UNESCO

AMENDMENT

Request for Proposals to Organize Webinars for Media Professionals

This amendment issued on Thursday 7 May, 2020 extends the submission deadline to Thursday 14 May, 2020. All other aspects remain unchanged.

The COVID-19 outbreak is a global public health crisis. UNESCO is working tirelessly in concert with partners across its fields of competence to support Member States in responding to and recovering from the pandemic.

As part of the Organization’s response to COVID-19 in the Arab region, UNESCO’s Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States will be organizing a series of webinars for media professionals that address COVID-19 related misinformation and disinformation.

We invite eligible institutions to submit an offer to organize these Webinars in accordance with the present solicitation document.
Dear Sir/Madam,

This amendment extends the submission deadline to Thursday 14 May, 2020. All other aspects remain unchanged.

You are invited to submit an offer for Webinars for Journalists on Combating Disinformation in Media (Fake News) in Response to COVID-19 in accordance with the present solicitation document.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) consists of this cover page and the following Annexes:

Annex I Instructions to Offerors
Annex II General Conditions of Contract
Annex III Terms of Reference (TOR)
Annex IV Proposal Submission Form
Annex V Price Schedule Form
Annex VI Vendor Information Form

Your bid, submitted electronically, should reach the following address dedicated e-mail address no later than 14 May 2020:

cairo@unesco.org

without copy to any other e-mail addresses. Offers addressed to any other e-mail accounts will be disqualified. Please indicate the RFP reference COV19WEBINAR and closing date and time in your email heading.

This letter is not to be construed in any way as an offer to contract with your firm/institution. Your proposal could, however, form the basis for a contract between your company and UNESCO.

You are requested to acknowledge the receipt of this letter and to indicate whether or not you will be submitting a proposal. For this purpose, and for any requests for clarification, please contact Mr. Paul Hector, Advisor for Communication and Information, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States (p.hector@unesco.org).

For and on behalf of UNESCO

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States:
Paul Hector, Advisor for Communication and Information
ANNEX I – Instructions to Offerors

These instructions contain general guidelines and instructions on the preparation, clarification, and submission of Proposals.

A. INTRODUCTION

1. General

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to invite Sealed Proposals for professional services to be provided to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - UNESCO.

2. Eligible bidders

Bidders should not be associated, or have been associated in the past, directly or indirectly, with a firm or any of its affiliates which have been engaged by UNESCO to provide consulting services for the preparation of the Terms of Reference, and other documents to be used for the procurement of services to be purchased under this Request for Proposal.

This bid is open to all national and international suppliers who are legally constituted, can provide the requested services.

Bidders are ineligible if at the time of submission of the offer:

(a) The bidder is on the exclusion list published on the global portal for suppliers of the United Nations Organization, (http://www.ungm.org) due to fraudulent activities.
(b) The name of the bidder appears on the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List which includes all individuals and entities subject to sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council.
(c) The bidder is excluded by the World Bank Group.

3. Fraud and corruption

UNESCO requires that bidders, contractors and their subcontractors adhere to the highest standard of moral and ethical conduct during the procurement and execution of UNESCO contracts and do not engage in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices.

For the purpose of this provision such practices are collectively referred to as “fraud and corruption”:

- “Corrupt practice” is the offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, an undue advantage, in order that the person receiving the advantage, or a third person, act or refrain from acting in the exercise of their official duties, or abuse their real or supposed influence;
- “Fraudulent practice” is a knowing misrepresentation of the truth or concealment of a material fact aiming at misleading another party in view of obtaining a financial or other benefit or avoiding an obligation, or in view of having another party act to their detriment;
- “Collusive practice” means an arrangement between two or more parties designed to achieve an improper purpose, including influencing improperly the actions of another party;
- “Coercive practice” means impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property of the party to influence improperly the actions of a party.
- “Obstructive practice” means acts intended to materially impede the exercise of UNESCO’s contractual rights of audit, investigation and access to information, including destruction, falsification, alteration or concealment of evidence material to a UNESCO investigation into allegations of fraud and corruption.
• “Unethical practice” means conduct or behaviour that is contrary to Staff or Supplier codes of conduct, such as those relating to conflict of interest, gifts, hospitality, postemployment provisions, abuse of authority and harassment.

UNESCO expects that all suppliers who wish to do business with UNESCO will embrace the United Nations Supplier Code of Conduct

UN Agencies have adopted a zero tolerance policy on gifts and therefore, it is of overriding importance that UNESCO staff should not be placed in a position where their actions may constitute or could be reasonably perceived as reflecting favourable treatment of an individual or entity by accepting offers of gifts, hospitality or other similar favours. Vendors are therefore requested not to send or offer gifts or hospitality to UNESCO personnel.

