

OHRLLS
**Terms of Reference: Consultancy on Leveraging
Investment in Broadband for National Development in
Vanuatu**

1. Background

Broadband penetration in LDCs is very low, relative to developing countries and abysmally low when compared with developed countries. In 2016, the percentage of fixed and mobile broadband subscriptions in the developed countries as estimated by ITU was about 30.1 and 90.3 per cent, respectively. In LDCs on the other hand, fixed broadband subscriptions and mobile broadband subscriptions represented only 0.8 per cent and 19.4 per cent, respectively.

The barriers to higher penetration and uptake in LDCs include inadequate infrastructure, high cost of access, weak private sector, limited human capital and a paucity of public sector resources. In some of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), where remoteness, small telecommunications market, and reliance on satellites or only one sea cable for international and some national connections, the cost of broadband services burdensome. When broadband is available, quality is often limited. The Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) calls for developing modern ICT infrastructure and Internet access, including through mobile broadband and satellite connections.

Investing in broadband penetration can lead to among others: employment creation in sectors that are likely to be ICT-using such as finance, education and healthcare; increased innovation and productivity; and, better governance. Ultimately, investing in broadband would help LDCs in their efforts to meet the IPoA priorities as well as SDG 9.c. on increasing ICT access. Therefore, there is an urgent need to prioritise broadband infrastructure development and enhance its' access in LDCs.

2. Tasks to be performed¹

The consultant will perform the following tasks:

- Assess the context of the broadband penetration in Vanuatu. In doing this, the consultant will review the specific roles of government, the private sector and other actors in providing broadband infrastructure and services.
- Provide examples of how Vanuatu has leveraged broadband expansion for enhancing national development. This will include examples from firms on how access to broadband has fostered growth and competitiveness. Other types of assessments will include the impact of investing in broadband on GDP, job creation and service delivery.
- Analyse the barriers to increased, equitable broadband deployment and adoption. Where possible, these barriers will be quantified, for example, the investment requirements for extending broadband networks.
- Propose the most appropriate financing models for various rollout options e.g. urban/suburban rollouts as well as rollouts in rural areas, which might be hampered by lower numbers of potential broadband users.

3. Expected outputs and delivery dates

The consultant will submit via email three deliverables:

- a) An annotated outline of the report as specified under point 2, above. **(To be delivered by 08 September 2017)**
- b) A first draft of the paper containing the specifications under point 2. **(To be delivered by 09 October 2017)**
- c) A final draft taking on board comments and suggestions provided by OHRLLS **(To be delivered by 30 October 2017)**

4. Duration of the contract

The present contract will run for 35 days from 30 August 2017 to 30 October 2017.

¹ ***See more details in the attached proposed outline***

5. Location and Travel

The consultant will work from his/ her place of residence.

Travel is required for this assignment. The consultant will travel to Port Vila, Vanuatu for approximately seven (7) days to conduct interviews with relevant actors within the country. Roundtrip transportation from the city of the consultant's residence to Port Vila, Vanuatu, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses will be obligated separately.

6. Performance Indicators

The review and analysis are expected to be of high quality and well written in English requiring only minimal typographical editing.

The three deliverables shall be implemented in time as specified in section 3, above.

7. Qualifications and Experience

- Advanced degree in Economics, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), or related field.
- Ten or more years of experience in ICT, including in the area of broadband internet access.
- Strong research, analytical and drafting skills; strong quantitative skills preferred, including in broadband penetration and development.
- Extensive publication track record

8. Supervision

The recruited consultant will work under the general guidance of the Director of OHRLLS and the direct supervision of the Senior Programme Officer and Deputy to the Chief (for Subprogramme 1, LDCs).

9. Application Deadline

Interested individual consultants should submit an updated Curriculum Vitae and expression of interest, which indicates the daily consultancy fee, as soon as possible. At the latest, the documents should be submitted by

Monday, 07 August 2017. These documents should be sent to flores14@un.org with copy to chibuye@un.org.