

Senior Advisor for Design of the SDG Climate Facility

Location:	Home Based
Application Deadline:	20-March-20
Type of Contract:	Individual Contract
Languages required:	English- Arabic
Expected Duration:	50 days over the period of 4 months

BACKGROUND

The Middle East and North Africa is particularly susceptible to climate change, with temperatures rising faster than the global average. Moreover, it is also the most water-scarce and food-import dependent region in the world. These vulnerabilities have contributed to various forms of social unrest, exacerbated conflicts, and driven the displacement of large numbers of people.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction have stressed that for development to be sustainable and resilient to shocks, it must integrate climate change and disaster risks into short-term responses, and long-term planning. Likewise, the Secretary General's Strategy and Roadmap for Financing Agenda 2030 calls on stakeholders to scale up climate finance, and enhance sustainable financing strategies and investments at all levels, and across the different, but interlinked spheres of work. The recent UN Climate Action Summit, and the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development further highlighted that to enable long-lasting changes, there is a need to rethink the way we address current development challenges, and to take on a more integrated approach.

Against this background, multiple UN agencies (UNDP, UNEP-FI, WFP, UN-Habitat, UNDRR) together with the League of Arab States and the Arab Water Council have initiated a regional project for the Arab region, the SDG-Climate Facility Project: Climate Action for Human Security (\$7.9 million; 2019-2023) which aims to enhance the capacity of regional and national institutions across the region to address climate change in a way that brings benefits across multiple development and humanitarian goals. As a new One-UN Regional Platform together with LAS and AWC, the project promotes integrated solutions for climate action that brings benefits for priority SDGs like poverty eradication, women's empowerment, access to water, access to clean and affordable energy, ecosystem resilience, and for crisis prevention and recovery efforts.

To this end, the project has commenced delivering technical assistance to regional partners to advocate for, and apply a nexus approach to climate action, alongside a series of country grants to advance innovative local solutions. Building on these initial results, and in line with the overarching objectives, the project will support the establishment of an SDG Climate Facility, a new multi-partner platform to scale-up innovative finance and partnerships on the road to the 2030 targets under the SDGs and Paris

Agreement. The Facility will have a special focus on the climate-security nexus, helping countries address multi-dimensional risk and generate innovative partnerships and finance across climate change, development and humanitarian sectors and actors. It will enable maximum impact across different sectors through a nexus approach, and in doing so, will be expected to bridge global agendas and local priorities related to: i) **National capacity** for integrated policy solutions across climate, development and humanitarian spheres; ii) **Innovative finance and partnership** models to accelerate climate investments with SDG and crisis prevention/recovery benefits; and iii) **Building resilience** of communities and ecosystems in hotspots of climate fragility and multi-dimensional risk across the region. The SDG-Climate Facility Project is looking to bring on board a Senior Advisor to provide recommendations for the design and establishment of the SDG-Climate Facility.

OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of the assignment is to provide recommendations for the design and establishment of the SDG-Climate Facility as a new platform in the Arab region to scale-up innovative finance and partnerships on the road to the 2030 targets under the SDGs and Paris Agreement. This will include design of options, and recommendation of the preferred alternatives for the institutional forms and function of the Facility, a sustainable financing model, and thematic priorities. The Facility is expected to be a leading regional facility to address the climate-SDG-security nexus.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES

The Senior Advisor will produce a number of outputs:

- a. **A Comparative Analysis Report mapping** other global and regional facilities/platforms that are addressing issues related to SDG achievement, climate change and crisis prevention/recovery. The analysis should include the strengths and gaps of such facilities/platforms so that they be used to inform the design recommendations of the SDG-Climate Facility. Based on the analysis, the report should also outline a number of options for the design of the Facility that addresses institutional forms and function of the Facility, a sustainable financing model, and thematic priorities for its long-term work programme.
- b. Take part as a key resource person during Consultative Meetings over the options with the core members of the SDG Climate Facility regional project, and with other potential partners from the UN system, regional bodies, universities and think tanks, civil society organizations, bilateral donors, the private sector, and others as appropriate and relevant.
- c. Final Advisory Report including the full proposed design of the selected option for the Facility, including elaboration of its institutional forms and functions, a sustainable financing model, and thematic priorities for its long-term work programme, and a fully costed implementation plan

REPORTING LINES

The Senior Advisor will have a primary reporting line to AWC Deputy Technical Director, and will be guided by her, in close collaboration with the Director (or Representative) of the LAS Sustainable Department.

Additional details of the reporting expectations will be shared upon signing of the contract.

