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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Consultancy - Senior strategy advisor for the promotion of the Peace Forest Initiative in the Island of Ireland

Consultancy reference number: CCD/24/C/77

#### Background

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Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The mandate of the Convention and its 197 Parties is to support “a future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels – and to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

The Peace Forest Initiative (PFI), launched during the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties of the UNCCD in 2019, aims to promote joint actions and cross-border cooperation on land and forest restoration under the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) approach while building confidence and peace in fragile and conflict affected areas. The initiative seeks to promote exchanges, dialogues, capacity building and cooperation on ecosystem and restoration between concerned parties. It aims to provide a flexible and participatory platform for coordination and co-design, development and implementation of joint activities, plans, strategies, projects and programmes on the sustainable management of natural resources (land, soil, water and forest). Ultimately, the PFI aims to contribute to building confidence and peace through joint activities and collaboration on restoring and developing land based resources as well as enhancing the livelihood and resilience of community. LDN (SDG 15.3) can be effectively linked to the SDG 16 (peace and justice) through PFI.

The UNCCD secretariat will play a central role in promoting and operationalizing the PFI through partnership building, noting its potential contribution to increasing cooperation on LDN and land restoration. The UNCCD secretariat is looking for an experienced and senior professional to take a leading role in exploring and promoting PFI approach in the context of the Good Friday Agreement (1999).

#### Objective of consultancy

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The final expected output from the International Consultant will be a formal launch of PFI – Great Ulster Peace Forest

#### Duties and Responsibilities

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Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD and the direct supervision of the responsible Officer, and working collaboratively with all staff and relevant partners, the incumbent will perform the following main activities:

Lead the UNCCD towards development of a PFI in the Island of Ireland, and provide coordination and substantial support, including strategic and analytical inputs.

- Identify, engage and mobilize relevant stakeholders and partners at all levels, including donors and establish formal partnerships in the formulation of a strategy and action plan towards developing a concrete PFI activity.
- Develop an operational modality of PFI and establish an agreed arrangement including a steering/consulting group(s).
- Organize, facilitate and prepare report of meetings and consultations (online/offline) with stakeholders, including providing input and support for field visit(s) of UNCCD team.



- Support the preparation and organization of PFI related and events at different fora including a formal launch of PFI Ireland.
- Any other duties pertaining to this consultancy as may be determined by the supervising officer.

### **Deliverables**

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The consultant will facilitate and provide following deliverables:

- ✓ A formal partnership agreement between government stakeholders, relative to the PFI
- ✓ Development of a steering/consultation group, including a formal partnership arrangement with identified partner(s) to deliver the PFI Great Ulster Peace Forest, such as the Woodlands Trust (NI) and the Tree Council of Ireland (RoI)
- ✓ A formal launch of PFI Ireland.

### **Contractual terms**

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The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for 8 months (part-time) subject to satisfactory progress in the preparatory activities identified under this term of reference. This consultancy is home based. Payments will be made upon submission of deliverables with an approval of the hiring manager of the Global Mechanism and defined by output. The candidates will be evaluated based on their experience, knowledge, language skills and academic qualifications. The contract is home based. Women are encouraged to apply. All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.

### **Requirements**

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- Advanced university degree (master's degree or equivalent) in political or social science, environmental studies, public policy, law or related area. A first-level university degree in combination with qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree
- A minimum of ten years of experience in working with high-profile political figures.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, handle multiple tasks, work under pressure and deliver assignments on time.
- Proven experience as a technical advisor in partnership mobilization, particularly relevant to the PFI Ireland
- Fluency in English language (both oral and written) is required. Fluency in another UN language is an asset.
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### **Special notice**

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Only individuals who can act as independent, individual economical operators are qualified to apply. Individuals who can provide their services only on account of an institution or enterprise not in their individual capacity are not eligible under this procedure.

Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered "staff members" under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations Secretariat and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultant and individual contractor is responsible for determining tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.

### **Submission of application**

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The following documents should be sent to [staffing@unccd.int](mailto:staffing@unccd.int) as **one document**: UNCCD Personal History Form<sup>1</sup> /CV and cover letter, specifying the following in the email subject line: **CCD/24/C/77**.

The deadline for applications is **14 October 2024**. Only applications submitted by the deadline and with complete documentation will be taken into consideration.

Due to the volume of applications received, receipt of applications cannot be acknowledged individually. Please address your application as indicated above and please do not address or copy your application to an individual at the Secretariat. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

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<sup>1</sup>UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/opportunities/vacancies/guidelines>