



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

### Procurement of Travel Agent Services to UNDP Projects Management Office in Cyprus on Long Term Agreement basis

United Nations Development Programme Projects Management Office in Cyprus	DATE: March 21, 2017
	REFERENCE: RFP-041-2017

Dear Sir / Madam:

We kindly request you to submit your Proposal for Travel Agent Services.

Please be guided by the form attached hereto as Annex 2, in preparing your Proposal.

Proposals may be submitted on or before **Tuesday, April 04, 2017 16:00 Cyprus Time** and via courier mail or hand delivery to the address below:

**UNDP - Partnership for the Future**  
**United Nations Protected Area, Nicosia (Old Nicosia Airport), Cyprus**  
**Or**  
**II. Selim Caddesi 40-42, Nicosia – Cyprus**

Your Proposal must be expressed in the English, and valid for a minimum period of 120 days

In the course of preparing your Proposal, it shall remain your responsibility to ensure that it reaches the address above on or before the deadline. Proposals that are received by UNDP after the deadline indicated above, for whatever reason, shall not be considered for evaluation. If you are submitting your Proposal by email, kindly ensure that they are signed and in the .pdf format, and free from any virus or corrupted files.

Services proposed shall be reviewed and evaluated based on completeness and compliance of the Proposal and responsiveness with the requirements of the RFP and all other annexes providing details of UNDP requirements.

The Proposal that complies with all of the requirements, meets all the evaluation criteria and offers the best value for money shall be selected and awarded the contract. Any offer that does not meet the requirements shall be rejected.

Any discrepancy between the unit price and the total price shall be re-computed by UNDP, and the unit price shall prevail and the total price shall be corrected. If the Service Provider does not accept the final price based on UNDP's re-computation and correction of errors, its Proposal will be rejected.

No price variation due to escalation, inflation, fluctuation in exchange rates, or any other market factors shall be accepted by UNDP after it has received the Proposal. At the time of Award of Contract or Purchase Order, UNDP reserves the right to vary (increase or decrease) the quantity of services and/or goods, by up to a maximum twenty five per cent (25%) of the total offer, without any change in the unit price or other terms and conditions.

Any Contract or Purchase Order that will be issued as a result of this RFP shall be subject to the General Terms and Conditions attached hereto. The mere act of submission of a Proposal implies that the Service Provider accepts without question the General Terms and Conditions of UNDP, herein attached as Annex 3.

Please be advised that UNDP is not bound to accept any Proposal, nor award a contract or Purchase Order, nor be responsible for any costs associated with a Service Providers preparation and submission of a Proposal, regardless of the outcome or the manner of conducting the selection process.

UNDP's vendor protest procedure is intended to afford an opportunity to appeal for persons or firms not awarded a Purchase Order or Contract in a competitive procurement process. In the event that you believe you have not been fairly treated, you can find detailed information about vendor protest procedures in the following link:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/procurement/protestandsanctions/>

UNDP encourages every prospective Service Provider to prevent and avoid conflicts of interest, by disclosing to UNDP if you, or any of your affiliates or personnel, were involved in the preparation of the requirements, design, cost estimates, and other information used in this RFP.

UNDP implements a zero tolerance on fraud and other proscribed practices, and is committed to preventing, identifying and addressing all such acts and practices against UNDP, as well as third parties involved in UNDP activities. UNDP expects its Service Providers to adhere to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct found in this link: [http://www.un.org/depts/ptd/pdf/conduct\\_english.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/ptd/pdf/conduct_english.pdf)

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your Proposal.

Sincerely yours,  
Tiziana Zennaro,  
Senior Programme Manager, Head of Office  
United Nations Development Programme  
Projects Management Office  
Cyprus

