. PPP components will be considered/integrated into these projects where feasible.

14. **Other SCP Portfolio Selection Criteria:** The following criteria will guide the selection.

- **Geographic Scope:** The final SCP Portfolio of Priority A and B category projects will include projects covering all ten Sahel countries.
- **SCP Partner, Government and Regional Stakeholders' Standards:** The SCP pipeline will need to be aligned with relevant SCP partner, government and regional stakeholders' standards. These include the IsDB's Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) Policy, procurement framework as well as relevant IsDB and/or partner safeguard and/or risk mitigation guidelines.
- **Risk-Informed Portfolio Balance:** The overall portfolio shall include a strategic mix of projects across different operational risk typologies (conflict-affected, high-risk, low-risk areas), ensuring appropriate financing instruments and partner roles are applied in each context.
- **Thematic Coverage:** All Priority A or B category projects related to Energy, ICT & Digitalization, and Transport will integrate, where relevant, one or more of the following thematic priorities: Food Security, Jobs and Livelihoods, Cross-Border Cooperation and Trade, Access to Basic Social Services (health, education and water and sanitation), Climate Smart Development, Natural Resource Management, Gender, Youth.
- **Capacity Development:** A capacity development component should be included in all Priority A and B category projects of the SCP Portfolio.
- **Cross-Border Connectivity Dimension:** All Priority-A category projects need to reflect a cross-border or regional dimension encompassing one or more of the following aspects:
  - Projects that cross a physical border.
  - Projects that are located within a country but are an integral part of regional transportation, energy, communication networks, or other physical systems that facilitate the movement of goods, services, people, or data across national borders.
  - Projects that involve node infrastructure as critical assets in transnational networks, facilitating the flow of international traffic, such as seaports and airports.

### III. SCOPE OF WORK

15. The Firm will work closely with the SCP Joint Task Team, comprising representatives from the IsDB and SCP partners, in implementing the scope of work and producing the deliverables outlined below. The Joint Task Team will be led by the IsDB and includes representatives from SCP partner institutions.

16. Following the inception phase of the assignment, the selected Firm will be required to undertake tasks that are mapped against the following two interrelated phases: (a) SCP Portfolio Development, (b) Program-Level Capacity Development and Institutionalization.

**a. SCP Portfolio Development**

- i. The Firm will develop and maintain a list of prospective medium-term projects in the Sahel region that will comprise the SCP Portfolio (minimum 15 projects including Priority A and B category projects). The final portfolio needs to include all 10 Sahel countries.
- ii. The proposed SCP projects will have to meet criteria aligned with the IsDB's requirements for its lending and technical assistance operations. This includes the thematic priorities, relevant sector strategies, alignment with Paris Agreement targets, as well as alignment with relevant partner priorities.
- II. For each Priority A category project, the Firm will, in collaboration with the Joint Task Team, deploy its sector experts to conduct field missions and site visits aimed at developing, validating, and finalizing the SCP portfolio, through engaging partners and stakeholders, clarifying project objectives and scope, and confirming costing, financing, and implementation modalities. Each Priority A category project will require an on-site mission of at least 6 working days (including travel days) by a minimum of two experts. For Priority B category projects, partner and stakeholder engagement will remain essential; however, physical field missions will not be required.
- III. The Firm will develop the proposed Priority A and B category projects in line with the guidance related to the formats of CCN and PSN (please see Annex-I). The SCP projects should cover aspects including the following:

project scope, key stakeholders, key outcomes and outputs, modalities of project implementation, preliminary demand estimations, cost estimates, potential financing sources, implementing partners, indicative financing structure, and risk assessments including competing projects, political, environment and social, technical and engineering risks involved. When available, the existing cash flow models should be assessed to verify the robustness of the assumptions.

- IV. The Firm will review existing masterplans, (e.g., infrastructure roadmaps) and investment plans related to the target thematic priorities at both regional and national level in the Sahel countries through desktop research and meetings (on-site and/or online) with relevant line ministries, regulators, state owned enterprises, and development partners, including the private sector engaged in the region.
- V. To support the mobilization of partnership and resources (technical and financing), the Firm will develop a brief fact sheet summarizing each of the proposed Priority and B projects that will constitute the SCP portfolio. This will include the identification of key project sponsors and potential local co-financing or blended financing / investment partners, both private and public, in the target sub-sectors of each of the proposed projects comprising the SCP portfolio highlighting various blended financing modalities/opportunities.
- VI. The Firm will also highlight the key factors that will support the successful identification and implementation of the proposed projects based on experience in comparable projects (country specific or regional). This will include recommendations related to:
- VII. (i) possible implementation modalities for the development and management of the SCP pipeline,  
(ii) how the partnership approach of SCP partners can add value to such modality, leveraging on their comparative advantages, including financing and technical assistance.

#### **b. Program-Level Capacity Development and Institutionalization**

- I. The Firm will design, develop, and test various training materials (as specified in the next section on deliverables), including the selection of case studies generated during the development of the SCP portfolio. The training products (both online and offline versions) will be informed by feedback from partners based on the implementation of activities related to portfolio development. This will require close coordination with the Joint Task Team to incorporate lessons learned. The target groups for these trainings will include Government Sectoral Focal Points and, where applicable, relevant staff from development partners, including national and/or regional training institutions when possible.
- II. Furthermore, the Firm shall develop a blueprint for a sustained SCP Knowledge Management Platform. This blueprint will outline mechanisms for continuous data collection, cross-partner learning, and adaptive management based on implementation experience, ensuring institutionalization of the SCP's "knowledge bank".
- III. The Firm will iteratively refine the training products based on structured feedback from end user partners. This feedback will be gathered through regular engagements with the Sahel countries and development partners as part of the SCP portfolio development activities.

