

The Programmes of Assistance to meet the strategic capacity needs of developing States in the field of ocean governance and the law of the sea is a four-years project (from 1 October 2020 to 1 October 2024) implemented by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat of the United Nations through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), with funding provided by Norway, through its Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). The project provides support to developing countries, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in building sustainable ocean-based economies through addressing critical capacity barriers at the regional and national levels, including with respect to the implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS") and related frameworks.

As foreseen in the Programmes of Assistance Agreement between DOALOS and Norad, a strategic review of its implementation shall be undertaken and a mid-term strategic review has been agreed to start in the first quarter of 2023.

The mid-term strategic review of the project is a review carried out by an external consultant retained for this specific purpose. The main purpose of the review is to examine whether the project has met its overall objectives, as per the project documents and annual disbursements requests. By determining the level of the project's implementation at the mid-term, this review should constitute a valuable tool for the second half of the project cycle.

In this regard, the review aims at:

- Documenting the results and achievements of the overall project, as well as of each of its specific activities.
- Extracting lessons learned and capturing good practices.
- Reviewing the validity of the Programmes of Assistance Theory of Change.
- Assisting DOALOS and its partners to meet their accountability and learning objectives.

The review should be conducted in an independent and impartial manner, and that it provides technically and methodologically credible findings that are useful and relevant to support evidence-based programme management and broader strategic decision making. The review should also be transparent, inclusive, participatory and utilization focused.

While not a full project evaluation, the methodology used should follow a theory of change approach, framed by the UN/OECD DAC evaluation criteria drawing upon mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative). Working in coordination with DOALOS and in consultation with the project stakeholders, the consultant is expected to develop a methodology for the review, undertake the review, and provide a report on the findings of the review. The consultant should develop a proper data collection toolkit and consider, *inter alia*, more than one source of information (triangulation); quantitative and qualitative information; methodological challenges; and potential limitations in findings.

The consultant will have the overall responsibility for the quality and timely submission of the report. In coordination with DOALOS, the consultant will:

- Design the inception report (scope, data collection tools, methodology and approach of the review).
- Conduct the review.
- Prepare a report on the findings of the review and provide recommendations for the project implementation for the second half of the project cycle.



Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in Ocean Law and Policy, Marine Affairs, Ocean-related International Development, Public Administration and Management or other related fields. A first-level university degree in combination with five additional years of relevant work experience in project management and assessment may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Proven experience (at least ten years) with designing and conducting international development evaluations that apply relevant mixed methods evaluation approaches to a variety of different modalities in international development cooperation, involving inter-governmental organizations and their