## Description of Requirements

Context of the Requirement	<i>Travel Agent Services</i>
Implementing Partner of UNDP	N/A
Brief Description of the Required Services <sup>1</sup>	<p><b>Travel Agent Services for UNDP Projects Management Office in Cyprus</b></p> <p>The average annual volume of tickets procured by the UNDP PMO in Cyprus amounts to approximately 15,000 EUR per year. Any agreement resulting from this Request for Proposal carries with it no guarantee of future ticket purchase volume.</p> <p>Travel shall apply to all journeys of UNDP staff, consultants, meeting participants, training participants and counterparts from one place to another for official business purposes. These official purposes include, but need not be limited to the missions, meetings, trainings, events; project site visits.</p> <p>The three basic considerations related to official travel organized and paid by UNDP are defined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routing (most direct route of travel from the place of origin to the official destination).</li> <li>• The preferred mode of transportation (e.g. rail, road, sea / inland water or air).</li> <li>• Standard of accommodation (i.e. authorized class of travel).</li> </ul> <p>The normal route and mode of transportation for all official travel is the most direct and economical route by air. When the journey duration is less than five (5) hours, rail and other ground transportation may be strongly encouraged where available and secure to reduce the environmental impact of that travel.</p> <p>Official travel by air will be by the most direct and economical, including restrictive and nonrefundable, available airfares. The traveler will be provided with the lowest fare in the applicable class of service (e.g. economy).</p> <p>Travelers will be provided with the lowest fare available in their authorized class of service, on or within a 24 hour window prior to, or following, the working day.</p> <p>There are restrictions related to the use of specific airlines.</p> <p>The normal route and mode of transportation for all official travel is the most direct and economical route. For simple round trip itineraries, when the outbound journey duration differs from the return flight, the combined flying time of all legs is totaled to identify the most direct airline for the mission. The calculation of flying time shall include scheduled stops for change of planes and other purposes. The reason for calculating the total journey duration (outbound and inbound) in these instances is to identify the airline with the most direct service because fares are typically cheaper when ticketing with one airline round trip versus issuing two one way tickets.</p>

	<p>UNDP Travel policy is available at the following web site:  <a href="https://popp.undp.org/SitePages/POPPSubject.aspx?SBJID=295&amp;Menu=BusinessUnit">https://popp.undp.org/SitePages/POPPSubject.aspx?SBJID=295&amp;Menu=BusinessUnit</a></p>
List and Description of Expected Outputs to be Delivered	Air-ticket issuance.
Person to Supervise the Work/Performance of the Service Provider	Project/Contract Manager, UNDP PMO in Cyprus
Frequency of Reporting	N/A
Progress Reporting Requirements	N/A
Location of work	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Contractor's Location
Expected duration of work	Long Term Agreement initially for 1 year and possibility of extension up to 3 years.
Target start date	April 2017
Latest completion date	Upon request
Travels Expected	N/A
Special Security Requirements	N/A
Facilities to be Provided by UNDP	N/A
Implementation Schedule indicating breakdown and timing of activities/sub-activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required
Names and curriculum vitae of individuals who will be involved in completing the services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required
Currency of Proposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Euro
Value Added Tax on Price Proposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> must be exclusive of VAT and other applicable indirect taxes
Validity Period of Proposals (Counting for the last day of submission of quotes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 120 days In exceptional circumstances, UNDP may request the Proposer to extend the validity of the Proposal beyond what has been initially indicated in this RFP. The Proposal shall then confirm the extension in writing, without any modification whatsoever on the Proposal.
Partial Quotes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not permitted
Payment Terms	Condition for Payment Release  Within thirty (30) days from the date of meeting the following conditions: a) UNDP's written acceptance (i.e., not mere receipt) of the quality of the outputs; and b) Receipt of invoice from the Service Provider.
Person(s) to review/inspect/ approve outputs/completed services and authorize the	Project/Contract Manager

