

SENIOR PUBLIC OUTREACH ADVISOR

Location :	Tunis, Tunisia
Application Deadline :	
Type of Contract :	TA
Post Level :	P5
Languages Required :	French and/or Arabic, English
Starting Date :	
Expected Duration of Contract :	Five (5) months

Background

The current roadmap for the political transition in Tunisia includes elections for a constituent assembly on 24 July. The Assembly will have three roles:

- Prepare a new constitution, which among other things will determine if the strong Presidential system is maintained or moves are made towards a system with greater parliamentary authority;
- Act as an interim parliament; and
- Nominate an interim government, to be in place until elections are eventually held under the new constitution.

The UN has received a request from the interim government “whose principle mandate is the organization of transparent, free and democratic elections” to receive electoral support from the UN. The electoral management body, as soon as this is created, will be the immediate first priority. Among the many urgent tasks of this body will be educating the public on the new electoral code, the role of the commission, the mandate of the CA, the procedures for registering on the voters’ list and voting as well as on integrity measures guaranteeing a free and fair election. While there are few electoral education activities that are being developed through civil society, sometimes with donor support, there is still need to develop a national strategy and strengthen partnerships for to ensure appropriate coverage of the country in terms of civic / voter education. Also, targeted efforts are needed towards the youth, given the role played by the youth in the revolution and their great expectations for participation in the electoral process. Women, in particular in rural areas, must also get direct access to unbiased electoral information that will encourage their participation and help them make their own informed choice.

It is envisioned that the future Tunisian EMB will keep a leadership role in defining the electoral education messages and supervising the conduct of the electoral education campaign, while other electoral stakeholders will take a more prominent role in ensuring dissemination of the necessary information and direct interaction with future voters. These stakeholders are: the media, the civil society, public institutions (Ministry of Education & the school system, Ministry of Youth and youth clubs, Ministry of Women, Ministry of Higher Education & academic institutions, etc.). Also, there will be a number of international actors supporting electoral education, through the IEC and directly with other stakeholders. As a result, the issue of co-ordination of assistance in electoral education will be important in the coming months.

As part of its current support to the future Tunisian EMB, UNDP would like to assist it in

developing a coherent and strategic electoral education programme and assist the EMB in coordinating it.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the Chief Technical Advisor, the Senior Public Outreach Advisor Specialist will contribute to UNDP's electoral support in Tunisia with a main focus on public outreach / electoral education through media campaigns and partnerships with civil society & public institutions. The Sr. Public Outreach Advisor will lead UNDP efforts in achieving the following output of the project: "A strong partnership between electoral education stakeholders increases public understanding of the electoral process". The bulk of his/her support will be towards the new Tunisian EMB but s/he will also provide support to civil society coalitions and a number of ministries / public institutions (including Min. of Education, Min. of Youth, Min. of Women, Min. of Higher Education). She/he will ensure the strategic direction of activities, coordinate the operational activities and monitor outputs in this area.

Specific duties include:

- High-level policy support to the Board of Commissioners on all public outreach related issues
- Organize for the Public Outreach Department the development of the EMB Public Outreach Strategy for the first electoral event (constituent assembly) and subsequent ones, with a particular focus on youth / women access.
- Contribute to developing media campaigns and public outreach materials for the EMB voter education campaign.
- Conduct a mapping of electoral education stakeholders, their resources, activities and needs for assistance.
- Support the EMB and relevant agencies in developing coherent and strategic electoral education programmes. Such support, apart from the EMB, will focus in particular on the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Women and Ministry of Higher Education.
- Support the coordination by the EMB of a large number of institutions & organizations in order to develop a National Electoral Education Strategy
- Support the EMB in leading operational coordination in electoral education activities at the sub-national level.
- Design a National Strategic Planning Workshop on electoral education and lead its facilitation.
- Provide policy & methodological advice to the EMB and electoral stakeholders on international best practice in public outreach / electoral education, in particular for message development, public outreach methods and materials.
- Devise innovative policies and activities to increase the outreach to youth and women and ensure an active role of both groups in delivering electoral education to Tunisian citizens.
- Serve as UNDP's principal technical representative in public outreach related meetings with national and international stakeholders during the whole duration of the electoral process.
- Evaluate the capacity development needs of the EMB commissioners and EMB staff on public outreach matters and provide recommendations / suggest activities to feed into the overall capacity development plan of the EMB.

- Lead in delivering briefing / training activities towards the EMB on public outreach matters.
- Develop & implement activities for UNDP capacity development support to civil society, public institutions and media on electoral education.
- Identify reliable partners for UNDP's possible funding of electoral education initiatives others than the EMB's (pending funding available).
- Ensure that UNDP global experience in civic education is mainstreamed into Tunisia operations and facilitate the participation of Tunisian electoral education partners into regional / global programmes and events organized or sponsored by UNDP.
- Develop a long-term civic education programme to start after the CA elections.
- Perform other tasks and duties as requested by the supervisor.

Competencies

Corporate Competencies:

- Demonstrates integrity by modeling the UN's values and ethical standards;
- Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of the project.
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability;
- Treats all people fairly and without favoritism.

Functional Competencies:

- Knowledge and expertise in democratic governance, electoral assistance and democratization.
- The candidate should have significant experience in providing practical advice to policy makers; be able to work well with senior counterparts in government, electoral management bodies, civil society, political parties, and the donor community; and know how to contribute to building national capacity for development.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, ability to foster networks and partnerships, and good working knowledge of information and computer technology. While representing UNDP views, the candidate should also be able to provide coordination among the UN family of agencies.
- Demonstrates sound knowledge of UN rules, regulations, policies, procedures and best practices in the electoral assistance field.
- Excellent negotiation and representational skills, at senior level (with international organizations and/or diplomatic missions).
- Displays analytical judgment and demonstrated ability to handle confidential and politically sensitive issues in a responsible and mature manner.
- Demonstrates strong intellectual and operational capacity in providing and coordinating advisory services to stakeholders in electoral processes, specifically to EMBs and civil society organizations.
- Demonstrates openness to change and ability to manage complexities. Demonstrated ability to multitask under pressure and to meet strict deadlines often under hardship conditions.
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to work effectively in teams, delivering through and with others.
- Self-management, including conflict management/negotiating skills.

Required Skills and Experience

- Masters degree in Political Sciences, Law, International Relations or related field.
- Minimum 10 years specialized experience in international context, in civic / electoral education, electoral affairs and democratization, majority of which must be in electoral assistance and at least six of which involve programming, formulation, management and advice on electoral assistance activities at a senior level.
- Strong technical knowledge of the field of electoral education, as well as a general knowledge of cross-cutting democratic governance issues that are often addressed through electoral cycle or deepening democracy programmes.
- Strong networks within the regional (Arab world) and international electoral assistance community, and demonstrated leadership in the field of electoral assistance.
- Experience in working with transnational and emerging democracies and post-conflict environments an asset.
- Strong knowledge of political processes in the Arab world is highly desirable.
- Fluency in French and/or Arabic, as well as English.