Context:

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is the UK’s democracy assistance agency, working in partnership with political parties, parliaments and civil society organisations around the world to create more inclusive, accountable and transparent democratic systems. WFD strengthens the capacity of these key democratic institutions, helping ensure they have the systems, knowledge and skills to perform effectively. WFD also fosters improved democratic processes, bringing together individuals and institutions and encouraging them to work together to solve concrete problems, applying democratic values and principles.

Over the course of 2020-2021, WFD is leading on supporting democratic stability in Bangsamoro programme through the UK Conflict Stability Security Funding (CSSF) managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and implemented by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). Recognising the establishment of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) being a key entry point for locally owned institutions and processes to develop and adopt inclusive and accountable practices, the programme is designed with the overall aim of supporting the implementation of BOL. The programme will support the establishment of BOL by strengthening locally owned institutions to become increasingly accountable, inclusive, and pluralistic.

The programme combines:

1. Strengthening the Bangsamoro parliament as an institution and developing the expertise of its members and staff.
2. Supporting the development of existing and fledging Bangsamoro political parties and brokering dialogue between them around the emerging rules of the game within the new system of governance.
3. Supporting Bangsamoro women as political leaders and politically active citizens to coalesce around shared objectives and agenda and to be equipped with the right expertise to identify and influence key policy and legislative change.

Objective:

WFD is planning to engage a Political Party Advisor to support the implementation of the Supporting Democratic Stability in the Bangsamoro programme. The Political Party Advisor will work closely with WFD’s Senior Programme Manager, the WFD team in the Bangsamoro, and our local partner organisation, the Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), to support delivery of technical areas across Output 2 of the programme.

Output 2 includes support to the establishment of a multi-party dialogue platform, the brokering of policy dialogue between political parties and party representatives, the provision of bespoke advice and support to parties, and facilitation of dialogue between political parties and civil society and citizens. The Political Party Advisor will work with lead persons at WFD and IAG to define targeted activities across these workstreams. The bulk of this work will involve providing on-demand advisory support to members of the Bangsamoro Parliament, representatives of established and fledging regional political parties, and civil society organisations.

Technical areas the Political Party Advisor will provide bespoke advisory support on will include but not be limited to shaping the electoral framework as it relates to political parties and political finance, developing party constitutions and internal governance structures and rules, formulating Unique Selling Points (USPs) and policy platforms for parties, developing mechanisms for women’s and minority representation (e.g. through party wings), and political strategy and coalition building between parties.

Deliverables:

The Political Party Advisor is expected to deliver the following over the course of the assignment:
1. Participate in planning and update calls with lead persons at WFD and IAG, as well as partners and beneficiaries including members of the Bangsamoro Parliament, political party representatives, selected civil society organisations, and other stakeholders such as the Bangsamoro Women’s Commission.

2. Provide strategic input to IAG in shaping its activities implemented through a sub-grant under the wider programme.

3. Conduct desk research on selected topics and for the development of materials related to the delivery of advisory sessions and trainings.

4. Develop and tailor materials for advisory sessions and trainings, including written briefs and primers, presentations and video clips, among other materials as needed and agreed with the Senior Programme Manager.

5. Conduct advisory sessions on and serve as the lead expert for clinics, cafés and trainings across the assigned technical areas, in agreement with the Senior Programme Manager and close coordination with WFD and IAG.

6. Review partners’ training materials for activities jointly implemented with WFD and provide input, feedback and comments.

7. Regularly report to the Senior Programme Manager, by email, on progress with the assignment (maximum bi-monthly), priorities for next period, and days spent working on the programme.

**Timeline:**

25 days over the course of July through September 2020.

**Fees:**

GBP 450 per working day.

**Qualifications:**

The ideal candidate will have:

- Over 10 years’ international experience of working with political parties including extensive experience of designing and delivering capacity building training sessions and providing technical advice on political party structures on a cross-party basis while maintaining a non-partisan stance.

- Experience of working with political parties in a post-conflict transitional environment, experience working in the Bangsamoro is desirable.

- Strong communicator, high level written and oral communication skills and experience communicating across cultures and with high-level stakeholders.

- Experience delivering on consultancy projects, delivery of outputs to time, regular reporting to project manager and collaboration with geographically dispersed teams.

- Educated to Post-graduate degree or equivalent level on Politics, Political Analysis, International Development, Social Sciences, Post-Transitional Conflict, or relevant subject matter area.

- Experience working within a political party is desirable.

The operating language of this consultancy will be in English.

Please submit a CV and cover letter to Saba.Gill@wfd.org by Friday 17 July 2020.