disbursement of payment	
Type of Contract to be Signed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long-Term Agreement <sup>2</sup> ( <i>Purchase Order to be issued for issuance of tickets</i> )
Criteria for Contract Award	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submission of documentation as required prior to the deadline. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting minimum eligibility and qualification requirements. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highest Combined Score (based on the 70% technical offer and 30% price weight distribution) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full acceptance of the UNDP Contract General Terms and Conditions (GTC). This is a mandatory criteria and on acceptance of the GTC may be grounds for the rejection of the Proposal.
Criteria for the Assessment of Proposal	<p><b><u>1) Minimum Eligibility Criteria and Qualification Requirements:</u></b></p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submission of documentation as required prior to the deadline. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in UN Security Council 1267/1989 Committee's list of terrorists and terrorist financiers, and in UNDP's list of suspended and removed vendors. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting minimum qualification requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 1 office/branch located in Nicosia, Cyprus;</li> <li>• Minimum 5 years of agency establishment;</li> <li>• Minimum 3 years of IATA membership;</li> <li>• Minimum of 100,000.00 USD of annual ticket turnover in 2016;</li> <li>• Minimum 100 tickets sold annually in 2016;</li> <li>• Availability of at least one travel expert with minimum 3 years of experience.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>2) Technical Proposal (70%)</u></b></p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expertise of the Firm: 30% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work approach and Quality Assurance: 10% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Qualification of Key Personnel (Travel Experts): 30% <p><b><u>3) Financial Proposal (30%)</u></b></p> To be computed as a ratio of the Proposal's offer to the lowest price among the proposals received by UNDP.
UNDP will award the contract to:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One and only one Service Provider
Annexes to this RFP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form for Submission of Proposal (Annex 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Terms and Conditions / Special Conditions (Annex 3) <sup>3</sup>
Contact Person for Inquiries (Written inquiries only) <sup>4</sup>	<a href="mailto:solicitations.pff.cy@undp.org">solicitations.pff.cy@undp.org</a> Any delay in UNDP's response shall be not used as a reason for extending the deadline for submission, unless UNDP determines that such an extension is necessary and communicates a new deadline to the Proposers.

<sup>2</sup> Minimum of one (1) year period and may be extended up to a maximum of three (3) years subject to satisfactory performance evaluation.

<sup>3</sup> Service Providers are alerted that non-acceptance of the terms of the General Terms and Conditions (GTC) may be grounds for disqualification from this procurement process.

<p>Required Documents that must be Submitted to Establish Qualification of Proposers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form for Submission of Proposal (Annex 2).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of registration of legal entity by authorities.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of IATA Accreditation Certificates</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CVs of key personnel (travel experts) highlighting experiences in servicing international organizations of similar size and nature as UNDP, including relevant certificates, accreditations, awards and citations received.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reference / recommendation letters</li> </ul>
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<sup>4</sup> This contact person and address is officially designated by UNDP. If inquiries are sent to other person/s or address/es, even if they are UNDP staff, UNDP shall have no obligation to respond nor can UNDP confirm that the query was received.

## Evaluation of Proposals

A two-stage procedure is applied in evaluating the proposals, with evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any financial proposal being opened and compared. The contract will be awarded to the Proposer who obtains the highest cumulative score for the Technical and Financial Proposals.

Combined Scoring Method, using 70% - 30% distribution for technical and financial proposals.

### 1) Minimum Eligibility Criteria and Qualification Requirements:

UNDP shall examine the Proposals to determine whether they are complete with respect to minimum documentary requirements, whether the documents have been properly signed, whether or not the Proposer is in the UN Security Council 1267/1989 Committee's list of terrorists and terrorist financiers, and in UNDP's list of suspended and removed vendors, and whether the Proposals are generally in order, among other indicators that may be used at this stage. UNDP may reject any Proposal at this stage.

Minimum qualification requirements:

Prior to technical evaluation all proposals will be thoroughly screened against below eligibility criteria:

- Minimum 1 office/branch located in Nicosia, Cyprus;
- Minimum 5 years of agency establishment;
- Minimum 3 years of IATA membership;
- Minimum of 100,000.00 USD of annual ticket turnover in 2016;
- Minimum 100 tickets sold annually in 2016;
- Availability of at least one travel expert with minimum 3 years of experience.

### 2) Technical Evaluation:

The evaluation criteria and scoring for technical criteria are specified in the tables below (detailed breakdown of obtainable points for technical proposal). A Proposal shall be rendered non-responsive at this stage if it does not substantially respond to the RFP particularly the demands of the Terms of Reference, which also means that it fails to achieve the minimum technical score (490 points). The price proposal of the Proposals will be opened only for submissions that passed the minimum technical score of 70% (490) of the obtainable score of 700 points in the evaluation of the technical proposals.

