

CALL FOR ELECTIONS AND TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT TO DESIGN ELECTION OBSERVATION GUIDELINES

Background

The West Africa Election Observers Network (WAEON) is an independent, non-partisan and non-religious network of citizens' election observation organizations in West Africa. WAEON subscribes to the Declaration of Global Principles for Non-Partisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations. WAEON was formed in 2010 under the auspices of the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and the Washington DC-based National Democratic Institute (NDI). CDD-Ghana serves as its Secretariat, providing technical and managerial support for the network. With an initial membership of 11 civil society organizations from the West Africa sub-region, the Network now has 13 member organizations representing – Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Togo, Mali, Gambia and Benin.

In recent years, there has been a recourse to adopt technology in election management to deal with challenges associated with voter register, enhance election efficiency, and ultimately limit public mistrust and inter-political party mistrust. Yet, these technological adoptions have been associated with challenges, such as equipment breakdown, unreliability of some devices, poor human capacity to operate the device, unfair weather conditions which have impeded smooth elections. On the back of these challenges, the crucial work of election observer groups who do not have access to the back-end of technologies adopted by Election Management Bodies (EMBs) have faced criticisms anytime problems erupt during elections. Even though observer reports indicate the scope of observation, the methodology deployed and limitations, sometimes the public and politicians overlook these, which tends to cast a slur on the work and integrity of election observation groups.

Considering the increasing role that technology would continue to play in election management in West Africa, and the critical role of election observer groups in bringing transparency and enhancing the credibility of elections, there is the need for WAEON members to be abreast with strategies to respond to the changing trends driven by technology.

Scope of work

CDD-Ghana, the secretariat of WAEON, seeks the services of a consultant to develop guidelines for election observer groups on how to overcome the challenges of elections and technology. The consultant will:

- Review, examine and document gaps/challenges with technology driven elections and election observation in Africa, particularly West Africa; and draw on best practices from other jurisdictions on resolving it;

- Develop draft guidelines for election observer groups that will seek to address capacity gaps of election observers in observing technological aspects of elections;
- Incorporate feedback/comments from the Secretariat on the draft guidelines;
- Participate and facilitate a validation workshop for WAEON members and other stakeholders to discuss the draft guidelines;
- Address all comments, inputs and feedback made by CDD-Ghana/WAEON Secretariat and participants at the validation workshop until the guidelines is finalized; and
- Produce final document for publication.

Contract duration

The contract shall begin from October 1, 2018 and ends on May 31, 2019.

Deliverables

The Consultant shall be required to deliver the under listed to CDD-Ghana/WAEON Secretariat:

1. A document following desk review of gaps/challenges with technology driven elections and election observation in Africa, particularly West Africa; and draw on best practices from other jurisdictions on resolving it;
2. Develop a draft of the guidelines for review by CDD-Ghana, the WAEON Secretariat by December 17, 2018.
3. A revised draft of the guidelines based on feedback/comments from CDD-Ghana by January 31, 2018.
4. Participate in a validation workshop for WAEON member and other stakeholders, and document feedback and comments from participants for redress in the draft guidelines;
5. A finalized draft for publications following revisions and suggestions from the validation workshop must reach CDD-Ghana/WAEON Secretariat by April 29, 2019.

Comments:

Please include both **a cover letter and resume/CV in English** (attached as .pdf or .doc file) with your application and send to info@waeon.org. All applications should reach the WAEON Secretariat **on or before Wednesday, October 24, 2018**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

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