UNESCO will:
• Reject a proposal to award a contract if it determines that a vendor recommended for award has engaged in fraud and corruption in competing for the contract in question.
• Cancel or terminate a contract if it determines that a vendor has engaged in fraud and corruption in competing for or in executing a UNESCO contract.
• Declare a vendor ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to become a UN registered vendor if it at any time determines that the vendor has engaged in fraud and corruption in competing for or in executing a UNESCO contract.

Any concern or evidence that corruption or fraud may have occurred or is occurring related to a UNESCO contract shall be forwarded to the Office of Internal Oversight. Please refer to how-to-report-fraud-corruption-or-abuse.

4. Cost of Proposal
The Offeror shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the Proposal and UNESCO will in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the solicitation.

B. SOLICITATION DOCUMENTS

5. Contents of Solicitation Documents
Proposals must offer services for the total requirement. Proposals offering only part of the requirement will be rejected. The Offeror is expected to examine all corresponding instructions, forms, terms and specifications contained in the Solicitation Documents. Failure to comply with these documents will be at the Offeror’s risk and may affect the evaluation of the Proposal.

6. Clarification of Solicitation Documents
A prospective Offeror requiring any clarification of the Solicitation Documents may notify UNESCO in writing at the organisation’s mailing address or fax or email number indicated in the RFP. UNESCO will respond in writing to any request for clarification of the Solicitation Documents that it receives earlier than two weeks prior to the deadline for the submission of Proposals. Written copies of the organisation’s response (including an explanation of the query but without identifying the source of inquiry) may be sent to all prospective Offerors that have received the Solicitation Documents.

7. Amendments of Solicitation Documents
At any time prior to the deadline for submission of Proposals, UNESCO may, for any reason, whether at its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a prospective Offeror, modify the Solicitation Documents by amendment.

All prospective Offerors that have received the Solicitation Documents will be notified in writing of all amendments to the Solicitation Documents.

In order to afford prospective Offerors reasonable time in which to take the amendments into account in preparing their offers, UNESCO may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of Proposals.

C. PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS
The offers received must include information in sufficient scope and detail to allow UNESCO to consider whether the company has the necessary capability, experience, expertise, financial strength and the required capacity to perform the services satisfactorily.

8. Language of the Proposal

The Proposals prepared by the Offeror and all correspondence and documents relating to the Proposal exchanged by the Offeror and UNESCO shall be written in **English**. Any printed literature furnished by the Offeror may be written in another language so long as accompanied by a translation of its pertinent passages in which case, for purposes of interpretation of the Proposal, the language as stated in the Solicitation Documents applies.

9. Documents Comprising the Proposal

The Proposal shall comprise the following components:

a) Proposal submission form;
b) Operational and technical part of the Proposal, including documentation to demonstrate that the Offeror meets all requirements;
c) Price schedule, completed in accordance with clauses 10 & 11;

10. Proposal Form - Presentation of the technical proposal

The Offeror shall structure the technical part of its Proposal as follows:

10.1. Description of the firm/institution and its qualifications

(a) Management Structure

This Section should provide corporate orientation to include company’s profile (year and country of incorporation – copy of certificate of incorporation), a brief description of present activities focusing on services related to the Proposal as well as an outline of recent experience on similar projects, including experience in the country.

The firm/institution should describe the organizational unit(s) that will become responsible for the contract, and the general management approach towards a project of this kind. The Offeror should identify the person(s) representing the Offeror in any future dealing with UNESCO.

Offeror to provide supporting information as to firm’s technical reliability, financial and managerial capacity to perform the services.

(b) Resource Plan

This Section should fully explain the Offeror’s resources in terms of personnel and facilities necessary for the performance of the requirements, and any plans for their expansion. It should describe Offeror’s current capabilities/facilities and any plans for their expansion.

10.2. Proposed Approach, Methodology, Timing and Outputs

This section should demonstrate the Offeror’s responsiveness to the TOR and include detailed description of the manner in which the firm/institution would respond to the TOR, addressing the requirements, as specified, point by point. You should include the number of person-working days in each specialization that you consider necessary to carry out all work required.

For assessment of your understanding of the requirements please include any assumptions as well as comments on the data, support services and facilities to be provided by the beneficiary as indicated in the Statement of Requirements/TOR, or as you may otherwise believe to be necessary.

10.3. Proposed Personnel

In this section, the offeror should reflect the project staffing including the work tasks to be assigned to each staff member as well as their qualifications with reference to practical experience relating to specialization area of the project for each proposed staff. The complete CV’s of proposed staff is to be submitted.

If applicable, this staffing proposal should be supported by an organigram illustrating the reporting lines, together with a description of such organization structure.

The technical part of the Proposal should not contain any pricing information whatsoever on the services offered. Pricing information shall be separated and only contained in the appropriate Price Schedule.

