



The African Women's Development and Communication Network

Request for Expression of Interest (Call for Applications)

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| Consultant Job: | Desk Research on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on Women and Trade - a Pan-African Feminist Analysis |
| Country: | Kenya |
| Duration: | 2 months (June 25 – August 25, 2020) |
| Name of Project: | FEMNET Advocacy |
| Expression of Interest: | FNT/EOI/7/2020/ADV |
| Application Deadline: | June 19, 2020 |

1. Introduction

Since its establishment in 1988, the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) has played a leading role in building the women's movement and amplifying the voices of African women to influence decisions made at national, regional and global levels, that impact on their lives. As a pan-African membership-based organization working to advance women's rights, FEMNET continues to mobilize African women to hold governments accountable to women's rights and gender equality commitments including: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development among others.

FEMNET's vision is an African society where gender equality is achieved and women and girls enjoy all their rights and live in dignity. Our mantra is women's rights are human rights, and we exist to mobilize African women for the achievement of gender equality and the realization of women's and girls' rights at all levels. The "Africa is rising" narrative is exemplified by 6 out of 10 fastest growing economies being African. By contrast however, Africa is also home to one the world's top 10 most unequal societies. Gender inequality alongside income inequality remains highest on the list of outcomes of Africa's economic growth.

The year 2019 brought positive outcomes at the African Union (AU). The most noteworthy was the entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on 30 May 2019. The instrument establishes what is set to become the largest free trade area since the creation of the World Trade Organization. This instrument is not only one of the most important results of African States' determination to strengthen their economic relationship in furtherance of the project for an African Economic Community (AEC) as launched by the Abuja Treaty (1994); but it also lays a solid legal-economic ground for the implementation of the aspirations of AU's Agenda 2063 for a continental market in furtherance of the

Africa's socio-economic development. Trade is a crucial area for women and requires states to acknowledge that 'inclusive trade policies can contribute to advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment, which has a positive impact on economic growth and helps to reduce poverty'.

2. Scope and Purpose of work

The AfCFTA brings hope of a united integrated African market, however, although the AU mentions gender twice and women once in the entire agreement, this effort is not enough. There is a need for a gender impact assessments pre and post AfCFTA and disaggregated data on specific aspects of the AfCFTA which have direct implications for African women and girls in order to achieve the 2063 aspirations and the 2030 goals. Considering the role of women in trade and the impact of trade on women, it is important to shift women's narrative from one of 'micro', 'inconsequential', 'small', and 'insignificant' to one of 'macro', 'critical', 'big' and 'significant'.

The purpose is to execute a research paper to understand and document the key gender dimensions on impacts of the Africa continental free trade area and how it affects women and trade. There is need for awareness-raising through information sharing across all levels of society, increased capacity to participate in forums affecting women in trade and investment, as well as the creation of dialogue and policy space which includes the most vulnerable groups in society including girls, women from rural areas and women and girls living with disabilities. Governments and donors can serve as strategic partners. Parallel processes and synergies cannot be undermined. State parties have committed to 'integrate a gender perspective in their policy decisions, legislation, development plans, programmes and activities and in all other spheres of life' and this must certainly include meaningful engagement, and they must be held accountable to their commitments.

Within FEMNET's vision we seek to, through a Consultant to commission a desk-based research on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on Women and Trade - a Pan-African Feminist Analysis. With this paper FEMNET will mobilize women across Africa with other civil organizations to demand: greater access to information; civic participation in resource-chain; good governance; pro-poor policies & investments; greater transparency and accountability. It will do so at national, regional, continental and global level by linking to existing development and economic justice work.

The research will provide an analytical framework in order to devise strategies, messages and build the capacity of women to claim their rights. In this context the products will inform the process of our advocacy engagement framework at the national and continental level from a gender perspective. In particular the research outcomes will be used as an input into the process of developing a theory of change including gender and power analysis during an expert roundtables and workshops regionally.

3. Terms of Reference

3.1 Expected Deliverable

Working closely with the Head of programs, Economic Justice officer, other staff and departments, the consultant will be expected to:

- Develop a research paper on the Pan-African Feminist perspectives on the AfCFTA that will cover the following issues:
- Overview of the African Feminist Charter, FEMNET readings of Pan-African Feminism(s).
- Overview of the AfCFTA, opportunities for women and implications for Pan-African Feminist futures.
- Outline entry points for women's rights groups in the processes towards ratification and implementation of the agreement
- Spotlight focus on Agriconomy - overview of Agricultural policy approaches and how the AfCFTA will impact that.
- Policy Recommendations from a feminist perspective, on how to demand transparency, inclusion and accountability.
- Evidence-based 'takeaways' that could improve the policy and institutional environment.
- Areas requiring further research and engagement from a Pan African feminist analysis.
- A guide for further reading.

3.2 Required Profile of Consultant

The Consultant is expected to have the following minimum qualification and experience:

- Advanced university degree in Economics, Development studies, Gender studies and Social sciences studies is preferred, although relevant profiles may be considered.
- At least 5 years relevant experience supported by strong research skills.
- Sound theoretical and practical background in the field of Trade, Gender and Macroeconomics, Women's economic empowerment, Agriculture, economic justice and citizen participation
- Evidence of completion of at least 3 assignments in carrying out Baseline / mapping studies and equivalent assignments.
- Africa Regional experience, working on similar issues.
- Experience with policy making process and basic principles of public policy research will be an advantage.
- Strong writing, analytical and research skills, and ability to apply them in interdisciplinary contexts and innovative problem-solving ability

- Ability and availability to start work immediately.
- The consultant should espouse Pan African Feminist values

3.2.1 Other attributes

- A track record of producing innovative, out-of-the-box thinking communications strategies and products
- Excellent communication skills and fluency in spoken and written English.
- Capability to deliver with quality and within tight deadlines
- Ability to break down complex information into user friendly knowledge products

4. Application Process

Interested applicants should send their intent letter (not more than 2 pages responding to each major requirement), accompanied by resume with names and addresses of 3 professional referees (not more than 3 pages including telephone and e-mail). Applications to be sent: recruitment@femnet.or.ke with the subject of the email as **'FNT/EOI/7/2020/ADV Desk Research on the African Continental Free Trade Area'**

Deadline for submission of applications is on **19th June, 2020**.

Applications should be addressed to:

*The Executive Director, FEMNET
KUSCCO Centre, Kilimanjaro Avenue, off Mara Road, Upper Hill
P. O. Box 54562, 00200 Nairobi, Kenya.*

Please note: Our recruitment and Selection procedures reflect our commitment to safety for all in all our activities. FEMNET is committed to welcoming people from the widest possible diversity of backgrounds, culture and experience. We will make any practical adjustments to enable people with a disability participate fully in an inclusive working environment. Please let us know in advance if you have a disability and require any special. Only candidates who have been selected for interview will be contacted.