Summary of Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms		Points Obtainable
1.	<b>Expertise of Travel Agency</b>	300
2.	<b>Work Approach and Quality Assurance</b>	100
3.	<b>Qualification and Experience of Key</b>	300
<b>Totally: maximum obtainable technical points</b>		<b>700</b>

Technical Proposal Evaluation Form 1		Points obtainable
<b>Expertise of Travel Agency</b>		
1.1	Years of establishment <i>5 points per year, but no more than 50 points</i>	50
1.2	Years of IATA membership <i>5 points per year, but no more than 50 points</i>	50
1.3	Quantity of branch office(s) around the country/worldwide: <i>5 points per every branch in the country and/or worldwide, but not more than 25</i>	25

	<i>points</i>	
1.4	Membership in global travel management associations <i>5 points per every membership, but not more than 25 points</i>	25
1.5	Volume of sales (annual international air tickets turnover in 2016 and financial capacity) <i>10 points per every 100,000.00 USD of turnover, but no more than 50 points</i>	50
1.6	Quantity of air tickets sold annually in 2016 <i>10 points per every 100 tickets, but no more than 50 points</i>	50
1.7	Previous working experience with UN/UNDP <i>5 points per year, but no more than 25 points</i>	25
1.8	E-ticketing service provision and Reservation Booking Systems	25
		<b>300</b>

Technical Proposal Evaluation Form 2		Points Obtainable
<b>Work Approach and Quality Assurance</b>		
2.1	Availability of management plan and internal quality controls	50
2.2	Availability of plan for responding during emergency, weekends and holidays	50
		<b>100</b>

Technical Proposal Evaluation Form 3		Points Obtainable
<b>Qualification and Experience of Key Personnel (Travel Experts)</b>		
3.1	Quantity of travel experts specialized in air tickets selling experience <i>25 points per travel expert but no more than 75 points</i>	75
3.2	Years of relevant experience of travel expert nominated (average if more than one) <i>10 points per every year but no more than 150 points</i>	100
3.3	Certifications of travel expert nominated <i>50 points for IATA certified travel expert in travel management 25 points per every additional certificate, but no more than 75 points in total</i>	125
		<b>300</b>

### 3) Financial Evaluation:

The financial evaluation of the technically qualified proposals will be performed in the following way: the highest between financial offers will obtain maximum financial score (300 points). The financial score for the other financial offers will be computed as a ratio of the Proposal's offer to the lowest price among the proposals received by UNDP.

The contract will be awarded to the Offeror who obtains the highest cumulative score for the Technical and Financial Proposals.



## FORM FOR SUBMITTING SERVICE PROVIDER'S PROPOSAL<sup>5</sup>

*Travel Agent Services for UNDP Projects Management Office in Cyprus*

**REFERENCE: RFP-041-2017**

***(This Form must be submitted only using the Service Provider's Official Letterhead/Stationery<sup>6</sup>)***

[insert: Location].

[insert: Date]

To: [insert: Name and Address of UNDP focal point]

Dear Sir/Madam:

We, the undersigned, hereby offer to render the following services to UNDP in conformity with the requirements defined in the RFP dated [specify date] , and all of its attachments, as well as the provisions of the UNDP General Contract Terms and Conditions:

### A. Expertise of the Firm

*The Service Provider must describe and explain how and why they are the best entity that can deliver the requirements of UNDP by indicating the following:*

- a) Profile – describing the nature of business, field of expertise, licenses, certifications, accreditations, membership in global travel management associations;*
- b) Business Registration Papers;*
- c) Financial Stability – turnover, assets, liability as per 2016 financial statement to indicate its financial stability, liquidity and credit standing, etc.;*
- d) Ticket sales volume and quantity in 2016;*
- e) Track Record – list of clients for similar services as those required by UNDP, indicating description of contract scope, contract duration, contract value, contact references;*
- f) Management plan and internal quality controls*
- g) Plan for responding during emergency, weekends and holidays*
- h) Written Self-Declaration that the company is not in the UN Security Council 1267/1989 List, UN Procurement Division List or Other UN Ineligibility List.*

<sup>5</sup> This serves as a guide to the Service Provider in preparing the Proposal.

<sup>6</sup> Official Letterhead/Stationery must indicate contact details – addresses, email, phone and fax numbers – for verification purposes

**B. Qualifications of Key Personnel**

- a) Names and qualifications of the key personnel (travel experts) that will perform the services;  
b) CVs demonstrating qualifications must be submitted.

