



Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
pour la Stabilisation en République
démocratique du Congo

United Nations Organisation Stabilization
Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo

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INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT POSITION

United Nations Core Values: Integrity, Professionalism, Respect for Diversity

Consultancy	International Legal Expert on Child Recruitment
Duration	Initial duration of 12 months with a possibility of renewal
Section	Child Protection
Start Date	As soon as possible
Positions	One (1)
Date posted	14 December 2017
Expiry date	22 December 2017
Duty Station	Goma, with frequent travel to Kinshasa and CPS Field Offices in Eastern DRC

Background:

Recruitment and use of children, a serious crime under national and international law which can amount to a war crime if the victims are below 15, is rarely prosecuted in the DRC despite the hundreds of boys and girls that are separated from parties to the conflict every year. This lack of accountability has allowed perpetrators, in particular armed group commanders, to continue to violate children's rights on a massive scale with impunity.

The **Action Plan to Stop and Prevent Underage Recruitment and Use of Children in Armed Forces and Groups and other Grave Child Rights Violations** was signed on 4 October 2012 by the DRC Prime Minister and SRSB MONUSCO. It consists of four pillars: **Protection, Prevention, Response to victims and fight against impunity**. On combatting impunity, the Action Plan requires the UN and the Government to collaborate on holding accountable perpetrators of child recruitment. Investigations, arrests and prosecutions must be foreseen for perpetrators, ensuring that child victims have access to justice.

As of 30 June 2015, six perpetrators of child recruitment are in detention awaiting trial. A list has been prepared of egregious perpetrators of child recruitment against whom arrest warrants could be issued.

Through a project funded by the Belgian Embassy in Kinshasa, MONUSCO will support the DRC Government and the Prosecution Support Cells to hold perpetrators of child recruitment accountable and to ensure that prosecution of child recruiters becomes systematic in the DRC. The expected results of the project are that at least 18 individuals accused of recruitment and use of children are prosecuted and that at least four of those perpetrators are tried according to applicable DRC and international law by June 2017. This will be done while ensuring the protection of child victims and witnesses before, during and after the trial and accompanied by a mass awareness raising campaign to end child recruitment by armed groups.



Organizational Setting and Reporting:

MONUSCO Child Protection Section, supported by the Joint Human Rights office and the Justice and Corrections Sections, is seeking a senior consultant to manage the project's four main activities, namely

- 1) Support to military justice actors in conducting investigations and trials
- 2) Capacity building of judicial actors,
- 3) Implementation of a broad communication campaign,
- 4) Ensuring provision of the protection of victims and witnesses before, during and after the trial.

Responsibilities:

Under the supervision of the Chief Child Protection Section, the Legal Expert on Child Recruitment will undertake the following duties:

1. Coordinate plan and implement the project "Accountability of Perpetrators of Recruitment and Use of Children."
2. Develop and implement a nationwide training/mentoring plan, materials and workshops for military prosecutors, magistrates, and lawyers. The content will include how to effectively conduct investigations on the ground and prosecute cases, interviewing children, protecting witnesses/victims during each phase of the judicial process and minimizing risks for children their families and supporting professionals, in consultation with the military justice hierarchy.
3. Develop and produce a compilation of quick-consultation materials for prosecutors/judges on how to conduct investigations and prosecute perpetrators of child recruitment, including relevant legal instruments.
4. Assist judicial authorities in identifying victims and witnesses and encouraging them to participate in the justice process, while ensuring their protection before, during and after the trial.
5. Ensure technical and logistical support is provided on investigations and judicial cases in collaboration with the MONUSCO Justice and Correction Section (JCS).
6. Ensure protection of victims/witnesses and their families and produce an extensive security and protection analysis of the risks facing each victim/witness. Implement the protection measures adapted to each specific case and location in collaboration with the MONUSCO Joint Human Rights Office (JHRO).
7. Produce and disseminate, in collaboration with the JHRO Protection Unit, protection guidelines for victims and witnesses that will be used by magistrates and other legal experts involved in the trials, ensuring that those measures are put into practice.
8. In collaboration with the UN/GoDRC Joint Technical Working Group on the Implementation of the Action Plan and Child Protection Officers in the field, contribute to the development of a public media campaign to stop and prevent child recruitment.
9. Establish a committee comprised of members from relevant security services in Kinshasa to discuss and follow-up on cases of grave child rights violations committed by state agents.



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10. Support the establishment of a comprehensive database containing up-to-date information on the status of all cases.

Reporting:

- Report on weekly basis on activities and updates on arrests, trial proceedings, prosecutions and challenges faced; providing inputs to SG, thematic, and other ad-hoc reports as needed.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation tools in order to keep track of the progress of project implementation during each phase.
- Produce narrative and financial reports at both the midterm and final phase of the project.

Competencies:

- **Professionalism:** Knowledge of international legal procedures and instruments, including cases involving child recruitment. Comprehensive knowledge of human rights and child protection issues. Understanding of peacekeeping contexts, and/or conflict and post-conflict settings.
- **Planning & Organizing:** Ability to independently establish priorities, coordinate and monitor own work plan; implement and review activities under his/her supervision.
- **Communication:** Ability to speak and write in a clear and concise manner, including ability to draft a variety of reports, deliver of training and advocate with Government authorities at the highest level
- **Teamwork:** Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships in a multi-cultural environment, with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

Education:

Advanced university degree in Law (Master's degree or equivalent)

Work Experience:

- At least 5 years of progressively responsible experience as a lawyer primarily in a civil law jurisdiction, including experience with cases involving child recruitment.
- Experience in conflict/post conflict societies and knowledge of the related rule of law context and human rights/child protection issues.
- Excellent analytical, research and investigative skills, including ability to evaluate and integrate information from a variety of sources and assess the potential protection risks.
- Knowledge and experience in strengthening institutional capacity and the implementation of domestic and international child protection legal instruments in fragile, conflict-prone or post-conflict societies.
- Experience in DRC would be an asset.



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Languages:

Fluency in French and English (both oral and written) is required.

Application procedure:

- All applications are to be received by e-mail only. Interested applicants should submit their PHP or CV and a cover letter to mbongo@un.org and wurth@un.org.
- Application should be received within 07 working days, i.e. on or before 22 December 2017.
- Applications received after the deadline will NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- In line with the UN police on gender balance, FEMALE CANDIDATES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

THE UNITED NATIONS DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE AT ANY STAGE OF THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS (APPLICATION, INTERVIEW MEETING, PROCESSING, TRAINING OR ANY OTHER FEES). THE UNITED NATIONS DOES NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH INFORMATION ON BANK ACCOUNTS.