#### **IV. DELIVERABLES**

17. The deliverables of this assignment are presented below and are mapped against the three implementation phases.

- Phase 1: Inception Phase
- Phase 2: SCP Portfolio Development
- Phase 3: Program-Level Capacity Development and Institutionalization

#### **Phase 1: Inception Phase**

- **Deliverable 1 - Inception Report:** This report should detail priority activities and workplan related to the scope of work and deliverables set out in the ToR. The report shall include, but not be limited to:
  - The Firm's understanding of the TOR,
  - Detailed workplan and methodology for completing the assignment as well as required resources to develop and finalize all the deliverables,
  - Implementation roadmap for the development and finalization of the SCP portfolio (minimum 5 Priority A category projects, and minimum 10 Priority B category projects), and associated capacity development training modules (see Deliverables 5 and 6) in line with the SCP objectives and criteria,
  - A risk matrix and mitigation measures,
  - Any limitations foreseen by the Firm in terms of sourcing information or any other hindrances.
  - Format: MS Word document and PowerPoint presentation

## Phase 2: SCP Portfolio Development

- **Deliverable 2 – SCP Portfolio:** This should comprise Priority A and B category projects. For each Priority A project, the Firm will deploy its sector experts to conduct field missions and site visits aimed at developing, validating, and finalizing the SCP portfolio. Please see detailed specifications presented in the Objective and Scope of Work sections. The SCP portfolio needs to be endorsed by national and other relevant stakeholders.
  - Priority A project format: 20-30 pages excluding annexes (see Annex-I)
  - Priority B project format: 8-12 pages excluding annexes (See Annex-I)

- **Deliverable 3 - Mid-term Implementation Progress Report:** This report will include detailed information on the progress made and recommendations for the next steps as well as a framework document outlining key performance indicators, baseline assessment methodology, and a proposed approach for measuring the social return on investment of the aggregated portfolio.
  - The progress report will guide the design and substantive preparation of the SCP Financing Forum, which is planned to be organized by the IsDB and development partners in 2027 in consultation with the Firm.
  - While logistical preparations for the Financing Forum will not be the responsibility of the Firm, the Firm shall ensure the in-person participation of at least two experts in the SCP Financing Forum in 2027 (tentatively). The Firm shall also ensure the in-person participation of at least one expert in an earlier Regional Consultation event planned for the second quarter of 2026 (tentatively).
  - Format: MS Word document
- **Deliverable 4 – SCP Portfolio Promotion Package:** The promotion package will be structured to attract financing from other Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and development partners, including the UN and the private sector, for the identified priority projects.
  - Format: MS Word document and PowerPoint presentation

### Phase 3: Program-Level Capacity Development and Institutionalization

- **Deliverable 5 - A Package of Online and Offline Training Materials:** This package will consist of online and offline training materials, along with an accompanying training manual. The materials will spotlight the learning generated from country-level cases.
  - Format: MS Word document and access to the online/offline training materials (e.g., links, files, or platform login credentials)

- **Deliverable 6 - Operational Guidance Note & Knowledge Management Blueprint:** This note will highlight best practices and relevant case studies to inform future efforts. It will also include a detailed proposal (blueprint) for the structure, governance, and operational protocols of an SCP Knowledge Management Platform to sustain learning in the medium and long term.
  - Format: MS Word document and PowerPoint presentation

## **V. REPORTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Oversight and Progress Reporting:**

18. The assignment will be overseen by the IsDB through the SCP Joint Task Team. The IsDB will designate a focal point as the Firm's primary counterpart. The Firm will submit brief monthly progress updates and participate in regular coordination meetings, typically monthly, with the SCP Joint Task Team.

### **Deliverable Submission, Review, and Acceptance**

19. Deliverable submission requirements are as follows:

- Language and format: All deliverables shall be submitted in English in editable Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint formats.
- Submission process: The Firm will submit each deliverable to the IsDB focal point.
- Review timeline: The IsDB will provide consolidated comments within 10 working days of receipt. The Firm will incorporate comments and resubmit within 10 working days (or as mutually agreed).
- Acceptance: A deliverable is deemed accepted upon written confirmation by the IsDB. Acceptance is a prerequisite for milestone payments.

### **Duration and Work Effort**

20. The contract will have a duration of 15 months from the date of signature.

21. Specific tasks will require the Firm's physical presence at designated locations. Specifically, the Firm shall conduct in-country field missions for each Priority A project. Each in-country field mission shall comprise a minimum of 6 working days (including travel days) per Priority A project, undertaken by at least two experts (including the relevant sector specialist). Adjustments may be agreed with the IsDB where multiple sites or cross-border travel are required. In addition, the Firm shall also ensure the in-person participation of at least one expert in the Regional Consultation event planned for the second quarter of 2026 (tentatively), and the in-person participation of at least two experts in the SCP Financing Forum in 2027 (tentatively).
22. Missions will typically include stakeholder consultations, site and asset visits, and validation/feedback sessions with government counterparts and partners. The allocation of on-site days will be planned with the IsDB focal point and reflected in the monthly updates. The total number of on-site working days under this contract shall not exceed 132 working days (approximately six months).

#### **Budget and Payment Terms**

23. The budget and payment terms are as follows:

- Contract type and amount: The maximum available budget for this assignment is US\$ 300,000 (three hundred thousand United States dollars), inclusive of all fees, taxes, and reimbursable expenses. The amount is payable as a lump sum, disbursed against approved milestones.
- Payment schedule:
  - 30% upon approval of the Inception Report (Deliverable 1).
  - 40% upon approval of the Mid-term Implementation Progress Report (Deliverable 3).
  - 30% upon approval of all remaining deliverables (Deliverables 2, 4, 5, and 6).

#### **Data, Confidentiality, and Intellectual Property**

24. All data, materials, and deliverables produced under this assignment shall be treated as confidential. Intellectual property rights for all contract funded outputs shall vest in the IsDB.

#### **VI. FIRM QUALIFICATIONS AND TEAM COMPOSITION**

25. The assignment should be carried out by a firm and team with practical and recent experience in infrastructure development and capacity development within the relevant sectors and thematic areas.

