

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

SELECTION OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT AS CUSTOMS ADVISOR ON ECOWAS TRANSIT SYSTEM AND SIGMAT

1. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional organization comprising 12 West African countries: Benin, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Togo. ECOWAS was established in 1975 with the primary aim of promoting economic integration, regional cooperation, and development among its member states. The organization is committed to creating a unified market, facilitating trade, and fostering sustainable economic growth through various initiatives aimed at harmonizing policies, and establishing a common market through the establishment of a customs union, among others.

In accordance with Article 3 of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty, this objective is to be achieved through the liberalization of trade and the establishment of a common external tariff (CET) and a common trade policy.

2. The general objective of the assignment is to support the Directorate of Customs Union and Taxation to consolidate the ECOWAS Customs union.
3. **Duties and responsibilities of the Customs Advisor:**

Specifically, the Consultant will be required to provide support in the key areas listed below as well as other areas of support that might be deemed necessary during the duration of this assignment:

- I. Provide technical support in the implementation of the ECOWAS Community Transit Procedure in member states;
- II. Support the finalization and adoption of the ECOWAS Transit Manual of Procedures;
- III. Provide technical support in the establishment and operationalization of the Community transit guarantee mechanism;
- IV. Work towards the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Customs Code in Member States.
- V. Assist the Commission in the development and implementation of trade facilitation measures to facilitate the free movement of goods in the region.
- VI. Support the development of policies to ensure more favorable conditions for economic operators in line with the trade facilitation agenda of ECOWAS;
- VII. Support the Directorate of Customs union & Taxation in the preparation of relevant technical reports and presentations to enhance its programme delivery capacity on transit.

4. **The Contract duration:** The Consultant will be contracted for an initial period of twelve (12) months, renewable based on performance and the availability of funds.
5. The ECOWAS Commission invites individuals Consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested Consultants shall be shortlisted based on the following criteria:

QUALIFICATIONS, KEY SKILLS, AND COMPETENCES

The Consultant must meet the following requirements:

- i. An advanced degree (at least a master's degree) from a recognized university in International Trade, Commerce, Economics, Business Administration, Finance, Public Policy, International Customs Law and Administration with equivalent experience in areas of Customs/International trade.
- ii. At least ten (10) years' experiences in Customs administration, international trade and trade facilitation.
- iii. At least eight (8) years' experience and demonstrable knowledge in the management of Customs unions in West Africa.
- iv. Extensive knowledge and experience of not less than ten (10) years of ECOWAS Customs instruments: CET, ETLS, SIGMAT.
- v. Extensive knowledge of the new ECOWAS Community Transit Procedure
- vi. At least ten (10) years' working experience at Supervisory or Managerial/ Senior level in Customs and Trade Facilitation related issues.
- vii. Experience working with regional economic communities, with a proven track record of working at the ECOWAS Commission.
- viii. A good understanding of trade facilitation and customs context under regional integration in West Africa.
- ix. Significant work experience with cross border agencies and at least ten (10) years' work experience in an international multicultural environment.
- x. Good understanding of the multilateral trading systems and their implication on regional integration.
- xi. Must possess excellent skills with computers, especially in the use of various MS Office applications (e.g., Excel, Word, PowerPoint, etc.).

IMPORTANT: To score the candidates, evidence of academic qualifications and attestation documents indicating participation in projects (Experience) MUST be submitted.

6. Interested Individual Consultants can download the Terms of Reference in the link indicated https://www.ecowas.int/procurement/procurement_m/intellectual-services/



7. The CVs including related documents indicated in (5) above, should be sent to the email addresses below not later than **3rd March 2026 at 17h00 (GMT+1)**, with a subject title “**RECRUITMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT AS CUSTOMS ADVISOR ON ECOWAS TRANSIT SYSTEM AND SIGMAT**”. Email to: ikkamara@ecowas.int with copy to sbangoura@ecowas.int; ombacke@ecowas.int and pbessi@ecowas.int.
8. To be eligible consultants **MUST** be a National of one of the ECOWAS Member States in accordance with ECOWAS REVISED PROCUREMENT CODE of September 2021.
9. Interested Individual consultants can obtain further information at the e-mail addresses mentioned at point 7 during working hours: **9.00am - 4.00pm, Nigerian Time, (GMT + 1) Mondays through Fridays (except public holidays)**.
10. The working languages shall be **English and French**.

ECOWAS COMMISSION