It is mandatory that the Offeror’s Proposal numbering system corresponds with the numbering system as provided in the TOR. All references to descriptive material and brochures should be included in the respective paragraph, though material/documents themselves may be provided as annexes to the Proposal/response.
11. Price Proposal
The Offeror shall indicate on an appropriate Price Schedule, an example of which is contained in the Price Schedule sheet, the prices of services it proposes to supply under the contract, if selected.

12. Proposal currencies
Your separate price envelop must contain an overall quotation in a single currency. All prices shall be quoted in USD.

13. Period of validity of proposals
Proposals shall remain valid for ninety (90) days after the date of Proposal submission prescribed by UNESCO, pursuant to the deadline clause. A Proposal valid for a shorter period may be rejected by UNESCO on the grounds that it is non-responsive.

14. Format and signing of proposals
The Bid shall be typed and shall be signed by the Bidder or a person or persons duly authorised to bind the Bidder to the contract. A Bid shall contain no interlineations, erasures, or overwriting except, as necessary to correct errors made by the Bidder, in which case such corrections shall be initialled by the person or persons signing the bid.

15. Payment
In full consideration for the complete and satisfactory performance of the services of the contract, UNESCO shall effect payments to the Contractor within 30 days after receipt and acceptance of the invoices submitted by the contractor for services provided.

D. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

16. Marking of proposals
The Offeror shall send the Proposal in two separate email messages, as detailed below.

The first and second email messages shall:
(a) Be addressed to cairo@unesco.org given in the cover page of these Solicitation documents; and make reference to the “subject” indicated, and a statement: “PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES”, to be completed with the time and the date specified pursuant to clause 17 of Instructions to Bidders.
(b) Both first and second email messages shall indicate the name and address of the Offeror.
The first email message shall be marked Technical Proposal and contain the information specified in Clause 10 above.
The second email message shall be marked Financial Proposal include the Price Proposal duly identified as such.

17. Deadline for submission of proposals
Proposals must be received on or before the date and time specified on the cover page of these Solicitation Documents.

UNESCO may, at its own discretion extend this deadline for the submission of Proposals by amending the solicitation documents in accordance with clause Amendments of Solicitation Documents.

18. Late Proposals
Any Proposal received by UNESCO after the deadline for submission of proposals, pursuant to clause Deadline for the submission of proposals, will be rejected.

19. Modification and withdrawal of Proposals
The Offeror may withdraw its Proposal after the Proposal’s submission, provided that written notice of the withdrawal is received by UNESCO prior to the deadline specified in the RFP. Proposals may not be modified or withdrawn after that time.
E. OPENING AND EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

20. Opening of proposals
UNESCO representatives will open all Proposals after the deadline for submissions and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the organization.

21. Clarification of proposals
To assist in the examination, evaluation and comparison of Proposals, UNESCO may at its discretion, ask the Offeror for clarification of its Proposal. The request for clarification and the response shall be in writing and no change in price or substance of the Proposal shall be sought, offered or permitted.

22. Preliminary examination
UNESCO will examine the Proposals to determine whether they are complete, whether any computational errors have been made, whether the documents have been properly signed, and whether the Proposals are generally in order.

Prior to the detailed evaluation, UNESCO will determine the substantial responsiveness of each Proposal to the Request for Proposals (RFP). For purposes of these Clauses, a substantially responsive Proposal is one, which conforms to all the terms and conditions of the RFP without material deviations. The determination of a Proposal’s responsiveness is based on the contents of the Proposal itself without recourse to extrinsic evidence.

A Proposal determined as not substantially responsive will be rejected by UNESCO.

23. Evaluation and comparison of proposals
A two-stage procedure will be used in evaluating the proposals, with evaluation of the technical component being completed prior to any price component being opened and compared. The Price Component will be opened only for submissions that passed the minimum score of 70 % of the total points obtainable for the technical evaluation.

The technical proposal is evaluated on the basis of its responsiveness to the Terms of Reference (TOR).
- HIGHEST TOTAL SCORE OF WEIGHTED TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL CRITERIA

The price proposal of all offerors, who have attained minimum 70% score in the technical evaluation, will be compared. The contract will be awarded to the offeror that receives the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria as specified below.

