



**OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS**

**PROCUREMENT NUMBER: APRM/ 01/OSF/ HRCR/11 /2023: INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT (LEAD EXPERT ON CREDIT RATINGS) TO SUPPORT THE DIRECTORATE OF GOVERNANCE AND SPECIALISED REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTING MECHANISM OF SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES ON CREDIT RATINGS**

**I. BACKGROUND OF THE ASSIGNMENT:**

At its 28th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly (AU) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2017, the Assembly, through Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631 (XXVIII), directed the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to provide support to AU Member States in the field of credit ratings. Following the decision the APRM proceeded to develop a policy framework to guide the needed support to member states.

The purpose of the framework is to provide strategic and operational support to the Member States in the pre-rating preparatory phase, managing the rating exercise and in the implementation of post-rating admissible recommendations. To achieve this purpose, the policy framework outlines several objectives. The first is to sensitize various sectors on the implications of the sovereign credit ratings on both domestic-rated institutions and instruments. Second, to support Member States in undertaking periodic financial, political, economic and social impact analysis and to prepare and make available reliable data for use by CRAs to avoid estimations that prejudice Member States being reviewed. Third, the framework seeks to support Member States' analysis and evaluation of the ratings produced by CRAs and their impact through the generation of independent opinions. Additionally, the policy framework seeks to support member states in articulating and establishing the architecture for managing and regulating CRAs through existing public institutions. Fourth, the policy framework guides the establishment of a network of experts and practitioners to improve the sharing of best practices in international sovereign credit ratings. This network also supports the harmonization of the regulation of the credit rating industry on the continent. Finally, the policy framework seeks to provide technical support to governments in the implementation of admissible recommendations while providing technical support to Member States to establish a regulatory environment for licensing and supervising CRAs operating in the respective Member States.

The APRM has since established partnerships with various non-state and private sector institutions. Among these institutions is the Open Society Foundation (OSF) which has partnered with the APRM and is providing financial support to strengthen the human capital for delivery of the framework. In this regard, the APRM seeks to appoint an experienced **Lead Expert on Credit Ratings** to support the delivery of the program mandate.

The experienced **Lead Expert on Credit Ratings** shall be based in the Directorate of Governance and Specialised Reporting and shall in addition to other responsibilities **coordinate the implementation APRM-AU policy framework of mechanisms of support to African countries in the field of credit rating agencies. The Expert shall lead APRM efforts on the**

**analysis of the nature and extent of the ICRA's influence and practices in Africa and draft proposals for managing and regulating their practices. The Expert will also coordinate APRM efforts to provide advisory and other technical support services to African governments pre and post-rating processes by providing scientific analysis and recommendations pertaining to rating opinions and services.**

## **II) LOCATION:**

### **MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA**

Period of assignment: Twelve (12) Calendar Months

The **Lead Expert on Credit Ratings** will be based and work from the APRM Continental Secretariat Offices in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. The Lead Expert shall travel to the APRM continental Secretariat Offices at their own cost. The APRM Secretariat will bear the cost of a return air ticket (economy class) and, in the event of travel to other countries as part of the assignment, pay DSA at standard UN rates for the country of work. Thus, all travel for APRM business within and outside South Africa shall be at the cost of the APRM, including costs for Visas but will not include costs for medical insurance which may be provided for travel where permissible. The Lead Expert will be covered under the terms of the APRM business travel insurance policy as underwritten by AIG South Africa Ltd.

### **Areas of Expertise Required for the Position:**

- An Expert Level Knowledge and Understanding of the political economy and operations of International Credit Rating Agencies
- Strong Sovereign Credit Research and Analysis Skills
- Experience authoring opinions and commentaries for Multilateral Development Organizations, governments, industry and media.
- Project Management skills

## **III. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. The Lead Expert shall:**

- a. Manage all the activities on implementing mechanisms on supporting countries in line with the policy framework;
- b. Conduct in-depth sovereign credit research and analysis;
- c. Facilitate consultations in expert platforms to mine thoughts and perspectives;
- d. Package research findings and present the findings to key stakeholders;
- e. Engage with other experts and manage the resourcing of specialized projects;
- f. Contribute to the design and development of project concepts and approaches;
- g. Structure information and data into usable documents and control the quality of documents;

- h. Project management, generating proposals and executing ad hoc operational tasks;
- i. Perform fundamental credit analysis for sovereign issuers in Africa;
- j. Prepare well-articulated research reports, and participate in related value discussions;
- k. Work with other researchers to implement APRM missions and projects as assigned by the Director of Governance and Specialized Reporting;
- l. Submit regular reports to the Director of Governance and Specialized Reporting; and
- m. Carry out any other tasks as may be assigned from time to time by the Director of Governance and Specialized Reporting of the APRM Secretariat.

#### **IV. REPORTING**

The **Lead Expert on Credit Ratings** reports to the Director of Governance and Specialized Reporting on all issues pertaining to the management, operations, and technical aspects of the project.

