Establishment of Rule of Law Prevention Capacity

(a) Brief description of the project

(i) Objective of the project

The objective of the project is to fill a current gap of prevention capacities in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), including to facilitate timely, coordinated and effective responses to requests for support in non-mission settings. By establishing a small field-focused team, OROLSI seeks to complement the UN political horizon scanning and early warning system and to provide policy advice regarding risk factors related to weak, non-inclusive or unaccountable rule of law and security institutions with potential to trigger or exacerbate conflict. As such, countries that do not host peace operations should also be able to avail of the specialized expertise available in OROLSI that is in many cases unique in the United Nations system. Based on lessons learned, best practices and in-country and regional assessments, OROLSI will formulate policy-level advice and recommendations to UN senior management for preventive action in the field of rule of law and security sectors and support the development of programmatic support.

The correlation of strengthening rule of law and security institutions and conflict prevention is apparent: Most conflicts remain internal. They are often triggered by the breakdown of law and order or tensions during political or electoral flashpoints and then exacerbated and perpetuated by weak, non-inclusive, acquiescent or unbalanced rule of law and security institutions. They are often rooted in poor governance, an incomplete separation of powers allowing for undue political interference and the oppression of individual rights and systemic impunity. As such, supporting the legitimacy and accountability of these institutions is an essential component of any effective preventive approach.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic places additional strain on rule of law and security institutions. Faced with additional tasks, including to implement social distancing and respond to rising criminality and public unrest, closed quarters and the exposure of certain responsibilities make security services particularly prone to infections, likely affecting their operational capacities. There is also a risk that some governments utilize states of emergency to consolidate executive power at the expense of the rule of law, suppress dissent and undermine democratic institutions. If acting under emergency legislation and/or responding to the pandemic with an expanded role and more forceful presence of security actors, appropriate regard for human rights and rule of law principles can emerge as a challenge, as well as perceptions of bias or disproportionate use of force, accountability and oversight bodies are struggling to perform due to COVID-19 related restrictions. If not dealt with adequately, these challenges can aggravate social tensions, deepen systemic inequalities and grievances, and fuel underlying causes of conflict all of which may spark violence. It can also severely weaken confidence in and the legitimacy of governments which, in turn, would likely undermine mitigation strategies, as observed in some countries battling the 2018/19 Ebola outbreak.

Adequate capacity is therefore essential to ensure real-time and in-depth risk analysis with a view to informing multidimensional and comprehensive strategies for preventive action that consider the key role of rule of law and security institutions from the outset.

(ii) Why the project is necessary and how it relates to the implementation of the A4P commitments.

The project is necessary as OROLSI - as a system-wide service provider - has over the past 18 months received a steadily increasing number of requests to support assessments, analyses, the development of recommendations and of programmatic support activities outside mission settings from UN entities and key partners stakeholders including Member States[1]. However, the Office is

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[1] OROLSI has received requests for support in non-missing settings from UN and non-UN partners such as Member States, the World Bank, the European Union, UN country teams, UN Resident Coordinators, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Development Cooperation Office and the Regional Divisions

currently budgeted only for supporting peacekeeping operations. Building upon the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping Initiative (A4P), OROLSI is fully committed to the implementation of the shared commitments and continues to build strong partnerships with Member States and other stakeholders. In line with A4P priorities, this project seeks to contribute to political processes that promote nationally owned political solutions.

