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**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS**

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO DEVELOP HEALTH PRODUCTS PRIORITISATION AND ROADMAP FOR REGIONAL MANUFACTURING**

**Procurement Number:** **118/AUDA/HCID/HEALTH/ICS/2024**

**Method: Individual Consultants Selection (ICS) - Individuals Only**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) was established in 2019 following the decision taken at the 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government in Nouakchott, Mauritania, July-2018. AUDA-NEPAD is mandated to:

1. Coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063;
2. Strengthen the capacity of the African Union’s Member States and regional bodies;
3. Advance knowledge-based advisory support;
4. Undertake the full range of resource mobilisation; and
5. Serve as the continent’s technical interface with all Africa's development stakeholders and development partners.

In 2001, African leaders adopted several commitments during a special session on HIV/AIDS held in Abuja, Nigeria, known as the Abuja Commitments. One of these commitments mandated all African Union member states to allocate 15 percent of their national budget toward strengthening healthcare. Building on this commitment, another session in Abuja in 2005 saw member states pledge to enhance research and development in the pharmaceutical sector, leveraging flexibilities within trade and related intellectual property rights (TRIPS). This initiative aimed to reduce costs and improve access to crucial treatments for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, and other related infections prevalent on the continent. At that time, although anti-retroviral drugs were available, their cost rendered them inaccessible to many African nations.

Despite the establishment of national AIDS commissions in nearly all countries following the 2001 Abuja commitments, these drugs were primarily procured through external support from organizations such as the Global Fund and PEPFAR, sourced from manufacturers outside Africa. Notably, there was a dearth of investment in local manufacturing, despite Africa bearing the highest burden of HIV/AIDS globally. Recognizing the need to bolster the continent's pharmaceutical capabilities, Decision 55 was adopted to develop the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which had been established in 2001(five years prior). Subsequently, in 2007, heads of state endorsed the PMPA as a framework to not only increase the production of essential HIV drugs but also to promote the manufacturing of other vital medicines to address Africa's disproportionately high disease burden.

NEPAD initiated efforts in 2009 to cultivate a robust pharmaceutical sector by supporting regional economic communities in establishing mechanisms for harmonizing medicines regulation through the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation Initiative. This endeavour aimed to ensure the quality, efficacy, and affordability of both locally manufactured and imported products. In 2012, the PMPA business plan, endorsed alongside the decision to establish the African Medicines Agency, outlined strategies to address key challenges facing the African pharmaceutical industry. The subsequent years witnessed Africa grappling with emerging public health threats, such as the Ebola outbreak in 2015, prompting a renewed commitment to bolstering the continent's capacity to respond to emergencies thus accelerating the establishment of two major institutions the Africa CDC and AMA. Furthermore the adoption of the Model Law on Medical Products Regulation in 2016 provided a crucial legal framework to regulate medicines circulating in African markets, safeguarding public health against substandard and falsified products. Subsequently, in 2019, the treaty for the establishment of the African Medicines Agency came into force, further solidifying efforts to enhance pharmaceutical regulation and coordination on the continent.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 underscored Africa's vulnerability to disruptions in pharmaceutical supply chains, reinforcing the imperative to invest in local manufacturing, as outlined in the PMPA. The Africa CDC's call for the establishment of the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing aimed to address the continent's reliance on imports for vaccines and essential health products. Today, AUDA-NEPAD leads initiatives to strengthen regional manufacturing capabilities for essential health products, including therapeutics, vaccines, diagnostics, and medical devices. These efforts aim to improve public health outcomes, reduce dependence on imports, and stimulate job creation along the manufacturing value chain.

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1. **SCOPE/MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The Consultant shall deliver on the following tasks:

* Review existing tools and initiatives for identifying priority health products.
* Convene virtual meetings of stakeholders to discuss and refine criteria for prioritization.
* Initiate data collection and analysis for prioritization exercise.
* Conduct prioritization exercise for health products, involving the regional economic communities.
* Develop regional value chain roadmaps based on prioritization findings.
* Synthesize prioritization exercise findings into a consolidated continental roadmap.
* Finalize regional value chain roadmaps and integrate into the continental roadmap.
1. **DELIVERABLES**

The consultant will be required to deliver on the following:

* Inception report.
* Prioritized list of health products for regional manufacturing.
* Consolidated continental roadmap towards self-reliance for priority products.
* Final report.
1. AUDA-NEPAD now invites eligible individual consultants (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.
2. **QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCIES**

**Qualifications and Skills**

* Minimum of an Advanced degree in public health, pharmaceutical sciences, or a related field.

