

## **CONSULTANT TERMS OF REFERENCE: DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2025-2035 FOR THE COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES (CFC)**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) is in the process of developing its Strategic Framework for the decade 2025-2035. This framework will guide CFC's efforts to address evolving challenges in the commodity sector, particularly in the context of sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and economic diversification.

The CFC was established as part of the Integrated Programme for Commodities (IPC) under the framework of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The IPC was designed to address the challenges faced by commodity-dependent developing countries by stabilizing commodity markets and promoting fair and equitable trade. The CFC, as an implementing arm of the IPC, focuses on enhancing the development impact of commodity markets, particularly for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

Despite progress over the years, poverty remains stubbornly persistent, exacerbated by low value addition at the producing country level. Smallholders, who form the backbone of many commodity-dependent economies, remain trapped at subsistence levels, acting as price-takers with limited leverage in value chains. The Strategic Framework will address these issues, aiming to harness innovative, technology-enabled transformations to drive sustainable and inclusive development.



The Strategic Framework 2025-2035 will build on CFC's historic mandate while aligning with emerging global priorities, including poverty alleviation, climate resilience, gender equality, biodiversity loss and sustainable commodity trade.

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### **2. OBJECTIVES**

The consultant will develop a comprehensive proposal for the CFC Strategic Framework 2025-2035. The objectives include:

1. **Mission Alignment with IPC:** Reinforce CFC's mandate as a critical pillar of the Integrated Program for Commodities, focusing on promoting value addition, trade fairness, and market stability for commodity-dependent developing countries.
2. **Poverty and Value Addition Focus:** Develop strategies to address the persistent nature of poverty in commodity-producing countries, emphasizing technology-enabled transformation and value addition at the local level.
3. **Member State Support:** Outline practical modalities for how CFC can assist member states in maximizing their commodity dependence for sustainable development, with special attention to LDCs and LLDCs.
4. **Technology Integration:** Identify pathways for leveraging emerging technologies (e.g., blockchain, AI) to enhance efficiency, transparency, and equity in global commodity value chains.

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### 3. SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant will undertake the following tasks:

#### 1. REVIEW CFC'S CURRENT STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE

- Analyze the concept notes and outline documents related to the Strategic Framework 2025-2035.
- Reflect on CFC's historical contributions to the Integrated Program for Commodities, including its role in supporting developing countries' efforts to diversify and stabilize commodity markets.
- Assess the global context of commodity markets and the implications for sustainable development, particularly for member states grappling with acute commodity dependence.

#### 2. DEVELOP THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL

- Define the vision, mission, and strategic objectives for 2025-2035, ensuring alignment with the IPC's goals and CFC's unique role.
- Propose modalities through which CFC can assist member states in addressing poverty, hunger, and commodity dependence, with a focus on promoting value addition at the producing country level.
- Develop strategies for integrating emerging technologies to modernize and humanize commodity value chains.

- Provide actionable recommendations for resource mobilization, including innovative financing mechanisms such as Development Impact Bonds (DIBs), carbon finance, and biodiversity finance.

### 3. ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- Conduct consultations with member states, stakeholders, and experts in commodity markets to gather inputs on the strategic direction.
- Integrate feedback to ensure the framework reflects the needs and expectations of member states without being overly prohibitive for implementation.

### 4. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- Develop a results-based implementation roadmap, including timelines, performance indicators, and monitoring mechanisms.
- Propose a framework for evaluating the Strategic Framework's impact on poverty alleviation, value addition, and commodity diversification.

## **4. LEGAL AND OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

To balance the needs of member states with the consultant's ability to deliver within the defined scope, the following legal clauses apply:

1. **Scope of Deliverables:** The consultant's responsibility is limited to delivering a comprehensive proposal within the agreed terms of reference.
2. **Implementation Liability:** While the consultant will provide actionable recommendations, CFC and member states bear the responsibility for the outcomes and impacts of the Strategic Framework's implementation.
3. **Alignment with Global Priorities:** The consultant will ensure that the framework aligns with global development priorities, including the IPC and SDGs, without subordinating CFC's core focus on commodity sector development.

## **5. DELIVERABLES**

1. **Inception Report:** A detailed work plan outlining methodology, milestones, and deliverables, submitted within two weeks of commencement.
2. **Draft Strategic Framework Proposal:** A comprehensive draft for review, incorporating the IPC's goals and the specific challenges of commodity dependence.
3. **Final Strategic Framework Proposal:** A refined proposal, including detailed implementation, monitoring, and resource mobilization plans.
4. **Presentation:** A formal presentation of the Strategic Framework to the CFC Executive Board and key stakeholders.

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## 6. DURATION

The consultancy will span six months, beginning 1 April 2025, with final deliverables due by 15 October 2025. The assignment will require up to 80 working days.

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## 7. CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS

The consultant should have:

- Proven experience in strategic planning, preferably within international organizations or development finance institutions.
  - In-depth knowledge of the Integrated Program for Commodities, commodity markets, and sustainable development.
  - Familiarity with emerging technologies and their applications in commodity value chains.
  - Strong stakeholder engagement and consultation skills.
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## 8. REPORTING

The consultant will report to and liaise regularly with the Managing Director and external stakeholders like CFC Strategic Framework Working Group.

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## 9. APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested candidates should submit the following by **31 January 2025** to **managing.director@common-fund.org**:

- A capability statement outlining relevant qualifications and experience.
- Detailed CV(s) of key staff.
- A technical proposal with a detailed approach and indicative timeline.
- A financial proposal detailing the consultancy cost.