Call for applications: Local consultant to develop a playbook for civil society on strategies and approaches to engage the Bangsamoro parliament

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.

WFD is leading on supporting democratic stability in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) through a programme with the UK Conflict Stability Security Funding (CSSF) managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO). Recognising the establishment of the Bangsamoro Organic Law 2018 (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 more inclusive and responsive policy making by creating more opportunities for engagement between parliament, government, and civil society.
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.
4. 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.

Objective:

In the framework of the objective to create new opportunities for collaboration between the parliament and civil society, WFD requires a consultant to develop a resource guide (playbook) to facilitate engagement between the civil society and the Bangsamoro parliament.

The playbook will review the parliament’s rules of procedure, methods, workflows and practical approaches that provide entry points for civil society to engage with the BARMM parliament. In particular, the consultant will review the access to parliamentary information that enable civil society to know what issues are currently discussed in parliament. They will also analyse what entry points are available for the civil society to engage in the legislative and oversight processes of the BARMM parliament. They will discuss the formal and informal ways of engagement and, based on case studies, provide a succinct analysis of the most successful ways available to the civil society to engage with the parliament. Finally, they will recommend useful advocacy strategies for civil society organisations.

The playbook will be a practical tool for civil society actors and it will also provide analysis of the state of the affairs of the BARMM parliament’s communication and engagement strategy.
Scope of work

A draft outline for this playbook is already developed. The consultant will be expected to review this outline and made changes as relevant. The consultant will work closely with WFD’s Senior Transparency Advisor, who will guide this work and review all the outputs.

As relevant, the consultant will be responsible for organising interviews with stakeholders in BARMM. If necessary, the consultant will be assisted by the WFD Bangsamoro team.

We envisage this assignment to be completed in 12 days. Following a rough representation of the days:

- Review the playbook outline (1 day)
- Conduct desk research (2 days)
- Conduct interviews (2 days)
- Write the playbook (5 days)
- Finalize the playbook (2 days)

Deliverables:

- Revised (as relevant) outline for the playbook
- Interview notes and other important resources
- Playbook draft for comments
- Final version of the playbook.

Timeline:

The duration of the work is 12 working days spread over September and October 2021.

Required skills and experience

Relevant work experience:
- Education: The consultant should possess a post-graduate degree in development related disciplines, human rights, gender, law, policy making, economics, statistics, development or other social science fields OR relevant years of experience in a similar field.
- Experience undertaking legal analysis, review of legislation, and familiarity with parliamentary and legal processes in the BARMM, particularly associated with communication.
- Experience working with or providing advice and recommendations to civil society organisations.
- Familiarity with the Bangsamoro Organic Law 2018 (BOL).
- Familiarity with advocacy strategies and techniques.
- Strong communication skills, and ability to liaise with various stakeholders, including government/parliament officials and civil society organisations.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

Technical and functional competencies:
- Excellent analytical, research and writing skills.
- Experience working collaborative and in teams.
- Excellent organisational skills.

To Apply:
Please submit updated CV and a cover note detailing relevant experience and skills to Lisa.Moalong@wfd.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.