



## ADVERTISEMENT

### CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP A PAPER TO INFORM COMMON/HARMONIZED PRIVATE SECTOR POSITION IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA



#### Summary of the Assignment:

Nature of assignment	Short term
Location	Will vary depending on the respondents
Timeframe	21 Working days
Reporting	To Executive Director/CEO

#### I. ABOUT EAST AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

The East African Business Council (EABC) is the umbrella body of the Private Sector in the East African Community (EAC). It brings together national private sector umbrella bodies, manufacturers, employers, bankers, insurance and transporters associations, chambers of commerce, corporates, and medium and small enterprises from the entire East African region.

EABC’s mandate is to represent and promote the interests of the EAC business community, provide value-added services that enhance trade and competitiveness, and to participate actively and positively influence legal and regulatory formulation to improve the business environment. EABC works with the major stakeholders such as the EAC Secretariat, Organs, Institutions and National Governments and provides input in policy discussion while advocating for the implementation of resolutions at the national level aimed at increasing intra-regional trade.

#### II. BACKGROUND TO THE GIZ PROGRAM ON SUPPORT TO EAST AFRICAN MARKET DRIVEN AND PEOPLE CENTERED INTEGRATION

EABC is the regional apex body for the private sector in the EAC, comprising Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan. EABC’s mission is to support the private sector to become competitive in the region and internationally. In order to achieve competitiveness, EABC provides the regional platform. With its observer status at the EAC, it offers authentic lobbying at the policy level. EABC aims at creating a constituency for change leading to sustainable bottom-up policy reforms.

To strengthen the role of EABC in advocating for a stronger private sector in the EAC regional integration agenda, EABC entered a partnership with GIZ-EAC under the GIZ Program on ‘Support to East African Market Driven and People-Centered Integration’

which works closely with the EAC Secretariat, Partner States and private sector representatives to roll out various activities aimed at increasing competitiveness of business operators (members) in the region as well as organizing events aimed at collecting issues that need regional advocacy. In line with the objectives of the projects, EABC with support from GIZ-EAC is would like to hire a consultant to develop a paper to inform common/harmonized private sector position in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and how the private sector in the EAC can position themselves to tap into opportunities from the Continental Free Trade Area.

### **III. CONTEXT**

Trade is a powerful engine for economic growth and development. However, African's role in the global trade market has fundamentally been providing raw commodities in exchange for manufactured goods, thereby capturing a minimal 3% of the global share of trade.

In addition, intra-Africa trade is relatively low at levels of not more than 15% and this can change if Africa effectively addresses supply-side constraints and weak productive capacities, infrastructural bottlenecks, trade information networks, access to finance for businesses, facilitation of trade in services and free movement of people for cross border trade.

Globally, countries are concluding Mega-Regional Trade Agreements (MRTAs), thus reshaping and changing the global trading landscape in the process. The establishment of the AfCFTA will allow Africa to strengthen its position vis-à-vis the rest of the world, speak with one voice and act in unison on all continental and international trade issues.

The AfCFTA will create a wider market of more than 1.2 billion people with a combined GDP of \$2.19 trillion. This will induce investments; result in pooling of African resources to enhance structural transformation and the development of regional value chains.

### **IV. RATIONALE OF THE ASSIGNMENT:**

It is expected that the AfCFTA will,

- Enhance competitiveness at all levels and more specifically at the industry and enterprise level through exploiting opportunities for scale economies, reducing business costs, continental/global market access and better reallocation of resources including through the development of trade-related infrastructure;
- Overcome dependence on the exportation of primary products and promote social and economic transformation for inclusive growth, industrialization and sustainable development in line with Agenda 2063;
- Resolve the challenges of multiple and overlapping memberships and expedite the regional and continental integration processes;
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- Overcome dependence on the exportation of primary products and promote social and economic transformation for inclusive growth, industrialization and sustainable development in line with Agenda 2063;

- Resolve the challenges of multiple and overlapping memberships and expedite the regional and continental integration processes;

The East African Business Council (EABC) is concerned with the readiness of the regional private sector in tapping into the benefits expected to be presented by the AfCFTA. In this regard, there is a need to hire a consultant to develop a paper to inform the common/harmonized private sector position in the African Continental Free Trade Area as a guiding tool for negotiations to take into consideration the interests of the regional private sector.