**C. Cost Breakdown per Deliverable**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Unit Price (EUR)</b>	<b>Estimated Quantity of Tickets Per Year</b>	<b>TOTAL (EUR)</b>
<b>Service Fee per ticket</b>		35 tickets	

*[Name and Signature of the Service Provider's  
Authorized Person]  
[Designation]  
[Date]*

## ***General Terms and Conditions for Services***

### **1.0 LEGAL STATUS:**

The Contractor shall be considered as having the legal status of an independent contractor vis-à-vis the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Contractor's personnel and sub-contractors shall not be considered in any respect as being the employees or agents of UNDP or the United Nations.

### **2.0 SOURCE OF INSTRUCTIONS:**

The Contractor shall neither seek nor accept instructions from any authority external to UNDP in connection with the performance of its services under this Contract. The Contractor shall refrain from any action that may adversely affect UNDP or the United Nations and shall fulfill its commitments with the fullest regard to the interests of UNDP.

### **3.0 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.

### **4.0 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 UNDP.

### **5.0 SUB-CONTRACTING:**

In the event the Contractor requires the services of sub-contractors, the Contractor shall obtain the prior written approval and clearance of UNDP for all sub-contractors. The approval of UNDP 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 to the provisions of this Contract.

### **6.0 OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT:**

The Contractor warrants that no official of UNDP or the United Nations 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.

### **7.0 INDEMNIFICATION:**

The Contractor shall indemnify, hold and save harmless, and defend, at its own expense, UNDP, its officials, agents, servants 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. This 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.

#### **8.0 INSURANCE AND LIABILITIES TO THIRD PARTIES:**

- 8.1** 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.
- 8.2** The Contractor shall provide and thereafter maintain all appropriate workmen's compensation insurance, or the equivalent, with respect to its employees to cover claims for personal injury or death in connection with this Contract.
- 8.3** 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, 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.
- 8.4** Except for the workmen's compensation insurance, the insurance policies under this Article shall:
  - 8.4.1** Name UNDP as additional insured;
  - 8.4.2** Include a waiver of subrogation of the Contractor's rights to the insurance carrier against the UNDP;
  - 8.4.3** Provide that the UNDP shall receive thirty (30) days written notice from the insurers prior to any cancellation or change of coverage.
- 8.5** The Contractor shall, upon request, provide the UNDP with satisfactory evidence of the insurance required under this Article.

#### **9.0 ENCUMBRANCES/LIENS:**

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 the UNDP 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.

#### **10.0 TITLE TO EQUIPMENT:**

Title to any equipment and supplies that may be furnished by UNDP shall rest with UNDP and any such equipment shall be returned to UNDP at the conclusion of this Contract or when no longer needed by the Contractor. Such equipment, when returned to UNDP, 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 UNDP for equipment determined to be damaged or degraded beyond normal wear and tear.

#### **11.0 COPYRIGHT, PATENTS AND OTHER PROPRIETARY RIGHTS:**

- 11.1** Except as is otherwise expressly provided in writing in the Contract, the UNDP shall be entitled to all intellectual property and other proprietary rights including, but not limited to, patents, copyrights, and trademarks, with regard to products, processes, inventions, ideas, know-how, or documents and other materials which the Contractor has developed for the UNDP under the

Contract and which bear a direct relation to or are produced or prepared or collected in consequence of, or during the course of, the performance of the Contract, and the Contractor acknowledges and agrees that such products, documents and other materials constitute works made for hire for the UNDP.

- 11.2** To the extent that any such intellectual property or other proprietary rights consist of any intellectual property or other proprietary rights of the Contractor: (i) that pre-existed the performance by the Contractor of its obligations under the Contract, or (ii) that the Contractor may develop or acquire, or may have developed or acquired, independently of the performance of its obligations under the Contract, the UNDP does not and shall not claim any ownership interest thereto, and the Contractor grants to the UNDP a perpetual license to use such intellectual property or other proprietary right solely for the purposes of and in accordance with the requirements of the Contract.
- 11.3** At the request of the UNDP; the Contractor shall take all necessary steps, execute all necessary documents and generally assist in securing such proprietary rights and transferring or licensing them to the UNDP in compliance with the requirements of the applicable law and of the Contract.
- 11.4** Subject to the foregoing provisions, all maps, drawings, photographs, mosaics, plans, reports, estimates, recommendations, documents, and all other data compiled by or received by the Contractor under the Contract shall be the property of the UNDP, shall be made available for use or inspection by the UNDP at reasonable times and in reasonable places, shall be treated as confidential, and shall be delivered only to UNDP authorized officials on completion of work under the Contract.