##### **A. Firm Qualifications:**

26. The key qualifications of the eligible firms include the following:

- a. Substantial track record (a minimum of 10 years of experience) successfully undertaking similar roles including advising governments on the design and implementation of target thematic areas in regional (multi-country) contexts.
- b. Experience advising on related or similar target thematic projects in the Sahel countries, other African countries and globally.
- c. Proven track record in the design and implementation of capacity development and training initiatives.
- d. Proven track record of professional working relationships with relevant line ministries in the Sahel region as well as regional organizations.
- e. Proven track record of working with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and United Nations (UN) agencies in the target region.
- f. Excellent analytical skills and sectoral expertise, including financial analysis with proven experience in cross-border connectivity projects.
- g. Experience in reviewing environmental and social (E&S) aspects of projects following relevant IFI standards.
- h. Experience with the private sector in the targeted thematic priorities is an advantage.

- i. Fluency in English and French is required for key experts.

**B. Required Team Composition & Expert Profiles:**

27. The Firm is expected to propose a core team with the following minimum profiles:

- I. **Team Leader / Regional Integration Specialist:** Minimum 15 years of experience leading complex, multi-country program design in fragile contexts, with at least 5 years direct experience in the Sahel region. Fluent in English and French. Advanced degree required.
- II. **Lead Infrastructure & Blended Finance Economist:** Minimum 10 years in infrastructure project preparation, financial modeling, and structuring blended finance/PPP arrangements. Experience with MDB instruments is essential.
- III. **Sectoral Experts (Three Positions: Energy, Transport, ICT/Digitalization):** Minimum 10 years each as a practicing specialist, with at least 2 major projects in Africa involving pre-feasibility and concept design.
- IV. **Cross-Cutting Themes & Capacity Development Specialist:** Minimum 10 years designing and delivering capacity development programs for government institutions in Africa, with expertise in integrating gender, youth, environmental sustainability, and private sector themes.
- V. **Environmental & Social (E&S) Safeguards Specialist:** Minimum 10 years conducting E&S screenings and developing management plans for infrastructure projects, compliant with the IsDB and international standards.
- VI. **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION, EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

28. Proposals will be evaluated based on a **Quality- and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS)** method. The technical proposal will be weighted at 70%, and the financial proposal at 30%.

29. Proposals must comprise two separate submissions: (1) Technical Proposal, and (2) Financial Proposal (password-protected) using the standard form (Annex-II). The password for the financial proposal shall be shared only upon request, after the technical evaluation has been completed.

#### Technical Proposal Evaluation (70% Weight)

30. The technical proposal will be evaluated against the following criteria (minimum passing score is 75/100):

No.	Criteria	Sub-Criteria & Indicators	Max Points
1	Firm's Relevant Experience & Track Record (30 Points)	• Regional experience in the Sahel/similar fragile contexts.	12
		• Partner collaboration with IsDB, UN, Regional Organizations and other MDBs.	10
		• Thematic & sectoral depth in specified sectors.	8
2	Proposed Methodology & Work Plan (30 Points)	• Understanding of ToR & strategic approach.	10
		• Methodological soundness and risk-mitigated work plan.	12
		• Knowledge management & sustainability approach.	8
3	Team Composition & Key Expert	• Team Leader qualifications and experience.	15

<b>Qualifications Points) (40</b>	• Sectoral Experts qualifications and experience.	15
	• Cross-Cutting Themes Expert qualifications and experience.	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

### Financial Proposal Evaluation (30% Weight)

31. The lowest-priced compliant financial proposal will receive the maximum 30 points. Other proposals will receive points using the formula:

$$\text{Financial Score} = (\text{Lowest Financial Offer} / \text{Financial Offer Being Evaluated}) * 30$$

### Combined Score & Selection

32. The final score will be calculated:

$$\text{Final Score} = (\text{Technical Score} * 0.7) + (\text{Financial Score} * 0.3)$$

33. The firm achieving the highest final score will be selected for contract negotiation.

## VII. GENERAL CONDITIONS

34. The following key general conditions would be applicable for the proposal.

- Proposal Validity: Proposals must remain valid for 120 days from the submission deadline.
- Conflict of Interest: The Firm must declare any potential conflict of interest.
- Format: Technical Proposal maximum 30 pages excluding CVs.

### ANNEX-I: Structure and Content of Comprehensive Concept Notes and Project Scoping Notes

Aspect	Comprehensive Concept Note (Priority A Projects)	Project Scoping Note (Priority B Projects)
Purpose	Deep concept development to prepare for pre-feasibility; includes technical, financial, and E&S details	Define project scope, preliminary options, and indicative costs for early pipeline screening
Depth of Analysis	Detailed situation analysis, preferred solution, draft logframe, financing plan, risk matrix	High-level diagnostic, option set, indicative results, preliminary risk identification
Stakeholder Engagement	Requires in-country mission for consultations and validation with government and partners	Desk-based; relies on existing data and remote consultations if needed
Content Coverage	Technical outline, implementation arrangements, financing structure, E&S screening	Problem statement, strategic alignment, scope, indicative cost, initial E&S and climate flags
Length & Effort	20–30 pages (without annexes)	8–12 pages (without annexes)

Aspect	Comprehensive Concept Note (Priority A Projects)	Project Scoping Note (Priority B Projects)
Outline	<p><b>Executive Summary</b></p> <p><b>Background &amp; Context</b></p> <p>Regional and sectoral context</p> <p>Problem statement</p> <p><b>Situation Analysis</b></p> <p>Baseline data</p> <p>Key challenges and opportunities</p> <p><b>Alignment with National Development Plans</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Solution</b></p> <p>Objectives and expected outcomes</p> <p>Draft logframe (results framework), and Theory of Change</p> <p><b>Technical Outline &amp; Proposed Components</b></p> <p>Design and implementation arrangements</p>	<p><b>Executive Summary</b></p> <p><b>Project Identification</b></p> <p>Problem statement</p> <p>Strategic alignment with IsDB and SCP partner priorities</p> <p><b>Scope Definition</b></p> <p>Geographic and sectoral coverage</p> <p>Preliminary objectives and Theory of Change</p> <p><b>Option Analysis</b></p> <p>High-level diagnostic</p> <p>Alternative approaches</p> <p><b>Indicative Cost Estimate</b></p> <p>Rough budget range</p> <p><b>Preliminary E&amp;S and Climate Flags</b></p> <p>Initial screening for risks</p> <p><b>Preliminary Risk Identification</b></p>

