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CALL FOR PROPOSAL – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

**CONSULTANT TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY ON “ILLICIT WEAPONS FLOWS  
AND TERRORISM IN AFRICA”**

**APP Ref: AUC/PAPS/CMD/CS/020**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**1. Background**

Terrorism continues to be a major threat to peace, security and stability of the African Union Member States. Various factors contribute to exacerbating the nature of this threat. One such factor is the ability of terrorists to acquire a range of weapons. Others include the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and the increasing use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Whereas there is need to pay attention to all these weapons in the hands of terrorists, Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) remain the weapons of choice for terrorists and transnational organised criminals alike.

It is in this regard that the Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS), at its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 2019, requested the Commission to conduct a study on the ostensible relations between the proliferation of illicit SALWs and terrorism. The STCDSS reiterated this request at its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting held in May 2022. Therefore, these Terms of Reference are developed as a guide that will act as reference for the Consultant who will undertake the study.

**2. Nature of the threat and existing Continental frameworks**

African Union (AU) Member States face various threats to peace, security and stability of their territories. One of these threats is the widespread availability of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in the hands of unauthorized groups or individuals. These illicit arms are major enablers to the growing armed violence that the Continent is witnessing, perpetrated by insurgents, criminal groups, terrorists and violent extremists, and other negative forces. These negatively impact on State security, human security, peace, stability, and sustainable development on the continent.

It is in this context that the Continent adopted the “Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of SALWs” in December 2000, in preparation for Africa’s participation at the UN process to negotiate the “Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects” (UN-PoA), which was subsequently adopted in July 2001.

AU Member States have also adopted instruments at the regional level that, specifically provide for strengthening cooperation and collaboration among States in the fight against illicit SALWs. These include the 2001 *Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)*; the 2004 *Nairobi Protocol on the Control, Prevention and Reduction of SALW in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States*; the 2006 *Convention of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on SALW, their Ammunitions and Other Related Materials*; and the 2010 *Central Africa Convention for the Control of SALW, their Ammunition, Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair or Assembly* (Kinshasa Convention).

It is noted, in the AU Commission Report of the Study “Weapons Compass: Mapping Illicit Small Arms Flows in Africa” of 2019, that most illicit small arms circulating in Africa are initially legally produced or owned and only subsequently diverted to armed groups, criminals, or other unauthorized users at some point during their life cycle (pp. 46). The main patterns of diversion include transfer diversions, diversions from national stockpiles (including from peacekeeping operations), and diversions of from civilian owners.

The Study further indicates that there is approximately forty (40) million civilian-held firearms in circulation in Africa. According to the study, only about 5.8 million of these weapons are reported as being officially registered, while 16 million are unregistered, with the status of the remainder remaining unclear (*Small Arms Survey and African Union Commission, 2019, pp. 31*).

The AU Policy Organs, in various meetings, have also expressed concern over the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of conventional weapons, particularly SALW, as posing serious threat to Continental security, and fuelling armed conflict. Similarly, they noted with concern the threat posed by unregulated international trade in conventional weapons. It is in this context that the Assembly noted with satisfaction the elaboration of an Africa Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and encouraged Member States to make use of the Common Position to further Africa’s concerns and interests during the Final UN Conference on the ATT.

On the other hand, the UN Security Council, in consideration of the item entitled “Peace and Security in Africa” in March 2020, issued a Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2020/5) in which it recognized the impact and challenges posed by the illicit trade in and diversion of SALW in Africa, which enables terrorist groups to considerably increase their armed capabilities. The 2021 biennial Report of the UN Secretary-General on SALW (S/2021/839) quoted research by the International Centre for Counter Terrorism which concluded that the past decade, terrorists used small arms and light weapons to carry out 85,148 terrorist attacks.

Recent and on-going efforts at policy level, by the AU to address the threat posed by illicit SALW have included the *African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns*, whose implementation is now extended from 2020 to 2030. Also, the declaration of the September as the *African Amnesty Month* for the surrender and collection of illicit weapons is yet another policy initiative aimed at curbing illicit SALW in Africa, which is also a contribution to silencing the guns in the Continent.

This illustrates the nature and magnitude of the threat, as well as the overarching concern of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in the continent.

### **3. Overall objective and scope of the assignment**

The main objective of the study is to map out illicit weapons flows as linked to terrorist activities in the continent. It is expected that the study will provide empirical evidence and answer the question of how terrorists and their groups acquire and continue to build weapons stockpiles.

#### **- Scope of the assignment.**

The consultant shall perform the following duties:

- i. Undertake an in-depth review of existing AU instruments that form the legal and operational regimes in the fight against illicit SALW in the Continent, giving the contexts in which, they operate;
- ii. Undertake an in-depth review of existing AU instruments that form the legal and operational regimes for the prevention and combating of terrorism and violent extremism;
- iii. In both the above reviews, identify strengths, weaknesses and gaps; and propose commensurate policy and operational responses on how to prevent terrorists from acquiring illicit weapons;
- iv. Identify gaps in the efforts to counter the illicit trafficking and circulation of SALW, including the vulnerability posed by porous borders, which allow terrorists and criminal groups to move illicit weapons from one country to another and from one region to another;
- v. Document good practices in preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons, and include them in the guidance to the Member States;
- vi. Make concrete and actionable proposals on practical steps to be taken by Member States to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons and ammunition.

