



PROTECT

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CONSOLIDATE PEACE

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT: LEGAL EXPERT ON CHILD RECRUITMENT IN DRC

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS	: 31 OCTOBER 2016
DATE OF ISSUANCE	: 21 OCTOBER 2016
DUTY STATION	: GOMA, 1 POSITION
TYPE AND DURATION OF CONTRACT	: TWELVE (12) MONTHS INITIAL DURATION (with possibility of extension subject to evaluation of performance of the consultant).

A. CONTEXT

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 SRSG 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.

Through a project funded externally, the consultant (legal expert) 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.

B. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The expected results of the project are that:

- at least 18 individuals accused of recruitment and use of children in armed conflict are prosecuted;
- at least four of those perpetrators are tried according to applicable DRC and international law by June 2017;
- this is done while ensuring the protection of child victims and witnesses before, during and after the trial;
- the trial will be accompanied by a mass awareness raising campaign to end child recruitment by armed groups.



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C. ORGANISATIONAL SETTING & REPORTING

The consultant will work within MONUSCO Child Protection Section and receive the support of the Joint Human Rights Office and the Justice and Corrections Sections to cover the 4 main areas as below:

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

The consultant is expected to:

- report on weekly basis on activities and updates on arrests, trial proceedings, prosecutions and challenges faced;
- provide inputs to SG, thematic, and other ad-hoc reports as and when required;
- 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.

D. QUALIFICATIONS

- **Education:** Advanced university degree in law (master's degree or equivalent).
- **Experience:** At least ten (10) years 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. Experience in DRC would be an asset.
- **Skills:** 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
- **Language:** Working knowledge of French and English (both oral and written) is a requirement.

E. COMPETENCIES

- **Professionalism:** Knowledge of international legal procedures and instruments, including cases involving child recruitment. Comprehensive knowledge of human rights and child protection issues.
- **Planning and 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



MONUSCO

Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
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Applications should include a cover letter indicating the consultancy title, accompanied by Curriculum Vitae (CV)/Resume/PHP with detailed achievements. These must be sent electronically through the following email addresses: wurth@un.org and mbongo@un.org to be received on or before 31 October 2016.