**Technical Proposal Evaluation Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample: Summary of Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms</th>
<th>Points Obtainable</th>
<th>Name of Firm / Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Expertise of Institution submitting Proposal</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Proposed Work Plan and Approach</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Personnel</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total for Technical Evaluation</td>
<td>700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Financial Proposal Evaluation Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample: Summary of Financial Proposal Evaluation Forms</th>
<th>Points Obtainable</th>
<th>Name of Firm / Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Proposal</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total for Financial Evaluation</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluation of the price proposals (of all Offerors who have attained minimum 70% score in the technical evaluation) will be based on the weight scoring method as follows:

- Financial proposals are opened and list of prices is prepared, where the lowest price is ranked as the first one (receiving highest amount of points) and the most expensive as the last one (receiving the least amount of points).
- Lowest price is given maximum points (e.g. 300), for other prices the points are assigned based on the following formula: \[\text{Amount of points} = \frac{\text{lowest price/other price}}{\text{total points obtainable for financial proposal}} \times 300\]

An example:
- Offeror A – lowest price ranked as 1st in the amount of USD 10,000 = a
- Offeror B – second lowest price ranked as 2nd in the amount of USD 15,000 = b
  Points assigned to A = 300 & Points assigned to B = 200 (following formula: a/b * 300 i.e. 10,000/15,000 * 300 = 200 points)

**Option 2: Combined Technical and Financial Evaluation Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample: Summary of Financial Proposal Evaluation Forms</th>
<th>Points Obtainable</th>
<th>Name of Firm / Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total Technical Proposal</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total Financial Proposal</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 1000</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F. AWARD OF CONTRACT

24. Award criteria, award of contract

UNESCO reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposal, and to annul the solicitation process and reject all Proposals at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Offeror or any obligation to inform the affected Offeror or Offerors of the grounds for such action.

Prior to expiration of the period of proposal validity, UNESCO will award the contract to the qualified Offeror whose Proposal after being evaluated is considered to be the most responsive to the needs of the organisation and activity concerned.

25. Purchaser’s right to vary requirements at time of award and to negotiate
UNESCO reserves the right at the time of award of contract to increase or decrease by up to 20% the quantity of services and goods specified in the RFP without any change in hourly/daily or any other rates or prices proposed by the Bidders or other terms and conditions.

UNESCO reserves the right to undertake further negotiations on the proposed offer.
1. LEGAL STATUS
The Contractor shall be considered as having the legal status of an independent contractor vis-à-vis UNESCO. The Contractor’s personnel and sub-contractors shall not be considered in any respect as being the employees or agents of UNESCO.

2. SOURCE OF INSTRUCTIONS
The Contractor shall never seek nor accept instructions from any authority external to UNESCO in connection with the performance of its services under this Contract. The Contractor shall refrain from any action, which may adversely affect UNESCO or the United Nations and shall fulfill its commitments with the fullest regard to the interests of UNESCO.

3. CONTRACTOR’S RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEES
The Contractor shall be responsible for the professional and technical competence of its employees and will select, for work under this Contract, reliable individuals who will perform effectively in the implementation of this Contract, respect the local customs, and conform to a high standard of moral and ethical conduct.

4. ASSIGNMENT
The Contractor shall not assign, transfer, pledge or make other disposition of this Contract or any part thereof, or any of the Contractor’s rights, claims or obligations under this Contract except with the prior written consent of UNESCO.

5. SUB-CONTRACTING
In the event the Contractor requires the services of sub-contractors, the Contractor shall obtain the prior written approval and clearance of UNESCO for all sub-contractors. The approval of UNESCO of a sub-contractor shall not relieve the Contractor of any of its obligations under this Contract. The terms of any sub-contract shall be subject to and conform with the provisions of this Contract.

6. OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT
The Contractor warrants that no official of UNESCO has received or will be offered by the Contractor any direct or indirect benefit arising from this Contract or the award thereof. The Contractor agrees that breach of this provision is a breach of an essential term of this Contract.

7. INDEMNIFICATION
The Contractor shall indemnify, hold and save harmless, and defend, at its own expense, UNESCO, its officials, agents, and employees from and against all suits, claims, demands, and liability of any nature or kind, including their costs and expenses, arising out of acts or omissions of the Contractor, or the Contractor’s employees, officers, agents or sub-contractors, in the performance of this Contract. The provision shall extend, inter-alia, to claims and liability in the nature of workmen’s compensation, products liability and liability arising out of the use of patented inventions or devices, copyrighted material or other intellectual property by the Contractor, its employees, officers, agents, servants or sub-contractors. The obligations under this Article do not lapse upon termination of this Contract.

8. INSURANCE AND LIABILITIES TO THIRD PARTIES
The Contractor shall provide and thereafter maintain insurance against all risks in respect of its property and any equipment used for the execution of this Contract. The Contractor shall provide and thereafter maintain liability insurance in an adequate amount to cover third party claims for death or bodily injury, or loss of or damage to property, arising from or in connection with the provision of services under this Contract or the operation of any vehicles, The Contractor shall provide and thereafter maintain all appropriate workmen’s compensation insurance, or its equivalent, with respect to its employees to cover claims for personal injury or death in connection with this Contract. The Contractor shall also provide and thereafter maintain liability insurance in an adequate amount to cover third party claims for death or bodily injury, or loss of or damage to property, arising from or in connection with the provision of services under this Contract or the operation of any vehicles, The Contractor shall provide and thereafter maintain all appropriate workmen’s compensation insurance, or its equivalent, with respect to its employees to cover claims for personal injury or death in connection with this Contract or the operation of any vehicles, boats, airplanes or other equipment owned or leased by the Contractor or its agents, servants, employees or sub-contractors performing work or services in connection with this Contract. Except for the workmen’s compensation insurance, the insurance policies under this Article shall:

8.1 Name UNESCO as additional insured;

8.2 Include a waiver of subrogation of the Contractor’s rights to the insurance carrier against UNESCO;

8.3 Provide that UNESCO shall receive thirty (30) days written notice from the insurers prior to any cancellation or change of coverage;

8.4 The Contractor shall, upon request, provide UNESCO with satisfactory evidence of the insurance required under this Article.

