



Republic of Congo - Civil Society Engagement Support Program
Adopted by email on 28 September 2022

EB.2022.22

Considering:

- a) Decision [EB.2019.16](#) on the Letter of Intent with the Republic of Congo and the country allocation;
- b) Decision [EB.2019.22](#) on the Republic of Congo and the subsequent joint validation by the Board of CAFI and the Government of the Republic of Congo of the background documents for a Call for Expression of Interest (Programming framework, Call, Terms of Reference);
- c) The Call for Expression of Interest (EOI 2020/01/CONGO) launched by the Secretariat of CAFI on January 31, 2020;
- d) The evaluation by the CAFI Executive Board, in close consultation with the working group established by the Republic of Congo, of the seven expressions of interest received on February 29, 2020;
- e) Decision [EB.2020.15](#) requesting clarification, through the creation of a working group, of the guidelines for the program to support civil society engagement;
- f) Revised Terms of Reference for the Support to Civil Society Engagement in the Republic of Congo program submitted on October 27, 2021;

- g) Decision [EB.2021.21](#) requesting the re-launch of a restricted Call for Expression of Interest based on the revised terms of reference and the EOI 2021/02/CONGO launched by the Secretariat of CAFI on November 18, 2021;
- h) The Expression of Interest received on December 20, 2021;
- i) Decision [EB.2022.02](#) selecting the United Nations Development Programme as the implementing agency for this program;
- j) The Technical and Financial Proposal prepared by the UNDP and received on July 22, 2022;

The Executive Board of CAFI:

1. Thanks the UNDP for the submission of the Technical and Financial Proposal;
2. Stresses that, in accordance with decision [EB.2022.02](#), for the costs of preparing the program document to be covered, the technical and financial proposal must include all the elements required in point 3, in particular
 - a. Names, responsibilities and roles of the program's implementing partners and their agreement to work together to implement the program" (responsible parties);
 - b. An "identification of national institutions likely to carry the program with the support of UNDP as well as a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis. The decision to carry out the program will be taken jointly by CAFI and the government with the support of UNDP;
 - c. Curricula vitae of the consultants in charge of the elaboration of the program document", in this case the international consultant whose recruitment is included in the work schedule proposed by the UNDP;
3. Requests UNDP to submit a revised memorandum to the Executive Board, no later than 15 November 2022, containing the elements required in item 2 above, as well as the following substantive improvements:
 - a. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the program's terms of reference and their concrete translation into objectives and results. In particular, a synthetic presentation of the program's theory of change would support the coherence of the proposed program content with the terms of reference;
 - b. Review the governance schemes proposed for the CSO Forum in line with the criteria set out in the terms of reference (non-formal structure, neutral Permanent Secretariat staff, respect for the particular positions of INGOs supporting national civil society structures) as well as highlighting the role of the Forum in representing civil society on the Steering Committee of the partnership between CAFI and the Republic of Congo;
 - c. Describe the consultation process with INGOs and CSOs in the development of the technical and financial proposal and program document, including details of consultations held (names of people met and main conclusions of these meetings);

- d. If the agency is not able to conduct a full SWOT analysis of potential national institutions to carry the program, provide a comparative analysis of the mandates and capacities of potential institutions to justify the carrying option selected;
4. Recalls that this is the technical and financial proposal for the program document development exercise and that, at this stage, it is not necessary to break down the results into concrete activities or to propose a budgeted plan for the implementation of the support project over its two years of execution (see tables 7 and 8 of the proposal). These elements cannot be validated by the CAFI Executive Board at this stage;
5. Recalls the importance of the partnership dimension of this program, which must take into account the support provided to national civil society by existing external structures and donors specifically aimed at accompanying and strengthening civil society to fully play its role in the implementation of the milestones of the Letter of Intent, in particular sectors. The terms of reference state that the program should "provide the means and mechanisms necessary to :
 - Create links between sectoral projects;
 - Enable civil society and accompanying INGOs to deploy skills and capacities acquired in other sectors of the LOI;
 - Strengthen these actions in the areas of the LOI not covered by the various individual projects;
 - Provide additional resources to projects as needed to strengthen their sustainability, broaden their scope (thematic, geographic, or other), or include a greater number of national CSOs."

These means and mechanisms are not apparent in the technical and financial proposal submitted;

6. Requests the UNDP to approach the Secretariat of CAFI as soon as possible to :
 - a. Clarify the steps and procedures for selecting responsible parties;
 - b. In accordance with the capacity of the country office, define which responsibilities can be assumed by UNDP and by responsible parties in the implementation of the project;
 - c. Organize an information meeting with partners to inform them about (i) the selection procedures for responsible parties and (ii) expectations for program implementation;

The contributions of the identified responsible parties (activities, approach and implementation costs) will be incorporated into the program document;

7. Takes note of the extension of the deadlines indicated in decision EB.2022.02 and requests the UNDP to ensure that a detailed schedule of activities leading to the finalization of the program document is provided in the revised technical and financial proposal. This finalization must be done within a period not exceeding three (3) months from the publication of this decision.