## **12.0 USE OF NAME, EMBLEM OR OFFICIAL SEAL OF UNDP OR THE UNITED NATIONS:**

The Contractor shall not advertise or otherwise make public the fact that it is a Contractor with UNDP, nor shall the Contractor, in any manner whatsoever use the name, emblem or official seal of UNDP or THE United Nations, or any abbreviation of the name of UNDP or United Nations in connection with its business or otherwise.

## **13.0 CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION:**

Information and data that is considered proprietary by either Party and that is delivered or disclosed by one Party ("Discloser") to the other Party ("Recipient") during the course of performance of the Contract, and that is designated as confidential ("Information"), shall be held in confidence by that Party and shall be handled as follows:

- 13.1** The recipient ("Recipient") of such information shall:
  - 13.1.1** use the same care and discretion to avoid disclosure, publication or dissemination of the Discloser's Information as it uses with its own similar information that it does not wish to disclose, publish or disseminate; and,
  - 13.1.2** use the Discloser's Information solely for the purpose for which it was disclosed.
- 13.2** Provided that the Recipient has a written agreement with the following persons or entities requiring them to treat the Information confidential in accordance with the Contract and this Article 13, the Recipient may disclose Information to:
  - 13.2.1** any other party with the Discloser's prior written consent; and,

**13.2.2** the Recipient's employees, officials, representatives and agents who have a need to know such Information for purposes of performing obligations under the Contract, and employees officials, representatives and agents of any legal entity that it controls controls it, or with which it is under common control, who have a need to know such Information for purposes of performing obligations under the Contract, provided that, for these purposes a controlled legal entity means:

**13.2.2.1** a corporate entity in which the Party owns or otherwise controls, whether directly or indirectly, over fifty percent (50%) of voting shares thereof; or,

**13.2.2.2** any entity over which the Party exercises effective managerial control; or,

**13.2.2.3** for the UNDP, an affiliated Fund such as UNCDF, UNIFEM and UNV.

**13.3** The Contractor may disclose Information to the extent required by law, provided that, subject to and without any waiver of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, the Contractor will give the UNDP sufficient prior notice of a request for the disclosure of Information in order to allow the UNDP to have a reasonable opportunity to take protective measures or such other action as may be appropriate before any such disclosure is made.

**13.4** The UNDP may disclose Information to the extent as required pursuant to the Charter of the UN, resolutions or regulations of the General Assembly, or rules promulgated by the Secretary-General.

**13.5** The Recipient shall not be precluded from disclosing Information that is obtained by the Recipient from a third party without restriction, is disclosed by the Discloser to a third party without any obligation of confidentiality, is previously known by the Recipient, or at any time is developed by the Recipient completely independently of any disclosures hereunder.

**13.6** These obligations and restrictions of confidentiality shall be effective during the term of the Contract, including any extension thereof, and, unless otherwise provided in the Contract, shall remain effective following any termination of the Contract.

#### **14.0 FORCE MAJEURE; OTHER CHANGES IN CONDITIONS**

**14.1** 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 the UNDP, 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 the UNDP of any other changes in conditions or the occurrence of any event that interferes or threatens to interfere with its performance of this Contract. On receipt of the notice required under this Article, the UNDP 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.

**14.2** If the Contractor is rendered permanently unable, wholly, or in part, by reason of force majeure to perform its obligations and meet its responsibilities under this Contract, the UNDP shall have the right to suspend or terminate this Contract on the same terms and conditions as are provided for in Article 15, "Termination", except that the period of notice shall be seven (7) days instead of thirty (30) days.

**14.3** 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.

**14.4** The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that, with respect to any obligations under the Contract that the Contractor must perform in or for any areas in which the UNDP is engaged in, preparing to engage in, or disengaging from any peacekeeping, humanitarian or similar operations, any delays or failure to perform such obligations arising from or relating to harsh conditions within such areas or to any incidents of civil unrest occurring in such areas shall not, in and of itself, constitute force majeure under the Contract..

## **15.0 TERMINATION**

**15.1** Either party may terminate this Contract for cause, in whole or in part, upon thirty (30) days notice, in writing, to the other party. The initiation of arbitral proceedings in accordance with Article 16.2 (“Arbitration”), below, shall not be deemed a termination of this Contract.