SCOPE OF WORK

Under the overall guidance of AWC Deputy Technical Director, and in close collaboration with the Director (or Representative) of the LAS Sustainable Department, the Senior Advisor will be expected to:

Key Result 1: Comparative Analysis Report

- a. **Have a thorough understanding of the project objectives:** Review the SDG Climate Facility project document and other existing materials that relate directly to the project, as well as knowledge materials that have been developed in recent years that relate to one or more of the thematic areas covered by the SDG-Climate Facility project. (3 days)
- b. **Comparative Analysis Report mapping other global and regional facilities/platforms:** there are many platforms and facilities which have been initiated around issues of SDGs, climate change and crisis prevention/recovery. The Senior Advisor will scan the landscape for such initiatives and present a mapping that elaborates their comparative value, including their thematic focus, geographic scope, operational modality, and institutional set-up. The comparative analysis should inform the design of the SDG-Climate Facility so that the latter brings in additional value, and does not replicate existing mechanism in the region, in particular emphasizing the climate-security perspective. The report will include a presentation of top three options for the design of the Facility that addresses operating principles, main proposed areas of engagement, main beneficiaries, governance structure, institutional forms and function of the Facility, a sustainable financing model, and thematic priorities for its long-term work programme. It is suggested that this be presented under the headings of:
 - a. **Unique value-added of the Facility**
 - b. **Proposed Facility (all options should include)**
 - i. Vision of the Facility
 - ii. Aims and objectives
 - iii. Thematic priorities and focus areas
 - iv. Financing instruments
 - c. **Operational Structure of the Facility**
 - d. **Implementation modalities, including innovative financing model**

This segment (b) of the assignment is expected take approximately 20 days.

Key Result 2: Consultative Meetings

- c. **Make a business case to the partners of the SDG Climate Facility project with options for design of the Facility:** prepare a concise proposal that outlines the top three options for the Facility design in

line with the purposes as articulated in the SDG Climate Facility project document, and as a result of consultations and exchanges with all project partners. The proposal should include clarity on the Facility's a) vision, rationale and value-added; b) thematic areas of work which will drive its activities; c) operational structure and implementation modalities and d) innovative financing instrument. (5 days)

- d. **Undertake necessary consultations** with project partners to receive feedback on the proposal and the various opinions for Facility design therein, seeking overarching consensus by all partners about the basic thematic pillars, structure and mandate of the Facility. (10 days)

Key Result 3: Final Advisory Report

- e. **Develop final report on preferred option for design of the SDG-Climate Facility** to include the following considerations: a) vision, rationale and value-added; b) thematic areas of work which will drive its activities; c) operational structure and implementation modalities and d) innovative financing instrument. The proposal should include the intended main beneficiaries, as well as indicate key milestones from the establishment all the way through to operationability. (12 days)

DELIVERABLES

1. **Comparative Analysis Report:** Mapping of other global/regional facilities/platforms and recommendation of top three options for design of the Facility
2. **Consultations:** facilitate dialogue among project partners on options for design of the Facility and to reach consensus on the best option
3. **Final Advisory Report** with detailed elaboration of the preferred design option in terms of institutional forms and function of the Facility, thematic priorities for its long-term work programme, financing model, etc.

DURATION OF THE WORK

The duration of the work will be 50 working days over a period of 4 months.

DUTY STATION

This is a Home-based assignment, with up to 3 missions to Amman/Cairo (dates to be discussed).

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTOR

I. Academic Qualification:

- PHD or a Master's Degree (or equivalent) in business development, organizational development, climate change, environment or development studies, interdisciplinary studies, or other related areas.

II. Years of Experience:

- At least 15 years of experience in institutional development, business plan developments including

in climate change, sustainable development or related international development settings.

III. Technical experience:

- Knowledge and previous experience in international development, sustainable development areas including climate change, environment, and/or related areas
- Previous experience in developing business models or strategies with diverse financing models at the international level
- Experience in the Arab region is highly desirable and a strong asset.
- Previous experience of working in and/or supporting developing countries. Experience of/in crisis settings is highly desirable.
- Proven experience of business proposal development for multi-lateral organizations
- Proven experience in liaising with senior and high-level representatives from public and private sectors
- Excellent networks with representatives from both public and private sectors, as well as civil society, academia, and other relevant stakeholders in the region.

IV. Language Requirements

- Excellent knowledge of English and Arabic.

Interested candidates shall submitted their resumes to:

m.ghonaim@arabwatercouncil.org

N.B: Only selected candidates will be contacted by AWC