Terms of Reference for a Local Consultant to Formulate the draft National Development Planning Policy

Introduction and Background

In recent years, there has been a revival in development planning both in developed and developing countries, resulting from the rebirth of development thinking in policy making. In Africa, like in other parts of the world, planning has been in the forefront of strategies for building economies, promoting inclusive and pro-poor growth, improving citizen welfare and promoting sustainable development. The establishment of planning institutions and the formulation of long-term visions (implemented through medium-term plans) in most Asian and African countries is testimony to the shift in thinking.

In The Gambia, National development planning had been an integral part of the development processes since the creation of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Industrial Development in 1975 which was later abolished. The National Planning Commission (NPC) was established in 2006 to serve as the institution responsible for coordinating development planning in the country. However, since the repeal of the NPC Act and creation of the short lived Ministry of Economic Planning and Industrial Development, the role of coordinating development planning has been transferred to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. This function is being executed through the Directorate of Development Planning that is responsible for coordinating the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of national development plans.

The absence of a planning policy/Act that explicitly spells out the institutional arrangements, roles and responsibilities both at the national, sectoral as well as at decentralized levels; has resulted in considerable weakness in the legislative and policy environment for effective national development planning. Therefore, there is evident need to have a policy developed to fill this gap so as to provide a framework to guide the formulation of national, regional development plans and sector strategic plans, while explicitly stating the responsibilities of various stakeholders at every point and stage in the planning process.

Scope of Work

Provide methodology, draft and final policy document

Qualification/ Competency

- The consultant must have a post graduate degree in Development Studies, Public Policy, Economics, or related discipline.
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- S/he must have a minimum of ten (10) years post-graduate experience in development planning and a very good understanding of development planning institutional arrangements within a developing country context.
- S/he must have a good understanding of planning procedures and processes both at national, sectoral and decentralized levels within a developing country context.
- S/he must have a very good command of English language, both written and spoken.
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Consultancy Period

The duration of the consultancy will be six (6) weeks.

Application Deadline

All applicants that meet the above criteria are invited to submit their applications consisting of an up-dated CV, Financial and Technical Proposals in separate envelopes and address to the Resident Representative, UNDP, Kofi Annan Street, Bakau, The Gambia not later than Friday 22nd May 2015 at 12.00 hrs