#### **V. DELIVERABLES**

- a. Implementation of Mechanism in Policy Framework on APRM Support to African States
- b. Quarterly Reports on implementation of the Policy Framework on APRM Support to African States on Credit Ratings.
- c. Expert Advisory Opinions on APRM institutional and technical support to the African Union on the establishment of the African Credit Rating Agency.
- d. Bi-annual Credit Rating Review Report
- e. Response Statements to Rating Opinions by ICRA's

#### **VII. REMUNERATION**

1. The Lead Expert will be paid an agreed monthly fee based on deliverables as stipulated in the contract.
2. Payment of the agreed sum will be made only upon verification of deliverables upon issuance of a Certificate of Acceptance by the Director of Governance and Specialised Reporting for approval by the CEO of the APRM Secretariat

#### **VIII. FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY CLIENT**

The Client will provide:

- Access to all information and stakeholders to facilitate the assignment.
- Adequate office space with essential office furniture, office equipment and other working tools required.
- Facilitate all official travel related to the assignment.

## **IX) GENERAL INFORMATION**

All consultancies will be advertised on an equal opportunity basis. The selection criteria to be used to assess the consultant shall be as defined in these TORs. The short-list and the selection procedure shall be done in accordance with the AU Procurement Manual, version 2.0 dated July 2016.

## **X. RESERVATIONS AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

APRM reserves the right to withhold all or a portion of payment if performance is unsatisfactory, if work/output is incomplete, not delivered, or for failure to meet deadlines. In the event of the producer ending the contract prior to delivering all agreed upon products, a portion of the payments shall be returned to the APRM.

The consultant undertakes to maintain confidentiality on all information that is not the public domain and shall not be involved in another assignment that represents a conflict of interest to the prevailing assignment. The Consultant shall undertake to refrain from promoting any political or religious beliefs in the documentary movie which is the subject of this contract.

## **XI. CLARIFICATION**

Clarification can be sought through email: [tenderinfo@aprm-au.org](mailto:tenderinfo@aprm-au.org) and Interested Consultants may obtain further information by contacting the APRM Procurement Office during office hours (08h00 - 17h00 SAST). Clarification shall be published on the APRM website (<https://aprm.au.int/>) and MUST be requested not less than seven days prior to the closing date of the bid.

## **XII. SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **a) MANDATORY REQUIREMENT- (MUST SUBMIT ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS)**

#### **TO BE EVALUATED ON YES/NO CRITERIA**

##### **Qualifications & Expérience :**

- Education:
  - i. PhD in Finance, Investment or Credit Risk (8 years of experience)
  - ii. Master's degree in finance, Investment or Credit Risk (15 years of experience)
  
- Experience and Skills:
  - i. At least eight years of progressively responsible experience relevant to the specific area of assignment;

- ii. Demonstrated ability for teamwork in multicultural and multidisciplinary environments as well as the ability to work independently;
- iii. Experience working in international organisations
- iv. Extensive knowledge of the African Union financial institutions and economic governance frameworks, including that of the African Union
- v. Demonstrated knowledge of the industry;
- vi. Knowledge of the national economic and development issues of Africa;
- vii. Expert level understanding of Global capital Markets and Sovereign Debt evidenced by a record of published research on the same and international credit rating agencies; and
- viii. Ability to deliver high quality outputs within tight deadlines

Language: ability to write in English or French at expert level is essential.

<b>b) TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA</b>		
<b>Additional evaluation criteria</b>	<b>Max. Point</b>	<b>Score</b>
Specific Qualification and Suitability for the Assignment		
PhD in Finance and investment, Credit Risk, Finance and Investments, Operations research, Financial modeling, Econometrics or Economics (30 points) or;	<b>30</b>	
Master's degree in finance, Investment or Credit Risk (20 points)		
At least 8 – 15 years of relevant working experience in the field (as per academic qualification)	<b>20</b>	
Verifiable report writing and presentation skills		
Research and Publications - Record of research and publications in economic governance and multilateral institutions	<b>20</b>	
Strength in Project Management		
Experience in managing complex projects and programmes in similar areas	<b>15</b>	
Experience and familiarity with multilateral institutional policies, rules, and regulations, specific knowledge of African Union will be an added advantage	<b>10</b>	
Knowledge of another AU working language will be an added advantage.	<b>5</b>	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Only Candidate/Consultants who obtain a **technical score of 70%** and above shall be considered with an award being made to the candidate with the highest technical score.

**MODE OF APPLICATION/ SUBMISSION AND DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY CONSULTANTS.**

1)The Consultant should submit a combined Technical and Financial Proposal, containing his/her **up-to-date Curriculum Vitae** with contactable references (names and addresses of referees) one of which should be the last consultancy **and supporting document** (s). The technical proposal should demonstrate an understanding of the ToRS, the methodology and a detailed work plan. All applications in writing should be accompanied by **Certified copies of all academic qualifications**. The Financial proposal should provide a breakdown of the proposed cost per month and should be in USD.

2)The Proposal shall clearly be marked '**PROCUREMENT NUMBER: APRM/ 01/OSF/ HRCR/O6 /2023: INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT (LEAD EXPERT ON CREDIT RATINGS) TO SUPPORT THE DIRECTORATE OF GOVERNANCE AND SPECIALISED REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTING MECHANISM OF SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES ON CREDIT RATINGS.**

3)The proposal shall be submitted through email: [tender@aprm-au.org](mailto:tender@aprm-au.org) on or before **28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 11.00hrs South Africa local time**. Eligible women are encouraged to apply. The Bids shall be opened immediately after the closing date and time. All applications in writing should be addressed to:

African Peer Review Mechanism  
Private Bag XO8, Halfway House  
Physical Address: 230 15th Road, 1st Floor,  
Randjespark, Midrand, 1685,  
South Africa  
Tel: +27 11 256 3401  
**Submission Email:**[tender@aprm-au.org](mailto:tender@aprm-au.org)