

AFRICAN UNION

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**POLICY AND REGULATION INITIATIVE FOR
DIGITAL AFRICA (PRIDA)**

Terms of Reference

for

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF AN ACTION PLAN FOR SUPPORTING
INSTITUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE TRAINING ON
INTERNET GOVERNANCE (IG) IN AFRICA**

AUC/IED/C/057

July 2019

1. Background

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) play enabling roles for social and economic development. As a key sector, ICT contributes relevantly to national economic growth. ICTs enable governments to deliver efficient services to businesses and citizens; and citizens benefit from ICT-enabled education, governance and health-services. Generally affordable and accessible ICT services have the potential to generate benefits such as more competitive markets, social inclusive growth and more equitable development, in line with the Roadmap adopted at the 4th EU-Africa Summit and the Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2014-2017.

ICT diffusion is growing fast in Africa, with mobile services now playing the leading role in bridging the digital divide. Data from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) shows that three-quarter of the African population has access to mobile SIM cards. Yet, the success in mobile ownership has not been replicated in other areas of ICT. Internet access falls far behind the rest of the world. Broadband penetration, especially the fixed broadband that indicates the intensity of ICT use in the government, business and anchor institutions like schools, health centres and universities is still very low. The average broadband speeds are generally lower in African countries compared to the rest of the world, while the cost of using services and devices are higher in relation to the average income of the population.

The global nature of services and applications also implies that efforts that pertain to the Internet infrastructure especially those involving critical Internet resources such as numbers and domain names, as well as issues related to the safety and security of the Internet (e.g. spam, network security, cybercrime) are important. In addition, intellectual property rights, trade, and capacity development have direct impact on the deployment and use of broadband networks. Therefore, the participation of African countries in evolving Internet governance structures and processes is critical to stimulate access to broadband services advances.

Yet, Africa's participation in most of the institutional structures in charge of ICT is very limited. African participation in global Internet public policy debates is low and its technical contribution to the Internet Architecture Board (IAB), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Research Task Force (IRTF), the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Number (ICANN) is very limited. Participation in these international forums demands capability and complete understanding of technical issues, such as protocols and the complex governance and interests of stakeholders, communities and players.

There has been a good progress in creating the African Internet Governance Forum and Regional and National Internet Governance initiatives (NRIs), since the holding of the World Summit for Information Society in 2005. The Internet Governance space in Africa has been very active during the WSIS process with regional meetings held from 2002 to 2005 in Bamako, Accra, Addis Ababa, Cairo, Johannesburg, Douala and

Tunis. Moreover, within the IGF global initiative, Africa has hosted IGF in Egypt (2009) and in Kenya (2011).

The African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) that was formally established in 2012 with its Secretariat hosted by the African Union Commission and supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa has since hosted various regional meetings with its first conference held in 2012 in Cairo, followed by the Second Africa Internet Governance meeting that was held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2013. Subsequent meetings were held in Abuja (2014), Addis Ababa (2015), Durban (2016), Sharm El-Sheikh (2017) and Khartoum (2018).

In addition, there have been initiatives to hold regional Internet Governance Forums including the West Africa Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF), the East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EAIGF), Forum de Gouvernance de l'Internet en Afrique Centrale (FGI-CA), the North Africa IGF (NAIGF) and the Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum (SAIGF). Countries like Ghana, Egypt, South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria have also been active in bringing stakeholders together and holding National Internet Governance Forums. By 2017, more than a third of African countries had established their National Internet Governance Forums.

Despite these efforts, African participation in the Internet Governance issues are not uniform and contribution to Internet issues has also been limited. Organizations in the region lack the necessary skills and capacity to carry out important governance functions, such as providing valuable technical and policy information, training and capacity development and evidence based research on Internet policy.

Building on the long standing EC/AUC collaboration and drawing on the experiences of African governments, development aid agencies and other national and regional actors including the private sector, academia and civil society, the European Commission and the African Union Commission have launched a Policy and Regulatory Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) project.

Internet Governance issues have evolved in recent years from discussion of the technical issues such as assignment of Domain Names and Numbers towards developmental challenges and geopolitical aspects. The comprehensive issues covered at the 2018 global Internet Governance Forum including cyber security, trust and privacy, development innovation and economic issues, digital inclusion and accessibility, emerging technologies, human rights and youth, indicate that development, geopolitical and right based challenges are gaining prominence at international levels.

However, generally speaking capacity building initiatives on the continent at national, regional and continental levels appear to be lacking in most part and when existed they seem uncoordinated and lacking standards and rigor.

Across the continent a few countries and regions are attempting to run capacity building programs; in a number of countries and regions they are called IG Summer Schools and in a few other courses are given in universities / academies as part of

certification disciplines. Typically, the training course duration ranges from a day to a week and in some instances a few months to allow proper certification through examinations.

To this end, the AUC organized Train the Trainers workshop in Addis Ababa from 27 to 31 May 2019 wherein around seventy (70) potential national and regional trainers were introduced to various modules on Internet Governance by renowned Internet Governance training experts. These future national and regional trainers represented the African Internet stakeholder groups.

The overall objective of the "Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)" is to foster universally accessible, affordable and effective wireless broadband-across the continent to unlock possible future benefits of Internet based services. The specific objectives are a) to facilitate efficient and harmonized spectrum utilization, b) to harmonize measurable ICT/Telecommunications policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and c) to strengthen the ability of African stakeholders to actively participate in the global Internet governance debate.

PRIDA is based on three outputs:

Output 1: Efficient and harmonized spectrum utilization,

Output 2: Harmonization of measurable ICT/Telecommunications policy, legal and regulatory frameworks,

Output 3: Active participation of African decision makers' and Internet stakeholders in the global Internet governance debate

The African Union is implementing the last two outputs of the project namely harmonization of measurable ICT/Telecommunications policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and promotion of African decision makers' and Internet stakeholders' active participation in the global Internet governance debate.

