



**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**

PROCUREMENT NUMBER: APRM/ 03/OSF/ SCRO/11 /2023: INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT (SENIOR CREDIT RATING RESEARCHER) 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 **Senior Credit Ratings Researcher** to support the delivery of the program mandate.

The experienced **Senior Credit Ratings Researcher** shall be based in the Directorate of Governance and Specialised Reporting and shall in addition to other responsibilities **undertake research on macroeconomic trends and evaluate their impact on financial markets and access to capital by African countries. She/He shall also conduct research to examine the veracity of the financial analysis and technical data applied in credit rating determination by International Credit Rating Agencies.**

II) LOCATION:

MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA

Period of assignment: Twelve (12) Calendar Months

The Senior Credit Rating Researcher will be based and work from the APRM Continental Secretariat Offices in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. The Researcher 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 Researcher 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:

1. Knowledge and understanding of critical issues of international credit rating agencies in general, including the ability to synthesize and articulate economic data and economic knowledge as it relates to the sovereign advisory industry.
2. Credit risk research and analysis skills

III. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Consultant shall have the following responsibilities:

- (i) Conduct sovereign credit research and analysis on specific themes as assigned by the line manager;
- (ii) Identify areas of research to increase knowledge on credit ratings.
- (iii) Identify sources of funding, prepare research proposals and submit funding applications.
- (iv) Facilitate consultations in expert platforms to mine thoughts and perspectives;
- (v) Package research findings and present the findings to key stakeholders;
- (vi) Engage with other experts and manage the resourcing of specialised projects;
- (vii) Contribute to the design and development of project concepts and approaches;
- (viii) Source and organise data into usable information for input into APRM periodic policy outputs;
- (ix) Tracking media, reports and events related to African governance, as well as initiatives to strengthen data capacity on the continent.
- (x) Generating proposals and executing ad-hoc operational tasks;
- (xi) Authoring periodic opinions and commentaries for sovereign profiles;
- (xii) Perform fundamental credit analysis for sovereign issuers in Africa;

- (xiii) Prepare well-articulated research reports, and participate in related value discussions;
- (xiv) Implement APRM missions and projects as assigned by line managers in the Division and Directorate;
- (xv) Carry out any other tasks as may be assigned from time to time by the Head of Division.

IV. REPORTING

The Consultant shall report to the Lead Expert on Credit Ratings on all issues pertaining to the implementation of the project.

V. DELIVERABLES

- a. Generate research to inform the implementation of mechanisms of the Policy Framework on the APRM Support to Member States on Credit Ratings
- b. Identify and compile research to support the APRM's collaboration efforts on the establishment of the African Credit Rating Agency.
- c. Produce Quarterly and Bi-annual knowledge products on credit ratings and related policy.
- d. Concept Notes and Country Profiles

VI. REMUNERATION

- 1. The researcher 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 Lead Expert on Credit Ratings and the Director of Governance and Specialised Reporting for approval by the CEO of the APRM Secretariat.

VII. 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.

VIII. GENERAL INFORMATION

All assignments 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.

IX. 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 before 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.

X. CLARIFICATION

Clarification can be sought through email: 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 before the closing date of the bid.

XI. SELECTION CRITERIA

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

TO BE EVALUATED ON YES/NO CRITERIA

Qualifications & Experience:

- Education: The suitable candidate should possess at least a Master's degree from a reputable university majoring in Credit Risk, Finance and Investments, Operations research, Financial modelling, Econometrics or Economics.
- Experience and Skills:
 - 5 Year's relevant experience
 - Knowledge of econometric modelling and packages such as Eviews is a must
 - Demonstrated ability for teamwork as well as the ability to work independently;
 - Extensive knowledge of the African Union financial institutions, international financial institutions and economic governance frameworks, including that of the APRM;
 - Demonstrated knowledge of the credit rating industry;
 - Knowledge of the national economic and development issues in Africa;
 - Understanding of Global capital Markets and Sovereign Debt; and,
 - Ability to deliver quality outputs within tight deadlines.
- Language: ability to write in English or French at expert level is essential.

b) TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA		
Additional evaluation criteria	Max. Point	Score
Specific Qualification and Suitability for the Assignment Education: Master's degree in finance and investment, Credit Risk, Operations research, Financial modelling, Econometrics or Economics	30	
At least 5 years of relevant working experience in the field	20	
Verifiable report writing and presentation skills. Research and Publications - Record of research and publications in general and work relevant to governance and the work of the APRM in particular	20	
Strength in Project Management Experience in managing complex projects in general and projects financed by multilateral development institutions in particular	15	
Knowledge of statistical packages	5	
Excellent computer skills with practical knowledge	5	
Knowledge of the other language will be an added advantage.	5	
Total Score	100%	

Only Candidate/Consultants who obtain a **technical score of 70%** and above shall be considered with 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 the detailed workplan. 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 be marked '**PROCUREMENT NUMBER: APRM/ 03/OSF/ SCRO/11 /2023: INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT (SENIOR CREDIT RATING RESEARCHER) TO SUPPORT THE DIRECTORATE OF GOVERNANCE AND SPECIALISED REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTING MECHANISM OF SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES ON CREDIT RATINGS.**

3)The proposal/bid shall be submitted through email: tender@aprm-au.org on or before 28th 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