Aspect	Comprehensive Concept Note (Priority A Projects)	Project Scoping Note (Priority B Projects)
	<p>Technology and innovation aspects</p> <p><b>Financial Analysis &amp; Cost Estimates</b></p> <p>Preliminary cost estimates (per project component)</p> <p>Financing plan and structure, including blended finance structure</p> <p><b>Environmental &amp; Social Screening</b></p> <p>E&amp;S risks and mitigation measures</p> <p><b>Risk Assessment</b></p> <p>Risk matrix and mitigation strategies</p> <p><b>Current Development Partners &amp; Stakeholder Engagement Plan</b></p> <p>Summary of consultations and validation</p>	<p>Key risks and assumptions</p> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>Actions toward concept development</p>

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Aspect	Comprehensive Concept Note (Priority A Projects)	Project Scoping Note (Priority B Projects)
	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>Actions toward pre-feasibility</p>	

**ANNEX-II: Financial Proposal Form**

IsDB Sahel Connectivity Program (SCP) – Priority Project Identification and Development Consultancy

Submission Date: [Insert Date]

Validity Period:120 Days from Submission Deadline

### SECTION 1: CONSULTING FIRM INFORMATION

1	<b>Firm Name:</b>	[Insert Legal Name of Consulting Firm]
2	<b>Legal Address:</b>	[Insert Full Address]
3	<b>Contact Person for this Proposal</b>	[Insert Name]
4	<b>Title:</b>	[Insert Title]
5	<b>Email:</b>	[Insert Email]
6	<b>Telephone:</b>	[Insert Phone Number]

### SECTION 2: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL SUMMARY

The undersigned proposes to provide all services, personnel, and deliverables as specified in the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the lump-sum amount of:

**35. Total Contract Price (inclusive of all costs): USD [Insert Amount in Words and Numbers]**

36. *(Note: Must not exceed USD 300,000)*

*This amount is inclusive of all professional fees, reimbursable expenses (travel, per diem, workshops), communications, report production, insurance, taxes, and*

*any other costs required for the complete and satisfactory execution of the contract. No other payments will be requested.*

### SECTION 3: DETAILED COST BREAKDOWN

*(Provide a detailed justification for the proposed lump sum. All figures in USD.)*

#### 3.1 Personnel Fees

No	Position (as per TOR)	Name of Proposed Expert	Input (Person-Days)	Daily Rate (USD)	Total Fees (USD)
1	Team Leader	[Name]	[#]	[Rate]	[Total]
2	Lead Infrastructure Economist	[Name]	[#]	[Rate]	[Total]
3	Energy Sector Expert	[Name]	[#]	[Rate]	[Total]
4	Transport Sector Expert	[Name]	[#]	[Rate]	[Total]
5	ICT/Digitalization Expert	[Name]	[#]	[Rate]	[Total]
6	Cross-Cutting Specialist	[Name]	[#]	[Rate]	[Total]
7	E&S Safeguards Specialist	[Name]	[#]	[Rate]	[Total]

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<b>Subtotal Personnel Fees:</b>	-	<b>Sub-Total 1:</b>	
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### 3.2 Travel and Mission Costs

No	Cost Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Cost (USD)
1	<b>International Airfare</b>	Per round-trip	[#]	[Est. avg. cost]	[Total]
2	<b>In-Country Travel &amp; Transport</b>	Lump sum	1	[Lump sum estimate]	[Total]
3	<b>Daily Subsistence Allowance (Per Diem)</b>	Per day	[#]	[e.g., 250]	[Total]
	<b><i>Subtotal Travel &amp; Missions:</i></b>	-		<b>Sub-Total 2:</b>	

### 3.3 Other Direct Costs

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No	Cost Item	Description / Justification	Total Cost (USD)
1	Meetings	Costs for local venue, translation, materials for in-country stakeholder sessions.	[Amount]
2	Communication & Reporting	International calls, data, graphic design, printing, binding of final deliverables.	[Amount]
3	Software & Data Analysis Licenses	(If applicable)	[Amount]
4	Contingency (max 5%)	For unforeseen minor expenses.	[Amount]
	<b>Subtotal - Other Direct Costs:</b>	<b>Sub-Total 3:</b>	

### 3.4 Summary and Grand Total

No	Cost Component	Amount (USD)
1	Sub-Total 1: Personnel Fees	[Amount from 3.1]
2	Sub-Total 2: Travel & Mission Costs	[Amount from 3.2]

<b>3</b>	Sub-Total 3: Other Direct Costs	[Amount from 3.3]
	<b>GRAND TOTAL PROPOSED FEE</b>	<b>[Sum of All Subtotals]</b>

## SECTION 4: CERTIFICATION AND BANKING DETAILS

### 4.1 Authorized Representative Certification

I, the undersigned, certify that:

1. I have read and understood the Terms of Reference regarding "IsDB Sahel Connectivity Program (SCP) – Priority Project Identification and Development Consultancy"
2. I am duly authorized to sign this proposal on behalf of **[Firm Name]**.
3. The information provided in this financial proposal is complete and accurate.
4. Our firm has no conflict of interest in performing this assignment.
5. This proposal is valid for 120 days from the submission deadline.

