

Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Terms of Reference for Consultant for Mexico Partnership Landscape Assessment

Background / Rationale

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic poses unprecedented challenges for the global community. The United Nations Sustainable Development Group has launched a coherent framework¹ for UN's urgent socio-economic support to countries and societies in the face of COVID-19, putting in practice Secretary-General's report on "*Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19*"². Moving beyond the initial response phase, the Secretary-General underlines the need to "*recover better*", and that any recovery strategy should ensure that we remain on track towards the longer-term objectives outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The report also underlines the importance of mobilizing partnerships with all stakeholders to accelerate the global response to COVID-19 and recovery from its impact, including with local and regional authorities, researchers, scientists and innovators, civil society and community-based organizations, private sector and philanthropies.

In 2019, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Office for Partnerships, United Nations Development Coordination Office, Global Compact, and The Partnering Initiative launched the *2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator*³ - a project aimed at accelerating effective partnerships in support of the SDGs.

The United Nations in Mexico in collaboration with the government has recently launched its third United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), which covers the period 2020-2025 and is fully aligned to the SDGs. The Framework, which was the result of an extensive consultation process with the government, NGOs, the private sector and academia, identifies several strategic areas for joint action to drive implementation of the SDGs in Mexico:

¹ <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/un-framework-immediate-socio-economic-response-covid-19>

² <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/shared-responsibility-global-solidarity-responding-socio-economic-impacts-covid-19>

³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/PartnershipAccelerator>

equality and inclusion, prosperity and innovation, green economy and climate change, and peace, justice and the rule of law.

Furthermore, México's Socioeconomic Response Plan to COVID-19 (2020), identifies five programmatic areas: i) Health first: protect health systems and services during the crisis; ii) Protect people: social protection and basic services; iii) Response and Economic recovery: protect employment, small and medium enterprises and informal sector workers; iv) Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration; iv) Social cohesion and Communitarian resilience.

In support of these efforts, the UN Resident Coordinators Office in Mexico, in collaboration with the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator, will be engaging a broad range of stakeholders, including the government, the UN country team, academia, private sector, and civil society, to spur implementation of the SDGs and building back better by enhancing cohesion among sectors and stakeholders, and inspire new actions and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The Mexico Partnership Forum (date tbc) will provide a starting point for ensuring greater coherence across all stakeholders and sectors while building back better from COVID-19, leading to more transformational whole-of-society approach to partnerships for advancing SDGs in Mexico.

The purpose of the consultancy is to conduct a national partnership landscape assessment of Mexico, aligned to the MAPS approach (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support) for the implementation of the SDG's, and Mexico's UNCT Partnerships Strategy, in order to deliver maximize impact and value of the Forum, and the implementation of the above mentioned national processes.

Work assignment

- Undertake a partnership landscape assessment (through interviews, desk research, self-organized meetings), aligned with national priorities and UNCT Partnerships Strategy, to identify:
 - Thematic areas and issues where there is strong potential for new partnerships across sectors in Mexico, and with regional and global institutions and donors;
 - Existing mechanisms for engaging stakeholders and sectors towards the Sustainable Development Goals in Mexico;
 - Understanding of the level of support from government towards partnership (evidenced by policies, high-level statements etc.)
 - Overview of the landscape of development actors engaged in partnerships: government ministries, UN entities, business actors, and other stakeholders.
 - Overview of existing key partnerships and actions that are taking place;

Deliverables/Expected Outputs

1. Partnership landscape assessment, including thematic areas of work and priorities of the UN, and issues where there is strong potential for new partnerships across sectors in



Mexico, overview of the key development actors and stakeholders in Mexico; overview of key partnerships and actions in Mexico, including drawing out best practices and learnings, 20-30 pages, English

2. Executive Summary; 1-2 pages, English
3. Key initial findings with 5-15 slides (PowerPoint presentation)
4. Delivery of presentation of findings and assessment at the Mexico Partnership Forum (to be held in Mexico, date tbc);
5. 2-5 short video interview of key stakeholders explaining why partnerships are key to the development of Mexico, or highlighting challenges in fostering partnerships

Performance Indicators

- Substantive feedback on national partnership assessment at the Forum;
- Increase understanding, engagement and commitment by key stakeholders in their partnership approach to delivering country development priorities;
- Strong interest for the Mexico Partnership Forum;
- Timeliness and accuracy of deliverables.

Expected qualifications

- Knowledge about partnerships and means of implementation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Education

- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent degree) in sustainable development, economics, public policy, public administration, finance, natural resources management, engineering, law, social sciences or related field is required. A first-level university degree in combination two (2) additional years of qualifying work experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Work Experience

- A minimum of five (5) years of progressively responsible experience on sustainable development issues, including experience on partnerships. Fully aware and knowledge of the national context, including five years of recent experience at the national (Mexico), international and regional levels is required. Experience in policy-oriented work in sustainable development issues is required. Experience in preparing written outputs on sustainable development issues is required.
- Experience in delivering training programmes is desirable.

Language

Fluent in English and Spanish is a requirement.



Proposals for consultancy

The consultant should send a proposal of the general contents (outline of the final product), including the methodology for the assessment to goranssono@un.org and priscilla.miranda@one.un.org. Potential candidates will be contacted to explain their proposal.

Candidates are also required to fill out their professional profile in Inspira (inspira.un.org) in order to be considered for the consultancy.

Duration of Contract

The assignment is estimated to last 30 working days over a period of 8 weeks.

Duty Station and Travel

The work will be done remotely and locally in Mexico.

Fee and Payment Schedule

The fee will be determined by the United Nations upon review of the credentials of the candidate. It is expected that the daily fee will be between \$200 and \$350.

Supervisor/Project Manager

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of Mr. Ola Goransson, Sustainable Development Officer and Project Coordinator of the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in close consultation with the UN Resident Coordinators Office in Mexico.

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