9. ENCUMBRANCES/LENS
The Contractor shall not cause or permit any lien, attachment or other encumbrance by any person to be placed on file or to remain on file in any public office or on file with UNESCO against any monies due or to become due for any work done or materials furnished under this Contract, or by reason of any other claim or demand against the Contractor.

10. TITLE TO EQUIPMENT
Title to any equipment and supplies that may be furnished by UNESCO shall rest with UNESCO and any such equipment shall be returned to UNESCO at the conclusion of this Contract or when no longer needed by the Contractor. Such equipment, when returned to UNESCO, shall be in the same condition as when delivered to the Contractor, subject to normal wear and tear. The Contractor shall be liable to compensate UNESCO for equipment determined to be damaged or degraded beyond normal wear and tear.

11. COPYRIGHT, PATENTS AND OTHER PROPRIETARY RIGHTS
UNESCO shall be entitled to all intellectual property and other proprietary rights including but not limited to patents, copyrights, and trademarks, with regard to products, or documents and other materials which bear a direct relation to or are produced or prepared or collected in consequence of or in the course of the execution of this Contract. At UNESCO’s request, the Contractor shall take all necessary steps, execute all necessary documents and generally assist in securing such proprietary rights and transferring them to UNESCO in compliance with the requirements of the applicable law.

12. USE OF NAME, EMBLEM OR OFFICIAL SEAL OF UNESCO OR THE UN
The Contractor shall not advertise or otherwise make public the fact that it is a Contractor with UNESCO, nor shall the Contractor, in any manner whatsoever use the name, emblem or official seal of UNESCO, or any abbreviation of the name of UNESCO in connection with its business or otherwise.

13. CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION
Drawings, photographs, plans, reports, recommendations, estimates, documents and all other data compiled by or received by the Contractor under this Contract shall be the property of UNESCO, shall be treated as confidential and shall be delivered only to UNESCO authorized officials on completion of work under this Contract. The Contractor may not communicate at any time to any other person, Government or authority external to UNESCO, any information known to it by reason of its association with UNESCO, which has not been made public except with the authorization of UNESCO; nor shall the Contractor at any time use such information to private advantage. These obligations do not lapse upon termination of this Contract.

14. FORCE MAJEURE: OTHER CHANGES IN CONDITIONS
Force majeure, as used in this Article, means acts of God, war (whether declared or not), invasion, revolution, insurrection, or other acts of a similar nature or force, which are beyond the control of the Parties. In the event of and as soon as possible after the occurrence of any cause constituting force majeure, the Contractor shall give notice and full particulars in writing to UNESCO, of such occurrence or change if the Contractor is thereby rendered unable, wholly or in part, to perform its obligations and meet its responsibilities under this Contract. The Contractor shall also notify UNESCO of any other changes in conditions or the occurrence of any event, which interferes or threatens to interfere with its performance of this Contract. The notice shall include steps proposed by the Contractor to be taken including any reasonable alternative means for performance that is not prevented by force majeure. On receipt of the notice required under this Article, UNESCO shall take such action as, in its sole discretion, it considers to be appropriate or necessary in the circumstances, including the granting to the Contractor of a reasonable extension of time in which to perform its obligations under this Contract. If the Contractor is rendered permanently unable, wholly or in part, by reason of force majeure to perform its obligations and meet its
15. TERMINATION

Either party may terminate this Contract for cause, in whole or in part, upon thirty days notice, in writing, to the other party. The initiation of arbitral proceedings in accordance with Article 16 “Settlement of Disputes” below shall not be deemed a termination of this Contract. UNESCO reserves the right to terminate without cause this Contract at any time upon 15 days prior written notice to the Contractor, in which case UNESCO shall reimburse the Contractor for all reasonable costs incurred by the Contractor prior to receipt of the notice of termination. In the event of any termination by UNESCO under this Article, no payment shall be due from UNESCO to the Contractor except for work and services satisfactorily performed in conformity with the express terms of this Contract. The Contractor shall take immediate steps to terminate the work and services in a prompt and orderly manner and to minimize losses and further expenditures. Should the Contractor be adjudged bankrupt, or be liquidated or become insolvent, or should the Contractor make an assignment for the benefit of its creditors, or should a Receiver be appointed on account of the insolvency of the Contractor, UNESCO may, without prejudice to any other right or remedy it may have, terminate this Contract forthwith. The Contractor shall immediately inform UNESCO of the occurrence of any of the above events.

16. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

16.1 Amicable Settlement

The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, or relating to this Contract or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof. Where the parties wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the conciliation shall take place in accordance with the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules then obtaining, or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the parties.

16.2 Arbitration

Unless, any such dispute, controversy or claim between the Parties arising out of or relating to this Contract or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof is settled amicably under the preceding paragraph of this Article within sixty (60) days after receipt by one Party of the other Party’s request for such amicable settlement, such dispute, controversy or claim shall be referred by either Party to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules then obtaining, including its provisions on applicable law. The arbitral tribunal shall have no authority to award punitive damages. The Parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such controversy, claim or dispute.

17. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Nothing in or relating to this Contract shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of UNESCO.

18. TAX EXEMPTION

18.1 Section 7 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations provides, inter alia, that UNESCO, is exempt from all direct taxes, except charges for public utility services, and is exempt from customs duties and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use. In the event any governmental authority refuses to recognize the UNESCO exemption from such taxes, duties or charges, the Contractor shall immediately consult with UNESCO to determine a mutually acceptable procedure.

18.2 Accordingly, the Contractor authorizes UNESCO to deduct from the Contractor’s invoice any amount representing such taxes, duties or charges, unless the Contractor has consulted with UNESCO before the payment thereof and UNESCO has, in each instance, specifically authorized the Contractor to pay such taxes, duties or charges under protest. In that event, the Contractor shall provide UNESCO with written evidence that payment of such taxes, duties or charges has been made and appropriately authorized.

19. CHILD LABOUR

19.1 The Contractor represents and warrants that neither it, nor any of its suppliers is engaged in any practice inconsistent with the rights set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including Article 32 thereof, which, inter alia, requires that a child shall be protected from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

19.2 Any breach of this representation and warranty shall entitle UNESCO to terminate this Contract immediately upon notice to the Contractor, at no cost to UNESCO.

20. MINES

20.1 The Contractor represents and warrants that neither it nor any of its suppliers is actively and directly engaged in patent activities, development, assembly, production, trade or manufacture of mines or in such activities in respect of components primarily utilized in the manufacture of Mines. The term “Mines” means those devices defined in Article 2, Paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 of Protocol II annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects of 1980.

20.2 Any breach of this representation and warranty shall entitle UNESCO to terminate this Contract immediately upon notice to the Contractor, without any liability for termination charges or any other liability of any kind of UNESCO.

21. OBSERVANCE OF THE LAW

The Contractor shall comply with all laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations bearing upon the performance of its obligations under the terms of this Contract.

22. AUTHORITY TO MODIFY

No modification or change in this Contract, no waiver of any of its provisions or any additional contractual relationship of any kind with the Contractor shall be valid and enforceable against UNESCO unless provided by an amendment to this Contract signed by the authorized official of UNESCO.

23. SECURITY

The responsibility for the safety and security of the Contractor and its personnel and property, and of UNESCO property in its custody, rests with the Contractor.

The Contractor shall:

(a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the services are being provided;

(b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the Contractor’s security, and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this contract. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Contractor shall remain solely responsible for the security of its personnel and for UNESCO property in its custody.

24. ANTI-TERRORISM

The Contractor agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNESCO funds received under this Contract are used to provide support to individuals or entities subject to sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNESCO hereunder do not appear on the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List, including the UN Security Council Resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via: https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/un-sc-consolidated-list.

This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Contract.
1. Background and Justification:

UNESCO recognizes that the world needs professional journalism and reliable information to adapt its response to the spread of COVID-19, organize itself, learn from other countries’ experiences and counter the increase of rumors and disinformation that has accompanied the pandemic. In particular, UNESCO promotes Open Education Resources (OERs), networks of fact-checkers (link is external), media and information literacy (MIL) resources to counter the spread of disinformation. UNESCO is also leveraging the use of digital technologies such as artificial intelligence in response to the crisis, as well as highlighting the importance of documentary heritage in past efforts to fight pandemics.

During the Munich Conference, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, called on governments, companies and news organizations to assist in preventing the spread of rumours and misinformation, stating that “we’re not just fighting an epidemic; we’re fighting an infodemic.” The statement of the Director General indicates the alarming spread of misinformation and disinformation worldwide. Fake cures involving colloidal silver, vitamins, and essential oils, unfounded posts warning about the use of anti-inflammatory drugs, and false claims that drinking excessive amounts of water could ward off the disease are just a few examples. As Sylvie Briand, the architect of the WHO’s strategy to counter the infodemic, recently told the Lancet, “Now with social media this phenomenon is amplified, it goes faster and further, like the viruses that travel with people and go faster and further.”