**Name:** [Printed Name of Authorized Signatory]

**Title:** [Title, e.g., Managing Director/Partner]

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** [DD/MM/YYYY]

**Company Stamp:**

### 4.2 Banking Details for Payment

*(To be used in case of contract award)*

<b>No</b>	<b>Account Name:</b>	[Must match legal name of firm]
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1	<b>Bank Name:</b>	[Full name of bank]
2	<b>Bank Address:</b>	[Street, City, Country]
3	<b>Account Number (USD):</b>	[Account Number]
4	<b>SWIFT/BIC Code:</b>	[SWIFT Code]
5	<b>IBAN (if applicable):</b>	[IBAN]
6	<b>Correspondent Bank Info (if any):</b>	[Details]

#### SECTION 5: NOTES TO CONSULTANTS

1. This is a **Lump-Sum Contract**. The total price quoted shall be the sole payment for the full execution of the contract.
2. The IsDB will not be liable for any cost overruns.
3. Payments will be made in USD upon successful completion and acceptance of deliverables, as per the schedule in the ToR.
4. All travel will follow IsDB rules and prior approval from the IsDB is required.
5. The consultant is responsible for all taxes, insurance, and social security contributions in accordance with the laws of their home country and countries of operation.

#### 8. Special contract Conditions

6. **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** All templates, tools, reports, and recommendations developed remain the property of IsDB.

7. **Confidentiality:** Consultant must sign NDA and ensure data security (especially procurement-sensitive data).
8. **Conflict of Interest:** Consultant/firms with competing interests (e.g., software vendors pushing one tool) cannot be engaged.
9. **Performance-Based Payments:** Payments linked to satisfactory completion of milestones/deliverables, not time spent.
10. **Penalty/Withholding Clause:** Authority to withhold payment for late or substandard work until corrected.
11. **Knowledge Transfer Requirement:** Consultant must provide training sessions/manuals to ensure sustainability.
12. **Onsite/Offsite Balance:** Consultant must spend adequate time with CPD staff to ensure practical understanding.

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## SECTION 8. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT

[attached as a separate document]

## **SECTION 9: CONSULTANCY SERVICES AGREEMENT (PARTICULAR CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT)**

### **CONSULTANCY SERVICES AGREEMENT**

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**THIS AGREEMENT** is made on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_H (corresponding to \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_G)

Between

**ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK**, a multilateral financial institution having its headquarters at 8111 King Khalid St. Al Nuzlah Al Yamania Dist., Unit No. 1, Jeddah 22332-2444, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (hereinafter referred to as “**IsDB**”)

And

**[NAME OF THE FIRM]**, a company duly incorporated in [country] having its address at [full corporate address and registration no.] (hereinafter referred to as the “**Consultant**”).

IsDB and the Consultant are hereinafter referred to individually as “**Party**” and jointly as the “**Parties**”.

#### **WHEREAS,**

- A. IsDB is desirous to obtain [description of services] in the manner fully described in Appendix-A hereto (hereinafter referred to as the “**Services**”);
- B. The Consultant has represented the necessary skills, competence and capability to render the Services required to IsDB under this Agreement and has submitted a proposal to IsDB dated [\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_] for carrying out the Services; and
- C. IsDB has accepted the aforesaid proposal of the Consultant, subject to such modifications as reflected in this Agreement and the Appendices hereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Parties have agreed as follows:

### **Incorporation of Preamble in the Agreement**

The above preamble shall be deemed to constitute an integral part of this Agreement which shall be construed accordingly.

### **Definitions and Interpretation**

#### Definitions:

In this Agreement, unless otherwise required by the context, the following terms, whenever used, shall have the respective meanings shown against each:

<b>“Agreement”:</b>	this Agreement and the documents and appendices forming part hereof as defined in Clause 2.2 of this Agreement.
<b>“Consultant”:</b>	the firm or firms, company or companies entered hereinabove as a party or parties to this Agreement.
<b>“Day”:</b>	the period between one midnight and the next.
<b>“IsDB Personnel”:</b>	personnel who are employed by the IsDB and assigned to help the Consultant in performance of the Services in accordance with the Terms of Services.
<b>“Month”:</b>	any period of one month according to the Gregorian Calendar.

- “Personnel”:** the individuals mentioned in Appendix-B hereto, provided by the Consultant for performance of the Services.
- “Deliverables”:** the Deliverables in relation to the Services that will be the report and any supporting documentation that the Consultant will prepare after having completed the Services.
- “Services”:** the services described in Appendix (A) hereto as amended or modified from time to time by agreement between the Parties.

Documents Constituting the Agreement:

The following documents shall be deemed to form and be read and construed as part of the Agreement:

- (a) The Letter of Acceptance issued by IsDB.
- (b) The Appendices hereto, namely;
  - (i) Appendix (A) Scope of Services (Terms of Reference);
  - (ii) Appendix (B) The Consultant's Personnel;
  - (iii) Appendix (C) Remuneration and Payments.
- (c) The Consultant's proposal reference [insert reference Number] dated \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ insofar as it is not inconsistent with this Agreement or any other document forming part thereof but only to the extent that such proposal amplifies the Services or describes the methodology to be adopted by the Consultant in performing them.

Interpretation:

- (a) The headings shall not limit, alter or affect the meaning of any provision in this Agreement.
- (b) Words importing the singular also include the plural and the masculine includes the feminine and vice versa, unless the context otherwise requires.

### **Appointment of the Consultant**

IsDB hereby appoints the Consultant for the performance of the Services on the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement, and the Consultant accepts the appointment and undertakes to perform the Services.

Insofar as the Consultant comprises more than one firm and/or company associated together for the purpose of performing the obligations hereunder, all such firms and/or companies shall be jointly and severally liable for the obligations of the Consultant under this Agreement. Such firms and/or companies shall designate and authorize one of their members to liaise on their behalf with and represent them vis-à-vis IsDB who shall be entitled to deal with them through such representative.

### **Relation Between the Parties**

Nothing stated herein shall be construed as establishing a relation of master and servant or principal and agent between the Parties.

### **Commencement and Completion of the Services**

Unless otherwise agreed between the Parties, the Services shall be commenced within [insert period.....] after issuance by IsDB of the order of commencement of the Services and subject to provision of performance bank guarantee by the Consultant in accordance with Clause 14.3 hereof.

Subject to the provisions of Clause 12 hereof and unless otherwise agreed between the Parties, the Services shall be performed and completed within [insert period.....] from the date of commencement.

