

Terms of References (TOR)
For
Network Officer
Activity No. 1.3.2.

“Dedicated climate security dialogues with crisis-affected member states to contextualize nexus between climate and displacement; raise awareness on climate risks to crisis prevention/recovery; and establish a climate security network among practitioners and think tanks to initiate a regional policy research and capacity development agenda on managing multi-dimensional risk and building resilience”

Climate change impacts are complex and shaped by many interactions between natural resources and socio-economic aspects. These interactions need to be properly understood in order to conduct appropriate planning for climate security and sustainable development. If not properly understood, this complexity of interactions could become a challenge for climate security planners and decision-makers, as it involves many cause-effect relations.

According to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, for development to be sustainable and resilient to shocks, it must integrate climate change and disaster risk management into short-term responses and long-term planning.

In this context, the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Arab Water Council (AWC), together with multiple UN agencies (UNDP, UNEP-FI, WFP, UN-Habitat, UNDRR) have initiated a regional project: “The SDG-Climate Facility Project: Climate Action for Human Security”. Through joint actions, the project is working towards a) promoting integrated solutions for climate action that brings benefits across the SDGs, and enhancing crisis prevention and recovery efforts; and b) scaling-up local and regional partnerships and finance mechanisms towards such efforts.

One of the SDG-Climate Facility Program’s milestones is the establishment of a Regional Climate Security Network (RCSN). Formally launched in December 2020 that will serve as an innovative think-tank for developing and implementing climate security policy research agenda on managing multi-dimensional risks and building resilience to enhance partnerships and synergies among different sectors and stakeholders on the regional level across the Arab region. Through this network, technical perspectives will be developed to help countries produce innovative directives and seek sustainable finance. The RCSN will serve the activities with respect to data sharing, validation of results and participation on technical surveys to help better understand the regional context and facilitate building countries risk profiles for the development of the current case studies. On the operational side, a series of regional dialogues with multiple stakeholders will be organized to develop a shared vision on how climate security, in practice, may cope with emerging trends of climate variability. The Network is proposed to be a long term entity that could later become an essential part of the Facility to assist in providing technical services and providing sustainable finance.

The Network will play an important role in advocating for climate security as a concept, but also in building capacity at all levels and among a multitude of stakeholders from the governmental, non-governmental, academic, private, and civil society sector across the MENA region. To ensure that the Regional Climate Security Framework can have real and tangible impact on the ground, an integrated and cross-sectoral understanding of climate security will have to be translated into real, everyday tools and mechanisms that policymakers, planners and project managers across the region can apply on a day-to-day basis.

Network Objectives

The Regional Climate Security Network's Objectives are as follows:

Promoting a Regional Climate Security Approach

- foster regional climate security approaches that are integrated, multidisciplinary and based on nexus thinking
- raise awareness about socio-economic, security, gender equality and social cohesion aspects of climate change related effects and disasters

Data Sharing, Digital Innovation

- advance the knowledge about and awareness of climate security by supporting research and information gathering and sharing, based on state-of-the art methodologies and digital transformation

Capacity Development

- develop capacity among diverse stakeholders in the region to build new understandings and languages of climate security
- build female regional leaders on climate security

Foster Cooperation and Partnerships

- bring together a multiplicity of stakeholders to address climate security challenges jointly and in innovative ways
- generate a regional culture of sharing, collaboration, and mutual support

As part of Activity No. 1.3.2. the following terms of reference describe the scope of work and responsibilities of a consultant who will take part as Network Officer.

Scope of Work

The main objective is to manage and support the daily operations of a climate-security network across members, practitioners and think-tanks to initiate regional policy research and capacity development agenda on managing multi-dimensional risks and building resilience. As priority strategic objective, this will entail data collection, covering technical, socio-economic, and political information and developing a robust regional mechanism for information sharing and knowledge exchange between multiple sectors.

The RCSN Officer will be the main focal point coordinating the Network's operations, progress, and activities.

Activities and Responsibilities of the Consultant

Under the overall management and supervision of the Deputy Technical Director and in close cooperation with the Network Committee Members, as well as with partners of the SDG Climate Facility Program, the consultant will:

- Formulate the Network long and short term work plan in close cooperation with AWC Focal Point and the SDG Project Partners;
- Coordinate the Network activities with respect to data sharing, validation of results and participation in technical surveys;
- Establish and manage a membership process for the Network. This includes building a registration and administration process for members;
- Administer communications, collaboration and partnerships among Network's different bodies and entities represented in the Network's organizational structure. This entails assisting the different Network task forces in their work and coordinating events and activities implemented under these task forces;
- Coordinate the identification, development, mainstreaming and implementation of the Network work plans and activities;
- Provide policy advice and technical support to the Network committees and taskforces;
- Produce Network outputs, social media posts, reports, and updates as part of the Network's outreach and communication strategy;
- Organize regular follow-up meetings with partners and members to promote the Network activities at both regional and national level on climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Manage the preparations of network meetings in terms of technical and logistic preparations in close cooperation with AWC facility team.
- Monitor and disseminate information and results of stakeholder dialogues/meetings and get feedback;
- Represent the Network at national, regional and international dialogues, cooperation networks and technical events related to climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Manage the Network's website and data sharing platform and continuously inviting member contributions to the platform;
- Ensure that the Network's guiding principles and values are being valued and adhered to at all times;
- Actively invite and boost the participation of women, young researchers, as well as vulnerable and indigenous groups to participate in the Network;

- Develop a fundraising strategies for the Network's current and future activities and helping to establish a sustainable funding and financing plan for the Network that extends beyond the duration of the SDG-Climate Facility Project.
- Contribute to overarching resource mobilization efforts for the Climate-Security network as an integral part of the SDG Climate Facility in the medium and long-term

Deliverables:

1. Network Work Plan
2. List of Network key stakeholders and members
3. Outline for the Network's kick-off event including (Background, objective, Speakers, presentations, list of invitees, and any other requirements for the event)
4. Matrix of the Existing Arab Coordination Networks in same fields identifying weak and strength points.
5. Technical Report that summarizes the findings, and recommendations on opportunities for final Network design, key working areas, future activities and sustainability/funding plan.
6. Fundraising strategies for the Network's current and future activities to helping secure sustainable funding and financing plan for the Network.

Qualifications and Experience

The consultant should have the following qualifications and working experience in the relevant fields:

1. Sound scientific experience (10 years) in field related to sustainable development, project management, project coordination, communications, marketing, or accounting.
2. A broad understanding of the various aspects of climate change adaptation methods, tools and frameworks, SDGs, social security and environmental issues in the Arab region.
3. Excellent presentation, communication and facilitation skills.
4. Excellent written and oral linguistic skills (English Language is a must)
5. Ability to work independently and respond to feedback in a timely and professional manner,
6. Excellent organizational skills, attention to detail and ability to contribute to a team.

Duration

The post is advertised for initial duration of one year starting on July 1st 2021 till 22ndth of June, 2021.