

Supporting the Capacity of United Nations Regional Offices, Special Political Missions, Resident Coordinators and Country Team Partners to Address Transnational Challenges, Promote the Rule of Law and Strengthen National Justice and Corrections Institutions

- **Brief description of the project**

- Objective of the project

The project aims at strengthening the capacity of United Nations Regional Offices to respond to transnational rule of law challenges affecting peace and stability and to promote regional responses to national rule of law and governance deficits. It will also support the capacity of Special Political Missions (SPMs), Resident Coordinators Offices (RCOs) and United Nations Country Team partners to promote the rule of law and reinforce justice and corrections institutions at the national level.

- Why is the project required?

While SPMs, including Regional Offices, and RCOs and Country Teams are often called upon by national authorities and regional organizations to address rule of law deficits and demands that are critical to peace and stability, they often lack the expertise or the capacity to provide timely and effective responses.

JCS is currently supporting several regional offices to address transnational rule of law challenges. In the Africa Great Lakes region, it is supporting the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General (SESG-GL), the International Conference for the Great Lakes (ICGLR) and national authorities on the prosecution of cross border crimes affecting peace and stability such as natural resource trafficking, crimes under international law, terrorism and other forms of transnational organized crime. In West Africa and the Sahel, JCS is supporting UNOWAS, ECOWAS and national authorities to address the growing instrumentalization of justice, and the critical threats it is posing to governance.

- What is the expected impact of the project?

This project will allow the DPO Justice and Corrections Service (JCS) to expand its current support to Regional Offices, SPMs and RCOs by enhancing its capacity to develop strategic guidance and to make available expertise, capacities and resources to which JCS has access or is managing. In particular: JCS will provide specialized expertise on justice, corrections and related rule of law areas; including through the deployment of the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC, based in Brindisi-Italy) and government-provided experts from national justice or corrections services. The project will also benefit of JCS ability to inform and mobilize Member States on rule of law issues.

In addition, the project will enhance JCS capacity to mobilize the United Nations rule of law system through the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) – an inter-agency coordination mechanism co-managed by JCS that brings together DPO, UNDP, EOSG, OHCHR, UNODC, UNHCR and UN Women as well as a number of other United Nations rule of law entities – by creating incentives to address SPMs and RCOs rule of law demands through integrated joint programming.

Priority areas of support would target national and regional efforts to:

- (1) Enhance criminal accountability efforts. Addressing serious crimes that fuel conflict remains a priority of the United Nations as it has proven to be an effective prevention tool by combatting impunity, weakening criminal networks, addressing natural trafficking, holding security forces accountable, and deterring the reoccurrence of violence. The support would target crimes under international law, transnational organized crimes, terrorist crimes, natural

resources trafficking and crimes against United Nations personnel. In parallel, the support would address detention issues, with the aim to ensure the safe, secure, and humane detention of those deprived of liberty, and to prevent violent extremism and radicalization.

- (2) Address critical rule of law deficits affecting governance. Building trust in judicial remedies, defusing grievances, and preventing threats to judicial independence is essential to sustaining peace and maintaining social cohesion. The project will support SPMs and RCOs in the identification and implementation of measures to enhance judicial governance, and strengthen the independence and accountability of the judiciary, including through legal, judicial and policy reforms.
- (3) Enhance greater participation and representation of women, and gender-responsiveness in rule of law institutions. In line with the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, gender and WPS goals will be systematically integrated into the rule of law expertise provided within the framework of this project. This includes the objective to further the participation of women from judicial national institutions to enhance their specialized skills and their contribution to peace and security efforts. In addition, assessments carried out will take a gender perspective when identifying needs and areas of support. This project will also seek to support the development of prosecutorial strategies that prioritize crimes of conflict-related violence. Provided the availability of funding for the JCS WPS-focused project “Towards Gender-Responsive Rule of Law Support: Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda for Women in UN Peace Operations and Host Communities”, this project would also build on the recommendations and best practices identified to increase the representation of women in national justice and corrections services.

○ **Expected outcomes, outputs and proposed activities**

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Enhanced capacity of Regional Offices, SPMs, RCOs and Country Teams to support national and regional efforts to address crimes fueling conflicts and instability.	Prosecutorial strategies inform national efforts to prioritize the crimes most detrimental to peace and stability; national criminal justice institutions have increased capacities to investigate and prosecute crimes fueling conflicts and to cooperate with justice and law enforcement services of other states at the regional and international level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide guidance and advice on the development of national and regional prosecutorial strategies. ○ Assist the investigation and prosecution of priority cases. ○ Promote exchanges of lessons learned on the safe, secure and humane detention of prisoners and to address violent extremism in prison. ○ Support integrated capacity-building initiatives through enhanced collaboration with AFPs.
Enhanced capacity of Regional Offices, SPMs and RCOs to address rule of law deficits affecting governance, including with regard to women’s participation.	UN political strategies and engagement, as well as Common Country Analysis (CCA), Cooperation Frameworks (CF) and programmes/projects are addressing critical rule of law deficits and promoting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the design of political strategies, Common Country Analysis, Cooperation Frameworks and programmes / projects through mapping and analysis of the capacity of

	women’s participation in the rule of law sector	<p>national and regional institutions to address critical rule of law deficits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the design and implementation of measures to increase the participation and representation of women in rule of law institutions.
Strengthened coordination and integration of UN responses in the provision of rule of law support to SPMs and RCOs.	The Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law is resourced and equipped to further promote strategic and programmatic integration and coordination	<p>Through the GFP arrangement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to requests for support and rule of law expertise from SPMs and RCOs. • Facilitate the identification and articulation of joint rule of law strategies. • Support the design and funding of joint rule of law projects and activities.

- **Implementation timeline**

An initial period of 12 months.

- **Explain how the project will further the implementation of the A4P+ priorities.**

Support provided through this project reflects the priorities of the A4P Declaration of Shared Commitments. In particular, the project seeks to contribute to the core element of enhancing political solutions by supporting the engagement of senior UN officials on rule of law deficits critically affecting governance and political stability, as well as to enhance partnership, collaboration and planning through the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law.

- **How have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department implement its women, peace and security and gender parity commitments?**

The project will promote the pillars of the WPS agenda, by increasing awareness of the role of women in the implementation of the agenda, promoting measures to increase the participation, representation of women in national judiciaries, and advocating for gender responsive rule of law institutions. The project also supports accountability for serious crimes, including Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), as a way to enhance equal access to protection and justice.

- **Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them.**

The project’s successful implementation may be affected in case of a serious deterioration of the security situation in the beneficiary countries. JCS will monitor the situation on the ground, together with the relevant counterparts in DPPA-DPO, to assess potential threats, and adjust timelines and methodology for the implementation of activities.

- **Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Consultant and other experts	Hiring of consultant or partner organizations	\$50,000.00
	12-month deployment for seven government-provided technical experts and one P4, including deployment and repatriation travel	\$420,000.00
Travel costs	Deployment of experts in support of SPMs and RCOs	\$50,000.00
Personnel	One GFP team member at P3 level and one P4 deployable rule of law expert	\$471,685.00
Programme support cost (13%)		\$128,919.05
Total:		\$1,120,604.05