## Obligations of the Consultant

**Standard of Performance:** The Consultant's Personnel shall perform the Services and carry out all their obligations under this Agreement with all due care, skill, efficiency and diligence in accordance with the highest standards recognized in the profession. In performing the Services, the Consultant's Personnel shall act as the faithful adviser of IsDB. Any approval by IsDB of any reports, plans, or any other documents or recommendations made by the Consultant's Personnel shall not absolve the Consultant of any of its obligations under this provision.

**Observing Local Laws:** The Consultant's Personnel, whilst in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, shall respect the laws of the said country, and shall comply with IsDB rules and regulations while in IsDB premises.

**Specialist Advice and Services:** Where specialist technical advice, not being within the contemplation of the scope of services stated in Appendix (A) hereto, is required, the Consultant may with the prior written agreement of IsDB, arrange for the provision of such specialist services, and IsDB shall either pay for such services or reimburse the Consultant for all reasonable costs relating thereto. However, the Consultant shall retain full and un-severable responsibility for all the Services including the specialist technical advice and assistance which is obtained.

**Sub-Contracting:** The Consultant shall not subcontract any part of the Services or any of its obligations under this Agreement to any third party except with the prior written consent of IsDB. Any such third party and the terms and conditions of the sub contract made with it as well any modifications or termination thereof shall be subject to the approval of IsDB in writing.

Notwithstanding any such approval, the Consultant shall remain fully responsible for the performance by any such sub-contractor of the part or parts of the Services so subcontracted as well as for any other obligations hereunder in relation thereto.

**Confidentiality:** All information, data, documents and designs provided to the Consultant or to the Personnel by IsDB or developed by the Consultant in the course of performing the Services shall be treated by the Consultant as confidential and shall not be published or disclosed to any third party without prior written approval of IsDB.

**Ownership of Documents:** All plans, reports and other documents prepared by the Consultant or the Personnel in performing the Services shall become and remain the property of IsDB and while in the custody of the Consultant or the Personnel shall be fully available to IsDB. The Consultant and the Personnel shall, not later than the date of completion of the Services or the premature

termination thereof, deliver all such documents to IsDB together with a detailed inventory thereof. The Consultant may retain copies of such documents but shall not use them for purposes unrelated to this Agreement without the prior written consent of IsDB.

Without prejudice to the above, the Consultant owns all the intellectual property rights in all systems, techniques, methodologies, ideas, concepts, information and know-how developed during our performance of this Agreement.

**Ownership of Equipment:** Equipment and materials furnished to the Personnel by IsDB or purchased out of funds wholly provided or reimbursed by IsDB shall be the property of IsDB and shall be so marked. Upon completion or termination of the Services the Personnel shall furnish to IsDB an inventory of the said equipment and remaining materials and shall dispose of same as directed by IsDB.

**Reporting:** The Consultant shall submit to IsDB the reports and documents, if applicable, as specified in Appendix (A) hereto, in the form, language or languages, number of copies and within such periods as specified in the said Appendix.

**Visas:** If required, the Consultant shall be fully responsible, at own cost, for obtaining visas for entry to and exit from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the its Personnel, and where applicable for their dependents, and such licenses and permits as may be necessary. IsDB may, without being obliged to, provide possible assistance in this respect.

**Insurance and medical expenses:**

- (a) The Consultant shall alone be responsible for taking out and maintaining at its own cost any insurance policy (including medical insurance, life insurance etc.), and coverage applicable to the Consultant and/or its Personnel and required by applicable laws and regulations.
- (b) The Consultant shall, upon request by IsDB, produce evidence that the aforesaid insurances have been taken and maintained and that the current premiums therefore have been paid.
- (c) IsDB may allow the Consultant's Personnel access to IsDB clinic and health services within working hours during the period of this Agreement in accordance with IsDB's internal rules and procedures. However, the Consultant's Personnel shall alone be responsible for

any costs of the prescription and any other medical expenses the Consultant may incur as a result of any illness during the course of the Services.

### **Liability of the Consultant**

The Consultant shall be liable to IsDB for any breach of its obligations under this Agreement. However, the Consultant's liability to compensate IsDB in respect of any damage or loss shall be limited to the total amount of the remuneration under this Agreement, provided that the liability of the Consultant shall not be subject to such limit in the event of damage or loss suffered by IsDB as a result of gross negligence or wilful misconduct in the performance of the obligations by the Consultant or the Personnel, where gross negligence will be defined as a marked departure from the standard of conduct of a reasonable person in the same profession acting in the same circumstances at the time of the alleged misconduct.

### **Indemnification of IsDB by the Consultant**

The Consultant shall indemnify and hold harmless IsDB against all claims, actions, proceedings, demands and costs, including legal fees and expenses in connection therewith, arising as a result of any infringement by the Consultant in the course of performing the Services of any copyright, patented invention, article, design or proprietary process of any third party.

Provided that the Consultant shall not be liable to indemnify IsDB in respect of any claim if the infringement of any right of third parties was the result of instructions given by IsDB in writing.

### **The Consultant's Personnel**

The Consultant shall provide qualified and experienced Personnel as are required to carry out the Services, and such Personnel, unless designated by name in Appendix (B) hereto, shall be subject to the approval of IsDB.

IsDB shall appoint counterpart Personnel for helping the Consultant carry out its obligation hereunder. IsDB shall provide the Consultant with a list of IsDB Personnel before commencement of the Services.

The titles, agreed job description and minimum qualifications and experience of Personnel to be assigned by the Consultant for carrying out the Services are stated in Appendix (B) hereto. Insofar as any Personnel required for performing the Services have not been approved by IsDB at the time

hereof, the Consultant shall submit to IsDB for review and approval a copy of their biographical data (with supporting documents, if so required by IsDB). All requests for approval of assignment of Personnel for carrying out the Services shall be submitted to IsDB at least one (1) month before the date when the proposed assignment is to take effect.