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, the UN Secretary General had warned of the impact of misinformation on controlling pandemics, citing the recent dissemination of inaccurate information in epidemics such as Ebola, which in turn makes it harder to respond effectively to complex health crises.

The spread of disinformation in the media has reached a frightening level as is its currently overtaking real news. A study conducted by MIT reveals that fake news spreads much quicker than debunked information on twitter and by a substantial margin. The study provides a variety of ways of quantifying this phenomenon: For instance, false news stories are 70 percent more likely to be retweeted than true stories are. It also takes true stories about six times as long to reach 1,500 people as it does for false stories to reach the same number of people. When it comes to Twitter’s “cascades,” or unbroken retweet chains, falsehoods reach a cascade depth of 10 about 20 times faster than facts. And falsehoods are retweeted by unique users more broadly than true statements at every depth of cascade.

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1 https://en.unesco.org/themes/communication-and-information/covid19-informationsharing-counteringdisinformation
2 https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/munich-security-conference
3 https://qz.com/1825450/why-pandemic-misinformation-is-so-hard-to-for-big-tech-to-tackle/
The nature of fake news is designed to attract attention and deceive the accuracy of judgements; often having a consequence on personal belief and judgements. Hence, if the perceptions of the consumer are distorted, then evaluations will be groundless and decisions might be inadequate or counterproductive. According to the EU Commission publication on Understanding Citizens' Vulnerabilities to Disinformation and Data-Driven Propaganda, the information overload due to technological advancement has led an expansion on the number of parties that contribute to spreading misperception, as a large amount of people, unable to untangle themselves in the complexity of society, to reassure themselves and feel adequate, seek simplified explanations, often emotionality charged, that will help them feel what they cannot understand.”

The Arab region has been similarly affected by the spread of misinformation and disinformation in the media. Whereas there has been no concrete studies or statistics on the spread of disinformation on social media or even traditional media, there is a noticeable circulation of unscientifically proven health advice concerning COVID-19.

UNESCO has recently published a handbook for Journalist Education and Training titled ‘Journalism, ‘Fake News’ & Disinformation’. The handbook provides a unique and holistic view of the different dynamics of the disinformation story, along with practical skills building to complement the knowledge and understanding of media professionals. The overall aim of the publication is to improve the practices of journalists and media professionals through building their capacity in dealing with fake news in order to develop their societies in becoming more informed about the range of societal responses to disinformation problems. UNESCO will bring to bear these insights in its global efforts to counter the pandemic.

2. Objectives :

- Implement and disseminate public health guidelines issued by WHO and other official sources in a manner that is accessible to the public to contain the spread of the virus;
- Strengthening the media’s role in supporting the information dissemination process, and combating disinformation;
- Raising the awareness of media professionals to take preventive and protective measure while carrying out these essential;
- Encouraging the media to discharge their duties with professionalism and empathy to avoid panic, provide balanced viewpoint and highlight positive developments and progress that is being made in responding to the pandemic;
- Establishing a platform for the media to exchange information and experiences of senior media professionals in dealing with fake news, and presenting solutions and policies to the current challenges faced by media in the region

3. Outputs :

- Development and organizing of training webinars based on UNESCO’s publication Journalism, ‘Fake News’ & Disinformation’ that address COVID-19-related to

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6https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC116009/understanding_citizens_vulnerabilities_to_d
isinformation.pdf
misinformation and disinformation for media professionals in Egypt, Sudan and the wider Arab region;

- Promotional materials and outreach campaign to raise awareness/visibility of the webinar series and its outcomes;
- Establishment of a Journalist Network to share experiences and best practices on countering misinformation and disinformation in the media;
- Video recordings of the webinar to be re-used as training resources; and
- A synthesis of the findings that emerge from the webinar series, including policy recommendations, guidance for practitioners as well as research questions for further investigation.

4. Activities:

- On the basis of UNESCO’s Handbook “Journalism ‘Fake News’ & Disinformation” and through ongoing consultations with WHO, other health and media training partners, media and social influencers, develop and conduct surveys to identify and understand key knowledge gaps and topics to be addressed in the webinar series. UNESCO will facilitate contacts with WHO and other partners;
- Identify webinar themes, develop a roster of webinar panellists and a schedule for a 4-month series of webinars;
- Conduct targeted outreach to media partners, social influencers etc. across the African continent and Arab States to raise awareness of the training and invite them to participate;
- Develop media content to highlight the webinar outputs suitable for posting on UNESCO’s YouTube channel;
- Conduct pre and post-event participant surveys to assess impact of the webinar series on their professional activities;
- Incentivize participants to submit human interest stories they develop following the webinar. Collect and curate these stories received as outcomes of webinar training and submit to UNESCO for possible dissemination through UNESCO’s media channels;
- Support the development of a journalist network using readily available and accessible platforms _inter alia_ WhatsApp, Facebook, etc.; and
- In consultation with UNESCO, leverage outcomes, outputs and synergies developed – _inter alia_ policy recommendations, practitioner guidelines and research questions for further investigation - from the webinar series to develop funding proposals.

