

Terms of Reference – International consultant

Assignment title: Researcher

Contract duration: from Sept 15th 2020 to March 31st 2020

Duty station: home-based

Travel: no travel

Background:

The ITC Poor Communities and Trade Programme (PCTP) and its Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI) aim to reduce global poverty by involving micro-entrepreneurs from the developing world in international and regional trade. In other words, the Programme enables marginalised communities of micro-entrepreneurs to be part of the international fashion value chain through a business infrastructure, tailored around a unique system of work that enables these communities - mostly women - to thrive in association with the talents of the fashion world. This system of work also involves consumers, through the application of a specific marketing strategy, geared to increase awareness on the story behind each product and allowing people to make informed choices in their purchasing behaviour. EFI aims to reduce global poverty by strengthening the capacities of developing country micro producers and social enterprises for export trade, connecting them to the international fashion industry.

As part of its work in raising awareness on sustainability issues, informing consumers and leading the way as a hub for knowledge and resources on ethical production, human rights, climate change and social issues, EFI is an active member of the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion. Since 2019, EFI holds the Secretariat of the Alliance and coordinates activities included in the Work Plan with the goal to improve the sustainability performance in the industry, and ultimately, create a better environment for the planet and people.

This goal of the consultancy is to map and create a database of activities of the Alliance members to define the breadth of activities and initiatives on sustainable fashion. The mapping will provide a tool to help strengthen synergies and improve coordination to support efforts to make the Fashion supply chain more sustainable, and provide an overview for member States of “who is doing what and where”. The incumbent will:

Description of Duties/Responsibilities:

Under the general supervision of the Poor Communities and Trade Programme (PCTP)’s Chief Technical Adviser and overall guidance of the Senior Programme Officer the consultant will perform the following tasks:

- Research initiatives and activities undertaken by UN agencies related to the fashion industry;
- Communicate with relevant stakeholders and gather information about Alliance member’s activities;
- Compile a database of relevant UN-wide activities, initiatives and tools, and map out which Sustainable Development Goals they aim to contribute to;
- Identify gaps for further action or possible synergies;
- Contribute to other activities related to the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion as required.

Note: The consultant has to ensure that s/he has obtained the necessary permissions with regard to intellectual property rights required to perform his/her services under this individual contractor contract and for the subsequent dissemination by ITC in any form. Documentary proof will be submitted to ITC. S/he has further to ensure to obtain accreditation to the event(s) as required. Should any license fee be due for the use of copyrighted materials of third parties, the consultant shall request the prior written permission from ITC.

Expected Deliverables:

- Summary report of findings
- Provide content to visualize findings online, e.g. virtual map (e.g. https://www.sdgmapping.ch/#expertise_mapping)

Competencies:

Experience in researching, writing and working in projects linked to ethical production and sourcing

Education:

Master degree in diplomacy, social sciences, political sciences, sustainability studies or similar

Experience:

At least 4 years of professional experience in a related field in lieu of diploma.

Languages:

Fluency in written and spoken English