The expected results and deliverable for Output 3 to be achieved by the project are as follows:

Deliverable 3.1: Active participation of African stakeholders in global Internet governance fora is strengthened and coordinated;

Deliverable 3.2: The establishment of National Internet Governance Forum NIGF is promoted and enabled for African Member States who currently do not have national IGFs;

Deliverable 3.3: Regional and continental (African) IGFs are strengthened;

Deliverable 3.4: Capacity of member states in negotiating regional and international Internet Governance related policy and legal disputes is enhanced.

2. Objective of the Assignment

The objectives of the assignment are:

1. To develop an Action Plan for the sustainability of capacity building initiatives on Internet Governance on the continent taking into account existing PRIDA training models while bearing in mind some of the challenges that various regions and countries in Africa are facing.
2. To spell out and identify the necessary steps that must be assumed by countries and regions to promote and enable the implementation of the self-sustain model (s).
3. To identify the steps to be fulfilled by AUC/ PRIDA project to facilitate a more conducive environment for the implementation of the identified sustainability model (s).

The specific objective of the assignment is

1. To develop a comprehensive well-researched, well-sourced, home-grown and easy to implement Action Plan for supporting institutions for sustainable training on internet governance (IG) in Africa;
2. To produce a report that include a workable road map and timelines with budgetary requirements for the implementation of the action plan at **the national level**;
3. To produce a report that include a workable road map and timelines with budgetary requirements for the implementation of the action plan at the **regional level**;
4. To produce a report that include a workable road map and timelines with budgetary requirements for the implementation of the action plan at the **continental level**

3. Scope of the assignment

PRIDA aims to build capacity of African stakeholders in Internet Governance matters to enable active participation in global debates relating to Internet Public Policy formulation.

To ensure sustainability of the capacity building initiative of the PRIDA project, there needs to be an effort to standardize the IG training programs across countries, regions and the continent by putting harmonized models /mechanisms in place with the aim to allow these initiatives to self-sustain in the future.

The core duties and responsibilities of the consultant include:

- Assess the current IG capacity building environment on the continent and identification of existing capacity building models at the continental, regional, and national levels,
- Develop a framework for analysis of capacity building initiatives that can be used by the AUC in the future,
- Perform SWOT analyses of various existing models at each level (national, regional & continental),
- Assess existing continental, regional and national models at the global level (Asia, Latin America, Europe, North America ...etc),
- Develop optimal IG training sustainability model(s) for Africa at each level (national, regional and continental),
- Identify target institutions to run the training courses at national, regional and continental levels,
- Develop a detailed Action Plan for sustainability of training at all levels,
- Develop roadmaps for the complete implementation of the Action Plan at continental, regional and national levels,
- Identify the steps that must be taken by all key stakeholders at all levels to ensure smooth implementation of the Action Plan (AUC/PRIDA, target institutions within continent/regions/countries, regional/ national PRIDA focal points, continental/regional/national coordinators of IGFs ...etc.),
- Identify quick wins, short and medium term deliverables/ phases of the Action Plan at each level, in line with the overall duration of the PRIDA project,
- Provide estimate budgetary figures for implementing various aspects of the Action Plan at each level,
- Produce timelines for the implementation of the Action Plan at each level

4. Deliverables / Reports and Schedules

The consultant is expected to produce the following deliverables:

- A comprehensive well-researched, well-sourced, home-grown and easy to implement Action Plan for the sustainability of the capacity building programs on IG in Africa.
- A report that includes workable roadmaps / timelines with budgetary requirements for the implementation of deliverables of the Action Plan at each level (national, regional and continental)

5. Duration of the Assignment

The duration of the assignment should not exceed three months (3) effective from contract signing.

6. Consultancy Fee

The African Union shall pay the consultant a fixed sum not exceeding USD\$40,000. This amount includes all the consultant's fees, profit, any tax obligation that may be imposed on the consultant and reimbursable costs. The reimbursable could include travel tickets and DSA to Addis Ababa for at least two trips related to the inception phase of the assignment and verification phase of the final reports / deliverables.

7. Governance and Support by the African Union.

The African Union is respectfully expected to

1. Provide office for the consultant during the time of his duties
2. Pay the Consultant his/her consulting fee after completion of consultancy.

8. Qualification and Experience of Expert

The consultant should meet the following requirements:

Qualifications and skills

- Graduate degree in fields related to ICT sector, policy, regulation and legislations such as law, public policy management, etc.
- Excellent English or French communication and writing skills,
- Track record of developing and delivering training courses on IG at national regional, continental and global levels

Specific Professional experience

- At least 10 years of successful international working experience in the area of ICT,
- At least 5 years of prior experience in preparing, updating and delivering training courses,
- At least 5 years of experience in the preparation, design and delivery of IG training courses in Africa and globally,
- At least 5 years of affiliation with a renowned institution dealing with Internet Governance capacity building in Africa,
- Understanding of the African needs and challenges in the ICT sector and IG space
- Proven experience in delivery of work in a tight time frame

8. Evaluation and qualification criteria

The African Union Commission now invites eligible **Individual Consultants** to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested candidate must provide information

demonstrating that he/she has the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

For evaluation of the expressions of interest the following criteria will be applied:

- a) General Education Qualification (15 points)
- b) Experience Related to the Assignment (55 points);
- c) Technical approach and methodology (20 points)
- d) Work plan (10 points)

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 8:00-13:00hrs and 14:00-17:00 hours Local Time.

Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below not later than 15:00 hours local time, **26th July 2019.**

**African Union Commission,
Attn: Carine Toure Yemitia (Mrs.)
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