### **4. Methodology and coordination.**

The Consultant will undertake desk review of relevant regional, continental and international policy instruments on the fight against illicit proliferation trafficking and circulation of weapons. Whereas the Consultant will work under the guidance of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration / Security Sector Reform (DDR/SSR) Division in the Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate (GCPD) of the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (PAPS). The Conflict Management Directorate (CMD) within PAPS, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) and the Committee of the Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) will also be part of the study. It is further expected that the Continental Early Warning System and the Peace Support Operations Division will provide information on weapons trafficking, potential armed conflicts, and nature of existing armed conflicts. The Consultant will, therefore conduct interviews with targeted Staff in PAPS.

## 5. Deliverables

The Consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

- i. Submit an inception report that includes a work plan and methodology to PAPS, within seven (7) days of commencing the assignment.
- ii. Hold technical consultative meetings and interviews (physical or virtual) with the DDR/SSR Division, Director CMD, Acting Director GCPD, and other relevant Divisions, Units and officers in PAPS, and also with the other relevant AU entities like the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (CACSR), and the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL);
- iii. Prepare a draft Report on the study, making actionable proposals on how best to respond to the threat of terrorists acquiring weapons, highlights specific context in the regions, where applicable, in order to effectively counter terrorist acquisition of weapons. This draft report will be produced within twenty-five (25) days of commencing the assignment.
- iv. Present the draft report to the AU Standing Committee on SALW/DDR for consideration;
- v. Reflect the amendments as proposed by the Standing Committee on SALW/DDR;
- vi. Submit the final report, which should be submitted within forty-five (45) days after commencing the assignment.

## 6. Duration of assignment

The consultancy will take forty-five (45) days.

## 7. Duty Station

This is a Home-Based Assignment. However, the Consultant will be required to travel to the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for debrief with the Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate. The Consultant will also be required to present the draft report to the Standing Committee, whether in a virtual meeting or physical, whichever the case may be.

**Note:** Air travel to the AU headquarters and return, will be provided by the Commission under the principle of the direct route and cheapest economy class ticket, in accordance with the AU Rules and Regulations. The AU will also provide full DSA to the consultant to cover accommodation and meals for the duration of the mission.

## 8. Management and Administration of the Assignment

The Acting Head of the DDR/SSR Division within the Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate will be responsible for the overall supervision of the assignment, including the logistical and administrative components.

## 9. Consultancy Fee and Payment schedule.

The Consultant will be paid a fixed lump sum fee of US Dollars sixteen thousand only (**USD 16,000**) for the assignment. The payment will be phased in accordance with the payment schedule as indicated below. The amount is inclusive of all costs. The Consultant will be responsible for all tax obligations that may arise out of the consultancy.

The payment schedule is as follows:

- 10% upon submission and approval of an inception report;
- 30% upon submission and review by PAPS of draft report on the study;
- 60% on submission and acceptance by PAPS of the Final report.

## 10. Educational qualifications of the Consultant

- i. Master's Degree in Law, international law, political science, sociology, criminology or relevant field, or security sector related background.
- ii. Professional training/ courses in illicit arms control, disarmament and or defence against terrorism would be an added advantage

## 11. Experience of the Consultant

- i. Have at least seven (7) years of work experience on peace and security issues, preferably with knowledge in arms control, counter terrorism, preventing violent extremism / radicalisation
- ii. Possess strong research, advocacy, data management and analysis skills
- iii. Ability to work closely with high level government, military and police officials, civil society representatives and multi-lateral institutions, and development partners in complex peace and security environment with multiple interests.
- iv. Proven ability to write very high-quality policy briefs and reports;
- v. Excellent communication skills (written and oral).
- vi. Ability to work under minimum supervision and to deliver quality results in a timely fashion

## 12. Language

Fluency in English, oral and written is required.

## 13. Evaluation Criteria

The following evaluation criteria will be applied:

1.	General Educational Qualifications and Relevant Training	30
2.	Experience relevant to the assignment	70
	Total	100

## 14. Invitation

The African Union Commission now invites eligible Individual Consultants to submit their Proposals to undertake the assignment. Interested candidates must provide information demonstrating that he/she has the required qualifications and relevant experience to undertake the assignment.

Documents required:

- Cover letter - Understanding of the assignment / TOR
- Curriculum Vitae(CV)

Further clarifications can be obtained at : [tender@africa-union.org](mailto:tender@africa-union.org) with Cc: [KimalyoP@africa-union.org](mailto:KimalyoP@africa-union.org) during office hours 8:00-17:00 hours Local Time. Always quote the APP Reference.

Proposals should be submitted by email to the address below, no later than **3.00pm** Addis Ababa time on **29<sup>th</sup> August 2022**. Proposals received after the deadline will be rejected.

Address:

**The Head, Procurement, Travel & Stores Unit**

**African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Building C, 3rd Floor; Tel +251115517700;**

**Email; [tender@africa-union.org](mailto:tender@africa-union.org)**

**Cc: [KimalyoP@africa-union.org](mailto:KimalyoP@africa-union.org)**