**Experience**

* Over 10 years’ experience in healthcare systems in Africa, preferably in pharmaceutical manufacturing or supply chain management.
* Minimum of 5 years of experience in health systems strengthening, pharmaceutical manufacturing, or related fields. Demonstrated expertise in prioritization methodologies and roadmap development. Proven track record in facilitating multi-stakeholder engagements and policy dialogues.
* Familiarity with the African health landscape and regional economic communities (RECs) is highly desirable.
* Proven track record in conducting surveys and assessments related to medical product prioritization and manufacturing.
* In-depth knowledge of regulatory frameworks, procurement processes, and market dynamics for medical products in African countries.
* Strong analytical and research skills to identify gaps and opportunities in regional manufacturing.
* Excellent communication and presentation skills to convey findings and recommendations to stakeholders effectively.
* Experience in developing strategic roadmaps and action plans for achieving self-reliance in medical product manufacturing.
* Ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and industry partners.
* Demonstrated understanding of socio-economic factors impacting healthcare accessibility and affordability in African regions. Fluency in English; proficiency in other African languages is a plus.
1. **SHORTLISTING CRITERIA**

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

1. Qualifications, Relevant Training and General Education (30 points);
2. Experience in the Specific Assignment as Described in the TORs (60 points); and
3. Knowledge of the Region & Local Conditions (10 points).

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with Individual Consultant Selection (ICS) method set out in the AU Procurement Manual.

1. **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following documents for AUDA-NEPAD consideration:

1. Cover letter confirming compliance to eligibility;
2. Signed declaration of undertaking (Attached as an annex below);and
3. Curriculum Vitae (CV).
4. Proof of stated qualifications in the form of the copies of the degrees obtained
5. **REPORTING AND TIME SCHEDULES:**
6. In undertaking this exercise, the consultant will be expected to frequently exchange and interact with the Senior Programme Officer, Health.

1. **Only Individual Consultants are eligible for this assignment if they fulfil the following eligibility criteria:**
2. Have no conflict of interest in relationship to performance of this assignment;
3. Are not subject to, and not controlled by any entity or individual that is subject to, a temporary suspension or a debarment imposed by the African Union Commission, World Bank or any other multilateral development bank and being listed on the website http://www.worldbank.org/debarr or respectively on the relevant list of any other multilateral development bank. Further, are not ineligible pursuant to a decision of the United Nations Security Council;
4. Have not been convicted by a final judgement or a final administrative decision or subject to financial sanctions by the United Nations or Country for involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorist-related offences, child labour or trafficking in human beings; this criterion of exclusion is also applicable to legal Persons, whose majority of shares are held or factually controlled by natural or legal Persons which themselves are subject to such convictions or sanctions;
5. Are not being bankrupt, wound up or ceasing our activities, having our activities administered by courts, having entered receivership, reorganisation or being in any analogous situation;
6. Are not involved in corruption: offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party;
7. They have not been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity detrimental to the AUDA-NEPAD financial interests;
8. they have not been declared guilty of gross professional misconduct proven by any means which AUDA-NEPAD can justify;
9. Comply with their national tax and social security laws

Interested consultants may obtain further information from the address listed below. All Expression of Interests should be sent electronically to email listed below.

1. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by email on or before **24th May 2024 14:30 hours (South African Time).** All EOI’s must be marked “**Consultancy services to develop health products prioritisation and roadmap for regional manufacturing. Ref: 118/AUDA/HCID/HEALTH/ICS/2024)”** in the subject line of the email.
2. ***Privacy Policy*:** *AUDA-NEPAD Procurement office collects and uses your personal information for “Procurement Process” when you intend to compete and deliver any service or goods for the organization either individually or as a firm based on your consent. Your personal data is our highest security and kept for a period strictly necessary for the purpose set out. This privacy notice supplements the AUDA-NEPAD standard privacy notice and should be read in conjunction with the same available on AUDA-NEPAD website.*

**The Chairperson Internal Procurement Committee (IPC)**

AUDA-NEPAD

230, 15th Road, P. O. Box 218 Midrand,

1685 Johannesburg, South Africa

Email: procurement@nepad.org & copy bathom@nepad.org

Attention of: Head of Procurement Division