5. Timing: 4-6 months

6. Reporting: Final Report upon completion of service

7. Minimum content of proposals:

- **Technical Proposal:** Identify the approach that your institution will use in: a) developing the webinar series, b) identifying and selecting panellists, c) attracting suitable participants and d) capturing and leveraging the impacts and outcomes of the webinar series.

8. Eligibility/qualification/experience requirements:
The evaluation of the offers will adhere to the following qualification and mandatory requirements. Incomplete submissions may result in disqualification. The contractor (service provider) should provide the following:

**Required**
- Accreditation as an academic institution offering specialization in the field of journalism and mass communication;
- Institutional experience in delivering online or blended training;
- Profile of the project team, including CVs of members and their proposed roles.
- Access to an online platform and social media accounts that could be used to promote and disseminate the webinars;
- Regular publication of a journal or newsletter targeting media professionals (academic and/or practitioners);
- Workplan and method of work for conducting the training;
- Completed ANNEX IV – Proposal Submission Form;
- Completed ANNEX V – Price Schedule Form; and
- Completed ANNEX VI - Vendor Information Form.

**Desirable**
- Experience in organizing and promoting online events such as webinars;
- Previous experience in delivering content on misinformation; and
- Experience working with the UN system.
ANNEX IV – Proposal Submission Form

TO: UNESCO

To form an integral part of your technical proposal

Dear Sir / Madam,

Having examined the Solicitation Documents, the receipt of which is hereby duly acknowledged, we, the undersigned, offer to provide Professional Services for the sum as may be ascertained in accordance with the Price Schedule attached herewith and made part of this Proposal.

We undertake, if our Proposal is accepted, to commence and complete delivery of all services specified in the contract within the time frame stipulated.

We agree to abide by this Proposal for a period of 90 days from the Proposal Closing Date as stipulated in the Solicitation Documents, and it shall remain binding upon us and may be accepted at any time before the expiration of that period.

We understand that you are not bound to accept any Proposal you may receive.

Name of Bidder:
Address of Bidder:

Authorised Signature:

Name & title of Authorised Signature:
Date:
# ANNEX V – Price Schedule Form

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. The Bidder is asked to prepare the Price Schedule as a separate envelope from the rest of the RFP response as indicated in paragraph 16 (b) of the Instructions to Offerors.

2. All prices/rates quoted must be exclusive of all taxes, since the UNESCO is exempt from taxes as detailed in Annex II, Clause 18.

3. The Price Schedule must provide a detailed cost breakdown. Provide separate figures for each functional grouping or category. If the contractor is required to travel in order to perform the work described in the TOR, a lump sum must be included in the total amount or to be listed separately. No travel shall be reimbursed.

4. It is the policy of UNESCO not to grant advance payments except in unusual situations where the potential contractor whether a private firm, NGO or a government or other entity, specifies in the proposal that there are special circumstances warranting an advance payment. UNESCO, at its discretion, may however determine that such payment is not warranted or determine the conditions under which such payment would be made.

Any request for an advance payment is to be justified and documented and must be submitted with the financial proposal. This justification shall explain the need for the advance payment, itemise the amount requested and provide a time-schedule for utilisation of said amount.

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<th>Financial Proposal / Price Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>Request for Proposal Ref:</td>
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<td>Total Financial Proposal [currency/amount]:</td>
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<td>Date of Submission:</td>
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<td>Authorized Signature:</td>
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<tr>
<th>Description of Activity/Item</th>
<th>No of Consultants</th>
<th>Rate per Day [currency/amount]</th>
<th>No of man-days</th>
<th>Total [currency/amount]</th>
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<td>1. Remuneration</td>
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<td>2.4 Reproduction and Reports</td>
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<td>2.6 Others (please specify)</td>
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## ANNEX VI – Vendor Information Form

### General Information

| Company Name: |  |
| City, Country |  |
| Web Site URL: |  |
| Contact Person: |  |
| Title: |  |
| Phone: |  |
| Email Address: |  |

### Expertise of the Bidder

| Line of Business, area of expertise: |  |
| Type of business (manufacturer, distributor, etc): |  |
| Years of company experience: |  |
| Main export countries/area: |  |
| Past Contracts with other UN organizations: |  |

### References: Please provide at least three references including contact details for contracts for similar services to the one requested under this consultancy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name/Country:</th>
<th>Contact person:</th>
<th>Telephone:</th>
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