



Strengthening Multistakeholder Response to Election Violence in West Africa

Terms of Reference for an Expert to Produce Election Security Report

1. Background:

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) with support from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO) Project is implementing a project titled, “Strengthening Multi stakeholder Response to Election Violence in West Africa”. The overall objective is to enhance response mechanisms for electoral dispute management and resolution in West Africa with focus on seven countries conducting Presidential elections between 2020 – 2022. These include Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Benin and Gambia.

The project complements the WANEP democracy program titled, “Electoral violence Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (E-MAM) designed to support inclusive and sustainable dispute resolution architecture that prevents or mitigates political or election related violence in West Africa. WANEP’s experience in this effort spans over 10 years of intervention in Presidential and Parliamentary elections across the 15 ECOWAS Member States. This has enabled it to develop a broad framework that links early warning with response to support the resolution of emerging political and electoral conflicts. Through hands on experience, WANEP has deepened its appreciation of the need to further strengthen local multi stakeholder preventive action throughout the electioneering process of upcoming elections in the region. As West Africa prepares for waves of presidential and parliamentary elections in at least five countries in the last quarter of 2020, there are growing concerns that disputed electoral processes, inter party rivalry and perceptions of lack of transparency and inclusivity by Electoral Management Bodies could lead to heightened tensions, disputed results and violence across the targeted countries. This is in addition to disputed electoral processes such as voter registration by opposition parties and

perceptions of lack of transparency and inclusivity by Election Management Bodies. This can be a catalyst for large scale instability in a region already suffering from the insecurity and humanitarian crises. This raises the need to reinforce mechanisms for electoral security and integrity in line with standard democratic principles of universal suffrage, political equality, impartiality and transparency throughout the electoral cycle to boost public confidence and trust in the management and peaceful conduct of these elections. The oversight and watchdog role of civil society becomes very key in galvanising platforms that builds bridges for open multi stakeholder dialogue, information sharing and 'public audit' that ensures the EMBs maintain the integrity of these elections. The strategic role of civil society will push for persistent ethical practice by EMBs over the entire course of the electoral cycle and stem the tide of political violence during and after the elections in these target countries

2. Specific Task of the Consultant

In light with this development, and to help achieve the goal of the project, WANEP seeks to engage an expert to perform the following:

- Train selected civil society organisations for three days on election security management and reporting. The training will deepen their professional skills on various areas of election security including electoral justice, monitoring, accountability and transparency of the Electoral Management Bodies, integrity of the voting process, electoral observation risk management, barriers that impeded universal suffrage, inclusive voting process, institutional integrity, ethical responsibilities of political parties and security agencies, information security, regional and international instruments that enhance legitimacy of electoral processes and advocacy;
- Facilitate a one-day workshop for the development of a framework for the production of a comprehensive report on Election Security in the targeted country. The workshop will contribute to the development of the content, methodology and structure of a shadow report on election monitoring and intervention by all CSOs in target country'
- Develop and produce an Election Security Report. The report shall capture the experiences of the CSOs before, during and after the elections in targeted country. It will highlight the integrity, challenges and opportunities of the election which will serve as a referral point for CSO advocacy tool and strategic engagement with primary and secondary stakeholders such as EMBs, political parties, Intergovernmental Agencies and international partners. This will contribute to electoral reforms and consolidation of democracy in targeted State.

3. Duration and Location of the Task:

The duration of the assignment is for a total of 21 working days in line with the election calendar of the targeted country following agreement with the Regional and National Project team. The consultant shall be physically present in target country in order to effectively complete the expected assignment. He/She will seek clarification from WANEP Regional Project Team when required to strengthen content and quality of the training and the reports.

4. Experience and Qualification of the Expert:

- Proven record of experience in research with evidence of publications or reports
- At least a Master's Degree in Humanities, Social Science, Peace and Security or related fields
- Professional experience and expertise on Election Security
- Knowledge and experience of the political dynamics in target country;
- Ability to work in English and French is an added advantage

5. Timeline of Assignment and Reporting

The prospective consultant shall submit an inception report detailing timeline and methodology for the completion of the assignment covering a period of six months commencing from August 2021 to January 2021. The output of the assignment must match quality standards. The text of the report should be illustrated as appropriate with maps, graphs and tables. Additional material could be added as annex

6. Conditions of Payment

The total fee for the consultancy is six Thousand five Hundred Euros. 50% of the amount (Euros 3,250) will be paid to the Consultant upon signing the contract while the balance of 50% (Euros 3,250) will be paid upon satisfactory completion of the assignments.

7. Understanding

It is understood that all training materials and report generated from this consultancy shall be submitted to WANEP and will be the sole propriety of WANEP. The Consultant

will only be acknowledged in his/her capacity while all rights to the final document remains that of WANEP.

8. **To apply**

Interested consultant will be required to submit an inception report along with his/her curriculum vitae to wanep@wanep.org copying snjie@wanep.org, iokchukwu@wanep.org and emensah@wanep.org for consideration and engagement not later than June 20, 2021.