(iii) <u>What is the expected impact of the project?</u>

As effective and accountable rule of law and security institutions are essential components of the prevention spectrum, the expected impact of the project is to help implement the Secretary-General's vision for preventing violent conflict and sustaining peace as well as to promote the development-security nexus in respect to Sustainable Development Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

(b) Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
OROLSI provides systematic and coordinated responses to requests from Member States and UN partners for support in non-mission settings.	Principal entry point and coordination structure is in place to effectively and timely respond to incoming requests for OROLSI support in non-mission settings.	Receive requests and coordinate responses with OROLSI components, the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law and other UN partners.
UN prevention capacities, political horizon scanning and early warning systems are enhanced through systematic analysis and policy advice in the field of rule of law and security institutions.	Analysis of risk factors emanating from rule of law and security institutions and preparation of policy advice on preventive action.	Monitor settings susceptible to state fragility and violent conflict and analyze and report on risk factors related to weak non-inclusive or unaccountable rule of law and security institutions that have the potential to trigger or exacerbate conflict.
UN Resident Coordinators, country teams and key stakeholders are provided with strategic advice and technical and programmatic support, based on consultations with UN partners.	Capacity gaps in non-mission settings in the areas under OROLSI's purview are addressed with specialized expertise. Multidimensional preventive strategies and joint UN programmes are complemented and strengthened through OROLSI advice and expertise that is otherwise not available.	Support in-country and regional assessments, the development of support activities to address challenges in the area of rule of law and security institutions. Deploy surge capacities to the field to perform time-sensitive tasks that require specialized skills.

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serving both the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations.

(c) Implementation Timeline

The project is outlined for a period of 12 months. Towards the end of the one-year period, and if proven beneficial including through an external evaluation, OROLSI will submit a proposal to sustain the prevention capacity.[2]

(d) How does this project relate to internal and external United Nations partners?

To enhance predictability, coherence and effectiveness, OROLSI's engagement in non-mission settings shall, whenever possible, take place under the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP), as part of joint UN programming. This field-focused arrangement, co-led by DPO and UNDP, enables UN entities, including UNODC, UNHCR, OHCHR, UN Women and others, to pool resources and deliver integrated and well-coordinated support. Key partners such as the World Bank and European Union shall be closely consulted in devising recommendations and preparing programmatic support activities.

(e) How gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department to implement their Women, Peace and Security and Gender Parity commitments?

Within its remit to systematically monitor and analyse risk factors, provide policy advice and device recommendations on preventive action in fragile settings, OROLSI ensures due consideration of gender dimensions and compliance with all relevant UN policies and guidance pertaining to gender equality, responsiveness, mainstreaming and parity.

(f) Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them, including with regards to the impact of COVID-19.

As proposed activities seek to contribute to the implementation of the Secretary-General's vision to prevent conflict and sustain peace as well as to existing strategic and operational priorities identified by the System, no major risks for the implementation of the project are foreseen.

(g) Proposed Budget

Item[3]	Brief Description	Total Amount
1 Officer (P3) for 12 months	Officer: receives and timely coordinates requests with OROLSI, GFP and other UN entities; systematically monitors and analyses risk factors; contributes to horizon scanning and early warning; and participates in country and regional assessments and workshops.	**$200,000**
Staff Travel $42,000 x2	Conduct of in-country and regional visits for in-depth field analysis and stakeholder consultations; participation in prevention assessments with partner organizations.	**$84,000**
Consultants	Conduct of conflict analyses, entry points assessments, programme and project design: 2x Level C for 12 months, 1x Level E for 60 days	**$273,600**

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[2] This project is designed to be implemented over a period of two years, but this proposal is budgeted for one year, with the option of extending to a second year if funding is made available.

[3] Post estimates need to include salary for the period together with standard costs, which include the following costs: (i) Rental Premises; (ii) Office Supplies; (iii) Telephone and Fax; and (iv) Computing Services. For the most recent scale of salaries and standard costs, please consult with the Executive Office. If you need a salary list, please contact ODCSS or the EO.

Workshops and stakeholder consultations $50,000 x2	Consultation with UN partners and stakeholders; organization and facilitation of workshops at HQ and field level.	$100,000
Evaluation Costs	Project deliverables will be evaluated by an external consultant.	$55,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)[4]		$92,638
Total:		**$805,238**

Partial funding by individual donors is possible.

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[4] Mandatory Programme Support costs to be calculated against the subtotal of the programme support costs.