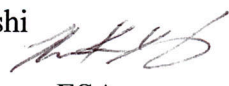




INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Ruby Sandhu-Rojon
Officer-in-Charge
Regional Bureau for Africa
Date: 23 July 2014

From: Kaori Kawarabayashi
Country Advisor 
Country Support Team-ESA
Extension: 5930

Subject: Request for Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) Authorization for the Project “Peace Architecture for Conflict Transformation Framework”

Please find attached for your consideration a request from the Uganda Country Office (CO) for Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) authorization for the project “Peace Architecture for Conflict Transformation Framework” for one year from 23 July 2014 to 22 July 2015.

Background

UNDP Uganda has been working closely with national stakeholders to strengthen national capacities for political mediation, dialogue and negotiation. The Peace Architecture for Conflict Transformation Framework project aims to strengthen national-level mechanisms for dialogue through developing impartial and neutral spaces that can facilitate consensus building and deepen democratic governance. The project seeks to enhance long-term sustainable development and peace through multi-partisan spaces that foster institutional reforms, political dialogue and improvements to governance practices. The expected outputs of the project include:

- Capacities for internal dialogue and political settlements strengthened for the National Consultative Forum (NCF), a national platform for inter-party dialogue;
- National stakeholders mobilized by the NCF to influence the political reform agenda of Uganda;
- Mediation and dialogue capacities strengthened for the National Elders Forum (NEF) to facilitate policy and governance settlements; and
- Local-level peace and conflict transformation forums strengthened through the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU).



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The project builds on a project initiation plan (October 2012 to 2013) which provided initial capacity development support to the NCF, NEF and IRCU. Through continuing to support these three institutions through the project, UNDP hopes to contribute to a peace architecture that can promote democratic systems and practices and serve as an institutional mechanism for consensus building and conflict prevention. While the focus of the project is on peaceful and stable elections in 2016, the project intends to contribute to efforts beyond the elections agenda and strengthen institutional mechanisms that can facilitate long-term peace and stability.

Justifications for DIM

The main rationale for seeking DIM approval is the need for an impartial coordinator. The project interventions revolve around sensitive political debates and negotiations amongst state, non-state and religious actors. The project interventions will focus on the NCF, NEF and IRCU, and coordination through a neutral party is critical in working with these three different bodies, which represent separate interests and have different organizational structures and institutional mandates. In order to develop a credible institutional mechanism for a peace architecture that will facilitate internal dialogue and mediation, the project must ensure that no one party appears to lead but that all parties are equal. There is therefore a need for an independent coordinator to ensure that the concerns of the different stakeholders are effectively addressed.

Moreover, given the political context of the country which traditionally has had a strong executive, impartiality and neutrality are essential pillars for the implementation of the project. DIM is therefore considered the most appropriate modality to ensure independence from institutional affiliations, avoid perceptions of favouritism and mediate effectively amongst the various parties.

Institutional Arrangements

The Project Board is responsible for making management decisions and providing oversight and leadership on the implementation of the project. The Project Board will be represented by the NCF, NEF and IRCU as the Senior Beneficiaries and the UNDP Resident Representative as the Senior Supplier. The CO and the national leadership are currently discussing who will represent the Executive on the Project Board. Project assurance will be provided by the CO's Management Support Unit and Governance Unit.




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The project will set up a project implementation unit (PIU) in a neutral and independent space so that it can effectively facilitate between the different national stakeholders. It will provide technical guidance to the NCF, NEF and IRCU, and support the dialogue meetings for them. The PIU will operate under the day-to-day guidance of the Head of the Governance Unit of the CO and under overall leadership of UNDP Country Director and Resident Representative. The PIU will also coordinate regular updates and briefings on the project's progress to the Project Board. UNDP, as the Implementing Partner, will support the implementation of all project activities jointly with the NCF, NEF and IRCU on the basis of mutual agreement.

The CO has the experience and capacity to effectively manage the proposed DIM project in an accountable manner. The CO will ensure that all necessary measures are applied for quality control to safeguard UNDP financial responsibilities, and the accountable use of UNDP and partner resources. All financial resources of this project will be managed according to the rules, procedures and requirements as defined in UNDP's programme and operations policies and procedures (POPP), and according to UNDP's guidelines on direct implementation.

The project document and other relevant background documents are enclosed.

Based on the above justification, it is recommended that the above mentioned project request for DIM authorization be approved starting from 23 July 2014 to 22 July 2015.

Approved by: 
Ruby Sandhu-Rojon
Officer-in-Charge
Regional Bureau for Africa

Date: 24 July 2014

