International Expert on Freedom of Association

Terms of Reference

Transparency Maldives (TM), supported by the International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES), is seeking three (3) qualified international experts for technical assistance on its Association Act work under the Civic Participation Project (CPP).

I. Organizational Background

Transparency Maldives is a non-partisan organization that endeavors to be a constructive force in society by promoting collaboration and discussion on corruption, transparency and accountability. Our organization seeks to engage with stakeholders from all sectors (government, business, politics and civil society, among others) to raise awareness of corruption’s detrimental effects on development and society, improve transparency and accountability in governance, and to eliminate corruption from the daily lives of people. Transparency Maldives received formal government registration in 2007, and is the national contact of Transparency International (TI) in the Maldives.

II. Project Summary

The objective of the CPP project is to increase political and civic participation, promote the democratic transition through improved transparency and good governance in the Maldives, and support the consolidation of democratic practices and norms in Maldives through national and local civil society organizations.

The project strategy is to focus on building knowledge and capacity in civil society organizations and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) among a wide variety of stakeholders, and to improve the governance, transparency and functioning of CBOs by addressing the systemic issues in the Associations Act and its regulatory framework.

III. Position Summary

Transparency Maldives is seeking three (3) international experts to contribute to the revision of the Associations Act of the Maldives. The experts will review the existing Associations Act 2003 and 2013 draft Law on Associations, prepare a diagnostic paper, conduct stakeholder consultation meetings, meet with the media, conduct and facilitate a multi-stakeholder symposium, conduct advocacy meetings with the Attorney General (AG) and members of Parliament, and provide technical guidance to the local legal consultant in drafting a revised Associations Act and comment on the drafts at its various stages.

For the symposium, experts will be expected to bring in their expertise from one of the following key areas of focus: (1) significance of freedom of association as a basic human right, (2) international best practices for an associations act with recommendations for reform of the 2003 Associations Act of the Maldives, and (3) the importance of good governance in the civil society sector.

The experts will work home based for the most part and will be based in Malé, Maldives from 8-12 June 2014 only. Accommodation, per diem, and airfare for the experts will be provided for.

IV. Description of Work Responsibilities

The Association Act expert will be responsible for:

1. Reviewing the existing Associations Act 2003 and 2013 draft Law on Associations
2. Preparing a diagnostic paper on the 2003 Associations Act and 2013 draft Law on Associations, with international best practices and recommendations
3. Conducting stakeholder meetings to identify challenges to the Civil Society under the existing Associations Act 2003 and its regulatory framework
4. Conducting and facilitating a Symposium on the Associations Act
   - Significance of Freedom of Association as a basic human right
   - Associations Act: International best practices with recommendations for reform of the 2003 Associations Act of Maldives
   - Importance of good governance in the civil society sector
5. Conducting advocacy meetings with the Attorney General (AG) and Parliamentarians
6. Providing technical guidance to the local consultant in drafting a revised Associations Act and commenting on the drafts at various stages

V. Expected Outputs and Timeline

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<tr>
<th>Deliverables/Outputs</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. A diagnostic paper on the existing Associations Act 2003 and 2013 draft Law on Associations, addressing the gaps and challenges, identifying international best practices and recommendations for reform</td>
<td>Tuesday, 27th May 2014</td>
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<td>2. Comment on the Associations Act Position Paper produced by the local legal consultant</td>
<td>Tuesday, 3rd June 2014</td>
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<td>3. Conduct and facilitate a multi-stakeholder symposium</td>
<td>Tuesday, 10th June 2014</td>
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<td>4. Conduct advocacy meetings with Attorney General (AG) and members of Parliament</td>
<td>Wednesday, 11th June 2014</td>
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<td>5. Comment on the new draft Associations Act produced by the local legal consultant</td>
<td>Turnaround time of a week upon submission of draft for comments at various stages</td>
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VI. Duration of the Assignment

The international experts are expected to start the assignment on 20th of May 2014. Experts will be in Malé, Maldives from 8-12th June, 2014 to conduct the symposium. Thereafter, the experts will comment to the new draft Association Act at various stages until the middle of August.

VII. Reporting Procedure

The International experts will report to the Senior Project Coordinator of the CPP project on administrative and substantive matters. The international experts will work closely with CPP project staff. The international experts are also expected to work very closely alongside the national consultant in providing technical guidance throughout the assignment.

VIII. Qualifications and competencies

1. Minimum of a master’s degree or equivalent in law, public policy, politics, human rights, or a social science, or a related field demonstrably relevant to the position; with a minimum of 5 years of working experience.
2. Experience in law review, in line with international best practices
3. Familiarity with development approaches in developing countries
4. Demonstrate excellent facilitation skills for consultations
5. Ability to work alongside the local consultant, and with multiple stakeholders
6. Excellent English writing and communication skills
7. Excellent analytical skills

**Closing date for applications:** Saturday, 17th May 2014

**Application and selection procedures:** Email a letter stating clearly why you are suitable for the post, recent curriculum vitae and names of two referees addressed to Ms. Mariyam Shiuna, Executive Director, to ahmed.mohamed@transparencymaldives.org. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews. If you are short-listed you will be notified by either phone or email by Monday, 19th May 2014.