Replacement or Removal of Personnel:

- (a) Should it become necessary for the Consultant to replace any of the Personnel assigned by it to carry out the Services, the Consultant shall, after obtaining the approval of IsDB for such replacement, arrange for substitute Personnel with equivalent or better qualifications and experience. The cost of replacement of such Personnel shall be borne by the Consultant.
- (b) IsDB may instruct the Consultant to remove and/or replace any of the Personnel assigned by it to carry out the Services, stating in such instruction the reason therefore. If the Personnel to be removed or replaced is guilty of misconduct or if IsDB has reasonable cause to be dissatisfied with the performance of such Personnel, the costs relating to his repatriation and to his replacement shall be borne by the Consultant.

## **Obligations of IsDB**

IsDB shall furnish without charge and within a reasonable time all pertinent data and information available to it relating to the Services and shall give such assistance as shall reasonably be required by the Consultant for carrying out its duties under this Agreement. However, if any decisions are required to be made by IsDB in the course of the Services, such decisions shall be made within a reasonable time so as not to delay or disrupt the Services.

## **Indemnification of the Consultant by IsDB**

IsDB shall indemnify the Consultant and hold it harmless against any claims by third parties, costs, including legal fees and expenses, suffered or incurred by the Consultant as a result of any wrongful act, negligence or breach of contract on the part of IsDB or its employees.

## **Postponement and Termination**

By Notice of IsDB: IsDB may by written notice to the Consultant at any time give prior notice of its intention to omit any part of the Services or to abandon the Services in whole or the remaining part thereof

and terminate this Agreement. Unless otherwise agreed between the Parties, the effective date of termination of this Agreement shall not be less than fifteen (15) days after receipt of such notice. But the Consultant shall upon receipt of such notice take immediate steps to cause the Personnel to bring the Services to a close and to reduce expenditure to a minimum.

Due to Force Majeure: The Consultant shall promptly notify IsDB, in writing, of any situation or event arising from circumstances beyond its control and which it could not reasonably foresee which makes it impossible for the Consultant to carry out in whole or in part its obligations under this Agreement notwithstanding the exercise of reasonable care by the Consultant. Upon the occurrence of such a situation or event and provided that the same is sufficiently verified and acknowledged by IsDB, which shall not unreasonably withhold its acknowledgement, the Services shall be deemed to be postponed for a period of time equal to that caused by the Force Majeure and a reasonable period not exceeding one (1) month for remobilization by the Consultant's Personnel for continuation of the Services.

Due to Default by IsDB: The Consultant may by written notice to IsDB terminate this Agreement:

- (a) if it has not received payment of that part of any invoice, which is not contested, within thirty (30) days of submission thereof, and
- (b) if the Services have been postponed as provided for in Clause 12.2 and the period of postponement has exceeded three (3) months.

Entitlement of Consultant upon Postponement or Termination: Upon postponement of the Services or termination of this Agreement under Clauses 12.1, 12.2 or 12.3 and subject to the obligation of the Consultant to reduce expenditure to a minimum as stated in Clause 12.1, the Consultant shall be entitled to receive the remuneration due up to the effective date of postponement or termination and reimbursement in full for such of the costs specified in Appendix (C) as shall have been incurred prior to the effective date of such postponement or termination and for all costs incidental to the orderly termination of the Services.

Default by the Consultant: IsDB shall notify the Consultant, in writing, if it considers that the Consultant or any of the Personnel is in breach of any of its obligations under this Agreement, stating the default on the part of the Consultant constituting such breach. In the event that the Consultant does not respond to such notice within seven (7) days or fails to rectify the default within a reasonable period not exceeding ten (10) days, IsDB may by further notice to the Consultant terminate the Agreement as of the date stated in such further notice. Such termination shall be without prejudice to the right of IsDB to claim damages for default of the Consultant.

Claims for Default: Any claim for damages on the ground of default in the performance of this Agreement or in connection with its termination shall be the subject of negotiation and agreement between IsDB and the Consultant and, failing such agreement, shall be referred for determination under Clause 20 of this Agreement.

Rights and Liabilities of the Parties: Termination of this Agreement, for whatever reason, shall not prejudice or affect the accrued rights or claims of either Party to this Agreement against the other.

### **Remuneration of the Consultant**

In consideration of performing the Services and its other obligations under this Agreement, and acceptance thereof by IsDB, the Consultant shall be remunerated by IsDB in accordance with the conditions and schedule of remuneration and payments set forth in Appendix (C) hereto.

In the event that supplementary services, in addition to those provided for in Appendix (A) hereto, are required as a result of alterations or modifications to the Services or the schedule of performance thereof, specifically requested by IsDB in writing and agreed with the Consultant, or in the event of delay in performance of the Services due to circumstances beyond the control of the Consultant and which could not reasonably have been foreseen by it, the Consultant shall, insofar as he/she has incurred any extra costs, receive additional remuneration computed either on time basis or as may be otherwise agreed between IsDB and the Consultant, together with any reimbursable expenses incurred. The Consultant shall also be entitled to additional remuneration on the aforesaid basis in respect of any additional services not covered by Appendix (A) hereto which are necessarily incidental to termination of the Agreement other than termination for breach by the Consultant of any part of its obligations under this Agreement.

### **Payments, Performance Guarantee and Advance Payment Guarantee**

Subject to Clauses 14.3 and 14.4, IsDB shall effect payments to the Consultant in accordance with the payment schedules and in the manner set forth in Appendix (C).

If any item or part of an item of an invoice submitted by the Consultant is disputed or questioned by IsDB, it shall so inform the Consultant within fifteen (15) days of receiving the invoice stating the reasons for disputing or questioning such item or items of the invoice. Payment by IsDB of the undisputed item or items of the invoice shall not be withheld on grounds that any other item is disputed or subject to question.

Performance Guarantee: notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, upon signing this Agreement, and prior to commencement of the Services, the Consultant shall provide IsDB with an independent, irrevocable and unconditional performance bank guarantee payable on first demand in the amount of 10% (Ten Percent) of the total remuneration of the Consultant as fixed in Appendix (C) hereto. The performance bank guarantee shall be in the format and from a bank acceptable to IsDB. The performance guarantee shall be valid for the duration of completion of the Services and Deliverables and final acceptance thereof by IsDB.

