

Terms of Reference

Title of the publication:	Principal Consultant - Ocean Governance Study - Panama
Department/Office:	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations Office of Legal Affairs ("the Division")
Place of destination:	Home-based (remote work)
Type of contract:	Consulting
Position level:	Consultant, Level B
Required languages:	English and Spanish
Start date: (date on which the selected candidate is expected to start)	25 January 2022
Duration:	Part-time - 6 months 25 January 2022 to 24 July 2022
Sum of the contract:	USD 13,000 (paid in two instalments after the Division has confirmed the completion of each phase)

Background

Assistance programmes to meet the strategic capacity needs of developing States in the area of ocean governance and the law of the sea are projects implemented by the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (the Division), with funding provided by Norway, through its Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). The project supports developing countries, in particular small island developing States, in building sustainable ocean-based economies by addressing critical obstacles to capacity at the regional and national levels, including with regard to the implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS") and related frameworks.

The Assistance Programme consists of three main sets of activities: (1) Conducting analyses of national frameworks for ocean governance in selected beneficiary States (Ocean Governance Studies); (2) The design and implementation of capacity-building training courses, and (3) Consultations with relevant regional intergovernmental organizations with a view to identifying capacity-building activities to strengthen national and regional ocean governance work programmes.

The studies on ocean governance will consist of a national inventory and analysis of the legal and institutional frameworks for ocean governance in the selected beneficiary States. Studies on ocean governance aim to: (1) Provide a high-level overview of the State's legal and institutional framework for the oceans; (2) Raise the beneficiary State's awareness of its overall legal and institutional framework for the oceans, including possible linkages, overlaps and gaps; (3) Compare the national legal and institutional framework with the basic requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and implementing agreements, or international instruments related; (4) Assist beneficiary States in identifying and prioritizing capacity gaps in the development and implementation of ocean frameworks; and (5) Provide a knowledge base on national legal and institutional frameworks for the oceans. In addition, studies on ocean governance will help to identify additional capacity-

building needs to be addressed through this project and to strengthen the capacity of beneficiary States to more effectively build their ocean governance frameworks (including through partnerships with other development partners).

Workplace

Home-based, with possible missions depending on United Nations travel policies and/or other national policies related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expected duration

Part-time over a period of 6 months: start 25 January 2022 and end 24 July 2022.

Duties and responsibilities and requirements

Under the overall supervision of the Director of the Division, the work of the Consultant will be overseen by the Senior Legal Officer responsible for capacity-building and trust funds (the Chief), and administered directly by the Division Officer providing coordination services for the project in the country, to whom the Consultant will report.

The Consultant will conduct research on the legal and institutional framework for ocean governance in the beneficiary State, in relation to the scope of work and results described below.

In accordance with United Nations regulations, persons who have served as consultants, individual contractors, interns or gratis personnel for the United Nations in the six months preceding the commencement of the consultancy, or who are in active government service, may not be appointed.

Scope of work

The Consultant is expected to:

1. consult with State officials, relevant regional organizations and other national stakeholders;
2. developing a national institutional mapping relevant to the oceans;
3. conduct desk research to identify laws, regulations and key policy documents, including information provided by the State;
4. developing and administering research tools (e.g. surveys) relating to the legal and institutional framework for oceans based on the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and related instruments, including with respect to capacity requirements; and
5. receive and take into account the comments of the Division and national stakeholders on the draft results.

Deliveries

The Consultant is expected to deliver the following products:

1. a report on ocean governance (Informe GO) composed of a narrative description of the legal and institutional framework for the oceans of the beneficiary State. This GO Report provides an overview for policy makers, but does not describe in detail the legal instruments and institutional structures. The GO Report should also include a section that addresses in-depth the priority sectors identified by the beneficiary State. This section will be prepared in close collaboration with the Research Support Consultant;
2. the report will include a chart summarizing the presence or absence of key components of the legal and institutional framework for oceans under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and related instruments;

3. a compilation of relevant national legal instruments (provided by the beneficiary State) and a list of international ocean-related instruments to which the beneficiary State is a signatory or party; and
4. a priority inventory of urgent capacity-building needs related to the oceans.

Payment will be paid upon completion of the results of phase 1 (submission of draft outputs for consideration by the Division at approximately two months after the start of consultancy) and at completion of phase 2 (presentation of final outputs).

Competences

- **Professionalism:** Demonstrated analytical and evaluation skills to conduct independent research and analysis, including familiarity and experience in using various research sources, including electronic sources on the Internet and other databases. Competence in data analysis and a demonstrated ability to carry out data collection using various methods. Ability to apply judgment in the context of given assignments, plan one's own work, and manage conflicting priorities. Ability to build good working relationships at all levels. Ability to work under pressure and in dynamic situations; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, meeting deadlines and achieving results. Ability to treat sensitive or confidential information appropriately. Ability to incorporate gender perspectives into substantive research.

- **Teamwork:** Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain harmonious working relationships in a multicultural, multi-ethnic and political work environment. Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve project goals; solicit input by genuinely valuing the ideas and experience of others; is willing to learn from others; Ability to develop consensus between people with different points of view; shares credit for the team's achievements and accepts joint responsibility for the team's shortcomings.

- **Planning and organization:** Develops clear objectives that are consistent with agreed strategies; identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as needed; allocates the appropriate amount of time and resources to complete work; foresees risks and allows contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as needed; uses time efficiently.

- **Communications:** Strong oral communication and writing skills; Ability to interact positively with high-level government officials.

- **Technological knowledge:** Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office applications including Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel. The ability to use other relevant software (such as mapping tools) as well as database software to organize, analyze and archive materials collected during research is desirable. Actively seeks to apply technology to appropriate tasks.

Education

Advanced university degree (master's degree or equivalent) in international law, law of the sea, sustainable development, environment/ocean-based science, or a related field. A top-tier university degree can be accepted in combination with an additional five years of relevant work experience instead of the advanced university degree.

Work Experience

A minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in the preparation of analytical reports, qualitative and quantitative research and the organization of multi-stakeholder meetings. Experience in ocean affairs or related fields is required. Previous knowledge and experience in

research and research methodology are required. Evidence from recent relevant research and publications is required. Previous work experience in the United Nations system is highly desirable.

Languages

For this position, fluency in English and Spanish with excellent writing and communication skills in both languages is required. Knowledge of another official language of the United Nations is an advantage.