



UNITED NATIONS UNIES

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: **SDG Specialist**

General Expertise: Human Settlements

Department/ Office: United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Duty Station: Home-based/Moscow

Contract duration: **1 month**

Org. Setting and Reporting

Background

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the lead United Nations agency for cities and human settlements. The agency is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all and sustainable development. The main documents outlining the mandate of the organization are the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, the Habitat Agenda, the Istanbul Declaration Human Settlements, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and UN General Assembly Resolution A/56/206. UN-Habitat, being the focal point for all urbanization and human settlement matters within the UN

system, has a role in delivering the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted by Member States in 2015, specifically goal 11: make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan creates a strong narrative of change, clearly articulating the relationship of sustainable urbanization with the overall notion of sustainable development. In this plan, monitoring and knowledge is an integral 'organization performance enabler' for the attainment of desired change propounded by Strategic Plan. As cited in the Plan, "a focus on normative work repositions the organization in the framework of the reform of the United Nations development system by emphasizing its unique value and demonstrating its readiness to contribute in a meaningful manner to the identification of national and regional problems, challenges and opportunities." As further highlighted in the Strategic Plan, "the monitoring of urban conditions and trends at the country, regional and global level is essential for the reporting of progress on Sustainable Development Goal 11 and providing evidence-based information to build sustainable urban policies at every level of urban governance". The Voluntary Local Review as a key instrument for this organization enabler.

UN-Habitat's work in the Russian Federation and CIS

UN-Habitat's Project Coordination Office for Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS Coordination Office) is based in Moscow, Russian Federation. The Office coordinates UN-Habitat's work in these countries, in close consultation with Headquarters in operationalizing specific technical areas of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan.

UN-Habitat has had a long-standing presence in Russia since 1989, when the UN-Habitat Executive Office in Moscow was initially launched. Since then, UN-Habitat has led several advisory, normative and capacity building activities across several cities in country. UN-Habitat is a member of the Ministry of Construction's Advisory Council on Urban Environment which serves as a practical platform to engage in the implementation of global urban agenda in the Russian Federation and the city of Moscow. UN-Habitat has since 2018 been a global partner of the Moscow Urban Forum, and recently implemented the first City Prosperity Index in the region in Tomsk during 2018-2019.

The delivery of project will be coordinated by the CIS Coordination Office based in Moscow, where a large component of the staff/consultants will be based for the duration of Phase 1, to facilitate the collection of data, as well as advocacy and liaising activities among local stakeholders. The above will also ease the organization of workshops and support content elaboration for MUF 2020, scheduled to be held in July 2020. The normative oversight of the work will be led through UN-Habitat's Headquarters in Nairobi, including the Urban Practices Branch and other relevant Units.

The project: Moscow's first SDG Voluntary Local Review

This project aims to demonstrate how the City of Moscow is repositioning itself in the international arena to lead the implementation of the 2030 Agenda among other global cities and accelerate momentum for SDG localization. While the SDGs are not legally binding, national and local governments are expected to take ownership and establish proper frameworks and implementation mechanisms. The 2030 Agenda explicitly emphasizes the need for an inclusive and localized approach to the SDGs stating that 'governments and public institutions will also work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities, sub-regional institutions, international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups and others.'

Moscow is among the world's largest cities, being the 14th largest metro area, the 18th largest agglomeration, the 14th largest urban area, and the 11th largest by population within city limits worldwide. Also, Moscow is the major political, economic, cultural, and scientific centre of Russia and Eastern Europe. Despite their significant influence, there have been notably few initiatives so far to localize the SDGs in global megacities. Moscow is well positioned to become a global city SDG champion, building on the immense social and economic importance of the Russian capital, not only at a national and regional level but also at the global stage.

The aim of the project is to develop the first SDG Voluntary Local Report for Moscow and progress advances on the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. The project will also collect data and best practices on other megacities to better understand specificities of Moscow in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The activities and responsibilities of this consultancy are under the programmatic umbrella of the above-mentioned project and under overall supervision of the Coordinator of the Project Coordination office for Countries of the CIS, based in Moscow.

Result of Service

The duties and responsibilities of the consultant are the following:

- * Contributing in the development and elaboration of contents of this project and under the framework of localising SDGs in Megacities;
- * Contributing in the provision and revision of data and analysis inputs related to reporting the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda in Moscow;
- * Provide general support in substantive activities, including conduction of workshops and charrettes.

Academic Qualifications

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent degree) in economics, social sciences, public policy, urban planning or related field is required.

Experience:

- A minimum of 2 years of general experience in urban development; this may include research activities;
- Experience coordinating participatory process, including preparation of relevant material;
- Knowledge and experience with SDG indicators;
- Ability to clearly interpret quantitative and qualitative data findings on gender;
- Expertise preparing succinct analytical documents such as concept notes and technical notes on SDGs;
- Experience working on urban research in Moscow is highly desirable;
- Previous experience working with the Sustainable Development Goals would be an advantage;
- Previous experience within the UN System would be considered an asset.

Language:

Excellent command of Russian and English languages (written and spoken). Knowledge of any other official UN language is considered an asset.

Skills:

- Proficiency in computer programs such as Microsoft Excel, R, or any other database software, Outlook, and Web search engines;
- Proficiency in statistical packages such as SPSS, SAS, R and MATLAB and GIS software would be an advantage;
- Excellent written communication and analytical skills.

Competencies:

Core:

Professionalism: Shows pride in work and in achievements; Demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; Is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; Is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; Shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; Remains calm in stressful situations.

Planning and organization: Professional approach to work, strong sense of responsibility, operate with minimal supervision; proven organizational skills and ability to manage a workload efficiently and within set deadlines.

Communication: Ability to write clearly and effectively; listen to others, interpret messages correctly and respond appropriately; show openness in information sharing and keep everyone informed; solid abstract reasoning skills together with a proven capacity to write documents for diverse audiences.

Teamwork: Ability to work in a multicultural and multi-ethnic environment, and to respect diversity; sensitivity to the main streaming of vulnerability; willingness and ability to work in difficult environments.

Outputs

The consultant shall deliver the following monthly **outputs**:

- Output 1.A) Concept Note: Documenting and systematizing lessons learned from implementing a gender approach into the VLR for Moscow.**
- 1.B) Final status report on the SDG participatory process for the VLR in Moscow.**