Should the Consultant be unable to provide the performance bank guarantee as per Clause 14.3, IsDB shall, alternatively, retain 10% (Ten Percent) of the total remuneration of the Consultant as a performance security until completion of the Services and Deliverables and final acceptance thereof by IsDB.

In case the Consultant requires advance payment (payment before or upon signing the Agreement and prior to delivering any part of the Services to IsDB), it shall provide IsDB with its invoice supported by an independent, irrevocable and unconditional advance payment bank guarantee payable on first demand, and must be in the same amount of the advance payment. The guarantee must be in the form and from a bank acceptable to IsDB. The advance payment bank guarantee shall remain valid until the amount of the advance payment is fully recovered from the payments due to the Consultant.

For the avoidance of doubt, and notwithstanding anything stated to the contrary in this agreement and/or in its appendices, if the agreed payment schedule under paragraph (2) of Appendix (C) is such that the Consultant shall be paid after completion and delivery of clearly defined milestones/deliverables, and acceptance thereof by IsDB, then the requirement for performance guarantee and/or retention under Clause 14.3 and Clause 14.4 shall not be applicable.

## Assignment

The Consultant shall not without prior written consent of IsDB assign any part of its obligations under this Agreement.

The Consultant shall not without prior written consent of IsDB assign any benefit under this Agreement, other than the assignment to the Consultant's bankers of any monies due or to become due.

## Partnerships

Should the Consultant be a partnership and at any time take an additional partner or partners, he/she or they shall be deemed to be included in the expression the "Consultant".

Should the Consultant be a partnership, the Agreement shall not be affected by the death or withdrawal of one or more members of the partnership.

## Notices

Any notice, request or consent required or permitted to be given or made pursuant to this Agreement shall be in writing. Any such notice, request or consent shall be deemed to have been duly given or made when delivered in person to an authorized representative or the Party to whom the communication is addressed, or when sent by registered mail, telex, telegram or facsimile to such Party at the following address:

**For IsDB:**

8111 King Khalid St. Al Nuzlah Al Yamania Dist.

Unit No.1, Jeddah-22332-2444, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Tel: +966 12 6361400

Fax: +966 12 6366871

Email: [ldbarchives@isdb.org](mailto:ldbarchives@isdb.org)

Attention: Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: + \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: + \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**For the Consultant:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: + \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: + \_\_\_\_\_

Email: + \_\_\_\_\_

Attention: Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: + \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: + \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Notice will be deemed to be effective as follows:

- (a) in the case of personal delivery or registered mail, on delivery;
- (b) in the case of telegrams after 72 hours of transmission; and
- (c) in the case of telexes or facsimiles after 48 hours of transmission provided that subsequent confirmation in writing is received within 5 days of transmission.

A Party may change its address for notices hereunder by giving the other Party notice of such change pursuant to this Clause.

## Language

English language shall be the language for communication between the Parties and the language according to which this Agreement is to be construed and interpreted.

## Applicable Law

This Agreement shall be governed by and shall be construed and applied in accordance with the laws of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

## Settlement of Disputes

If any dispute, or controversy arises between IsDB and the Consultant relating to the interpretation or application of this Agreement and which cannot be settled amicably, the matter in dispute shall be referred to an arbitration tribunal composed of three (3) arbitrators. One arbitrator shall be nominated by IsDB and one by the Consultant and the third arbitrator who shall be the chairman of the Tribunal, shall be appointed by both Parties. If either Party fails to appoint its arbitrator within fifteen (15) days of the appointment of the arbitrator by the other Party, or if the two Parties fail to agree on the third arbitrator within forty-five (45) days from the date of either Party's request to refer the dispute to arbitration, such arbitrator or arbitrators shall be appointed by the Chamber of Commerce in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the request of either or both Parties.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be final and binding on the Parties. The award of costs incidental to the proceedings shall be at the discretion of the arbitration tribunal.

Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the arbitration proceedings shall take place in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the language of arbitration shall be English language.

## Modification of the Agreement

The terms and conditions of this Agreement, including the scope of Services may be modified by agreement of the Parties provided that such agreement shall be in writing.

## Privileges and Immunities of IsDB

Nothing in or relating to any provision in this Agreement will be construed as constituting a waiver, either expressed or implied, of any privilege or immunity enjoyed by IsDB.

## Taxes

All forms of taxes, duties, levies, withholdings, charges and/or other monetary obligations to which the Consultant may be subject due to the Services it provides under this Agreement shall be solely borne by the Consultant.

IsDB acknowledges and assures that it is exempt from any obligation for the payment, withholding or collection of any tax or duty within its member countries, including The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, if any such obligation arises (before and/or after signing of this Agreement), IsDB undertakes to pay the Consultant the full amount of any fees agreed upon and due to the Consultant in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

## Entry into Force

This Agreement shall come into force and effect on the date first above written.

**In Witness Whereof**, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be signed by their duly authorized representatives in two copies on the day and year first above written.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF

**ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK**

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.....

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

.....

## Appendix (A): SCOPE OF SERVICES (TERMS OF REFERENCE)

[... Incorporate in details...]

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## **Appendix (B): THE CONSULTANT'S PERSONNEL**

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[Incorporate names, titles, and specific duties, if any]

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## **Appendix (C): REMUNERATION AND PAYMENTS**

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1. The professional fee for the Services under this Agreement shall be [insert amount in numbers and words]. The fee is based on the Consultant current understanding of the effort required to deliver the Services in accordance with the scope set out in Appendix (A).

2. The invoices will be raised for payment in accordance with the following schedule:

[Insert payment schedule]

a.xxx

b.xxxx

c.xxxx

3. Subject to the provisions of Clauses 13 and 14 of this Agreement, the Consultant's invoices shall be payable within thirty (30) calendar days of their receipt by IsDB.

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