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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Youth Engagement Strategy consultant

**Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/ERPA/01**

#### **Background**

Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The mandate of the Convention and its 197 Parties is to support a future that avoids, and reverses desertification/land degradation and minimizes effects of drought (DLDD) in affected areas at all levels – and to achieve a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

Meaningful youth engagement and intergenerational partnerships in UNCCD have long been discussed across the UNCCD Secretariat, The Global Mechanism (GM), and the Parties to the convention, and, to a certain extent, has been acted upon particularly since the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of its Conference of the Parties.

In an effort to move to more sustained action, the UNCCD secretariat and the GM has identified youth leadership and its meaningful engagement as a key focus area. In order to further strengthen this focus area across all pillars of its work, the UNCCD is now seeking to develop a comprehensive youth engagement strategy.

The strategy will have three key objectives:

1. Better understand the strengths and weaknesses of the current youth engagement and participation in the UNCCD meetings and processes
2. Explore engagement models and tools aiming at building stronger relationships between the youth and the UNCCD (i.e. youth engagement strategy and implementation plan)
3. Design the required elements that could empower the youth to get further involved in the implementation of the convention and support the advocacy work of the secretariat

To fulfill this task the UNCCD secretariat is looking for an expert with experience in youth programming and developing youth engagement strategies.

#### **Objective of consultancy**

Output from the assignment is a report consists of youth engagement strategy and implementation plan of up to 30 pages (it is possible to also include annexes as required) and a short Executive Summary, in English.

The document will include at least the following components:

- Introductory and background information for the UNCCD youth engagement strategy, such as summary of review on the past and current situation, the rationale for youth engagement (why it is important for the secretariat and the GM);
- Presentation of the strategic vision, guiding principles, specific pathways i.e. concrete pathways through which the UNCCD can work and/or focus on to enhance youth engagement and its objectives;



- Presentation of the youth engagement strategy implementation plan i.e. how to deliver on the youth engagement pathways. This may include to translate the youth engagement pathways into practical approaches to be used across the work of the secretariat and the GM including the institutional mechanisms and processes such as capacity development, communication, partnerships, fundraising and monitoring and evaluation needed for the implementation of the youth engagement strategy
- Annex: UNCCD relevant youth stakeholder mapping

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of External Relations, Policy and Advocacy (ERPA) unit and direct supervision of the NGO and civil society liaison Officer the consultant will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Define what meaningful youth engagement/partnering entails for the UNCCD building on a review of leading literature and including effective engagement across the developmental stages of youth (i.e. children and youth);
- Summarize and review UNCCD's variety of relevant dialogues and collaborative efforts related to youth and other intersecting UNCCD efforts on the inclusion of diversity
- Highlight successful best practices, experiences and lessons learned, as well as entrenched challenges resulting from these past efforts
- Explore how the UNCCD can build synergies and engage the multitude of currently existing, effective land restoration and land conservation youth-led organizations and networks, including how to better engage youth influencers.
- Identify and assess knowledge and communication pathways at global levels that the UNCCD could capitalize on to be both relevant to youth and to improve its engagement with youth
- Develop a youth engagement strategy with an accompanying potential implementation plan considering above results for mainstreaming and institutionalizing youth engagement and partnerships effectively, and in ways that are realistic and can be sustained, at all levels of UNCCD secretariat and the GM, including actions related to dialogue, collaborative initiatives, governance and accountability, and the results sought and priorities. This also will include among others analysis of existing capacity building tools as well as mechanisms to mainstreaming youth engagement into UNCCD programs; enhancing the secretariat and GM work with youth; supporting meaningful youth engagement in meetings and processes of the UNCCD and fundraising for youth engagement.

The incumbent commissioned will produce the above review on the past and current situation and will develop a youth engagement strategy aiming at improving youth engagement at all levels of the Convention. The strategy must aim to make UNCCD a more youth-responsive and youth-led organization that delivers on its vision of combating DLDD. To be inclusive the youth strategy should also consider and address other dimensions of human diversity, such as gender, racial and ethnic identity, geographic location, economic background and other dimensions that pose diverse challenges and opportunities for youth to engage in actions and professional careers related to LDN and land restoration.

The framework of the engagement strategy should begin with a vision to mobilize a young and future generations to engage in UNCCD related issues. This should be followed by a series of Guiding Principles, which are intended to guide all UNCCD's engagement efforts with youth. The next step would be to define Pathways. The Pathways are the big moves of the engagement strategy, and each should be supported by a series of Actions, which are the specific projects and activities recommended for implementing the objectives of the Pathways. Finally, an Implementation Plan lays out a course for advancing the Plan's recommendations.



- The incumbent will do desk research and need to consult with staff in the UNCCD Secretariat; with selected UNCCD unit coordinators including the UNCCD Secretariat management team, with UNCCD accredited youth focused and youth lead NGO and civil society liaison Officer, the UNCCD Youth Caucus on Desertification and Land, as well as other organizations that are youth led and/or have effective youth engagement strategies and demonstrated leadership working with youth.

## **Deliverables**

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Key deliverables are:

- ✓ Report of up to 30 pages (it is possible to also include annexes as required) and a short Executive Summary, in English

The envisioned process is as follows:

- ✓ Completion and documentation of desk research
- ✓ Consultation meetings with stakeholders
- ✓ Draft report, strategy and implementation plan
- ✓ Consultation on draft report, strategy and implementation plan and receipt of feedback
- ✓ Revision of draft report and strategy and implementation plan
- ✓ Finalization report, strategy and implementation plan
- ✓ Presentation of findings

## **Contractual terms**

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This consultancy will be home-based and will include virtual meetings. The services of the selected consultant will be required for a period of 2 months, starting latest on 07 February 2022. All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.

## **Requirements**

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- Bachelor's degree in social/ political sciences, international development, law or any related field
- Minimum of 3 years relevant work experience in youth programming, monitoring evaluation and learning and development of youth strategies.
- Strong research and writing skills including experience writing studies and producing reports
- Experience working with youth/youth issues in sectors such as agriculture, trade, youth empowerment, decent youth employment and entrepreneurship ideally at the international organization level
- Knowledge of youth related best practices and trends in youth engagement
- Knowledge of and/or experience of working with UNCCD is desirable
- Credibility in demonstrating commitment to youth leadership in implementing the assignment
- Experience in organizing workshops and events with youth, both as organizers and target audience, is an asset.
- For this consultancy excellent writing and oral skills and fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another UN Official language would be an asset.

## **Special notice**

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Only individuals who can act as independent, individual economical operators are qualified to apply. Individuals who can provide their services only on account of an institution or enterprise not in their individual capacity are not eligible under this procedure.

Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered "staff members" under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations Secretariat and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions



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of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultant and individual contractor is responsible for determining tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.

### **Submission of application**

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Applications should be submitted by e-mail to [staffing@unccd.int](mailto:staffing@unccd.int) with a UNCCD Personal History Form<sup>1</sup>, CV and cover letter, specifying the reference number: **CCD/22/ERPA/01**.

The deadline for applications is **26 January 2022**. Only applications submitted by the deadline and with complete documentation will be taken into consideration.

Due to the volume of applications received, receipt of applications cannot be acknowledged individually. Please address your application as indicated above and please do not address or copy your application to an individual at the Secretariat or Global Mechanism. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

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Date of issuance: 11 January 2022

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<sup>1</sup> UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/about-us/secretariat/vacancies/applying-unccd>