## V. SCOPE OF THE WORK

### The consultant (s) duties are:

- Report on the progress on the status of negotiations and ratification process of the AfCFTA,
- Through a survey, develop a harmonized private sector position paper on the benefits of the AfCFTA to the private sector,
- Develop mechanisms for the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and its Annexes in light of the private sector,
- Assess the alignment of the implementation of the Tripartite Free Trade Area in tandem with the AfCFTA,
- Analyze the need for the establishment of an African Business Council as an advisory continental platform for aggregating and articulating the views of the private sector in the continental policy formulation processes.

## VI. EXPECTED OUTPUTS:

- ✦ Clearly defined harmonized private sector position paper on the benefits of the AfCFTA to the private sector,
- ✦ Progress on the status of negotiations and ratification process of the AfCFTA,
- ✦ Clearly detailed document on the mechanisms for the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and its Annexes in light of the private sector,
- ✦ Comprehensive spelled out report on the alignment of the implementation of Tripartite Free Trade Area in tandem with the AfCFTA,
- ✦ Recommendations on the relevance for the establishment of an African Business Council.

## VII. DELIVERABLES AND TIMEFRAME

### The key deliverables include:

1. **Inception report** which among other things will contain the detailed work plan for carrying out the scope of work, proposed methodology and research design survey instruments.
2. **Draft Report** which includes preliminary findings on what the private sector should do to take advantage of the AfCFTA and how policymakers should align the agreement to take into consideration the interests of the private sector,
3. **Final Report** that includes the final findings from the assignment after feedback from the EABC Secretariat & other key stakeholders.
4. Organize a **validation meeting** to the EABC Secretariat.

5. **Position Paper** to inform common/harmonized private sector position in the African Continental Free Trade Area

## VIII. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

A suitable candidate should hold the following qualifications and key competencies:

- a) **Academic Qualification and Professional Experience:** A Master's degree or postgraduate qualification in any of the following fields: Economics, Business Analytics, International Trade, or any other relevant field is required.
- b) **Work Experience:** A minimum of ten (10) years' demonstrated experience in advocacy & research for regional trade-related issues. Knowledge of EAC integration and International Trade & is a must.
- c) **Proven track-record** in related assignments.
- d) **Languages:** Fluency in oral and written English is required as it is the main EAC working language. Good working knowledge of French and Kiswahili will be an advantage.
- e) **Additional Skills:** Excellent computer skills (Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, and Excel), Email, analytical tools for data analysis, experience in working with online databases, and data retrieval) are required.
- f) **Nationality:** The position is only open to Nationals of any of the EAC Partner States, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan.

## IX. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

**All proposals should be addressed to;**

The Executive Director / CEO  
East African Business Council (EABC)  
Ninth Floor, Mafao House, Old Moshi  
Road P. O. Box 2617 Arusha, Tanzania.

**Email: [director@eabc-online.com](mailto:director@eabc-online.com) with a copy to [procurement@eabc-online.com](mailto:procurement@eabc-online.com)** clearly marked "**CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP A PAPER TO INFORM COMMON/HARMONIZED PRIVATE SECTOR POSITION IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA**". The proposal should include current curriculum vitae, proposed methodology, work plan and a separate financial proposal. Applications close on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at (5.00 p.m.).

*EABC is an equal opportunity employer thus recruitment is on merit and with no regard to one's age, colour, gender, marital status, disability or impairment, race or creed. Canvassing shall lead to automatic disqualification.*

*Environmental aspects will be taken into consideration.*