**15.2** UNDP reserves the right to terminate without cause this Contract at any time upon 15 days prior written notice to the Contractor, in which case UNDP shall reimburse the Contractor for all reasonable costs incurred by the Contractor prior to receipt of the notice of termination.

**15.3** In the event of any termination by UNDP under this Article, no payment shall be due from UNDP to the Contractor except for work and services satisfactorily performed in conformity with the express terms of this Contract.

**15.4** 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, the UNDP may, without prejudice to any other right or remedy it may have under the terms of these conditions, terminate this Contract forthwith. The Contractor shall immediately inform the UNDP of the occurrence of any of the above events.

## **16.0 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 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:** Any dispute, controversy, or claim between the Parties arising out of the Contract or the breach, termination, or invalidity thereof, unless settled amicably under Article 16.1, above, within sixty (60) days after receipt by one Party of the other Party’s written request for such amicable settlement, shall be referred by either Party to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules then obtaining. The decisions of the arbitral tribunal shall be based on general principles of international commercial law. For all evidentiary questions, the arbitral tribunal shall be guided by the Supplementary Rules Governing the Presentation and Reception of Evidence in International Commercial Arbitration of the International Bar Association, 28 May 1983 edition. The arbitral tribunal shall be empowered to order the return or destruction of goods or any property, whether tangible or intangible, or of any confidential information provided under the Contract, order the termination of the Contract, or order that any other protective measures be taken with respect to the goods, services or any other property, whether tangible or intangible, or of any confidential information provided under the Contract, as appropriate, all in accordance with the authority of the arbitral tribunal pursuant to Article 26 (“Interim Measures of Protection”) and Article 32 (“Form and Effect of the Award”) of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. The arbitral tribunal shall have no authority to award punitive damages. In addition, unless otherwise expressly provided in the Contract, the arbitral tribunal

shall have no authority to award interest in excess of the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") then prevailing, and any such interest shall be simple interest only. The Parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such dispute, controversy, or claim.

**17.0 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 the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.

**18.0 TAX EXEMPTION**

**18.1** Section 7 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations provides, inter-alia that the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs, 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 United Nations exemption from such taxes, duties or charges, the Contractor shall immediately consult with the UNDP to determine a mutually acceptable procedure.

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

**19.0 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 UNDP to terminate this Contract immediately upon notice to the Contractor, at no cost to UNDP.

**20.0 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 UNDP to terminate this Contract immediately upon notice to the Contractor, without any liability for termination charges or any other liability of any kind of UNDP.



**21.0 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.

**22.0 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:**

**22.1** The Contractor shall take all appropriate measures to prevent sexual exploitation or abuse of anyone by it or by any of its employees or any other persons who may be engaged by the Contractor to perform any services under the Contract. For these purposes, sexual activity with any person less than eighteen years of age, regardless of any laws relating to consent, shall constitute the sexual exploitation and abuse of such person. In addition, the Contractor shall refrain from, and shall take all appropriate measures to prohibit its employees or other persons engaged by it from, exchanging any money, goods, services, offers of employment or other things of value, for sexual favors or activities, or from engaging in any sexual activities that are exploitive or degrading to any person. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that the provisions hereof constitute an essential term of the Contract and that any breach of this representation and warranty shall entitle UNDP to terminate the Contract immediately upon notice to the Contractor, without any liability for termination charges or any other liability of any kind.

**22.2** The UNDP shall not apply the foregoing standard relating to age in any case in which the Contractor's personnel or any other person who may be engaged by the Contractor to perform any services under the Contract is married to the person less than the age of eighteen years with whom sexual activity has occurred and in which such marriage is recognized as valid under the laws of the country of citizenship of such Contractor's personnel or such other person who may be engaged by the Contractor to perform any services under the Contract.

**23.0 AUTHORITY TO MODIFY:**

Pursuant to the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP, only the UNDP Authorized Official possesses the authority to agree on behalf of UNDP to any modification of or change in this Contract, to a waiver of any of its provisions or to any additional contractual relationship of any kind with the Contractor. Accordingly, no modification or change in this Contract shall be valid and enforceable against UNDP unless provided by an amendment to this Contract signed by the Contractor and jointly by the UNDP Authorized Official.