



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING FIRM)**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT  
HORN OF AFRICA DIGITAL MARKET INTEGRATION (HDMI) PROJECT, PHASE 1**

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO UNDERTAKE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL  
TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY AND A MASTER PLAN 2025-2029 FOR SOMALIA**

**REF NO: IGAD-HDMI/B2/QCBS/2024/05**

**Country:** Somalia

**Sector:** Digital development

**Financing Agreement Reference:** 2100155042222 / 5900155017803

**Project ID No.:** P-Z1-GB0-036

**Date:** 17/10/2024

The **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** has received financing from the African Development Bank Group toward the cost of the **Horn of Africa Digital Market Integration (HDMI) Project, Phase 1** and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for provision of ‘**Consultancy Services to Undertake the Development of a Digital Transformation Strategy and Master Plan 2025-2029 for Somalia.**’

The services included under the Phase 1 of the HDMI aims to strengthen development of more deeply integrated economies across the Horn of Africa region, through creation of a Single Digital Market across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. These align with the **IGAD Strategy (2021–2025), IGAD Regional Infrastructure Master Plan, the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, AU Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030) and AfDB’s High 5 priorities**, notably, ‘Integrate Africa’.

Enhancing digital development to deepen regional cooperation necessitates strengthening institutional, infrastructural and policy frameworks. This approach aligns with the objectives outlined in the Eastern Africa Regional Integration Strategy Paper (RISP) and the respective Country Strategy Papers (CSP). Therefore, a key component of the HDMI project is the development of a structured and coherent master plan to ensure coordinated governance and cohesive digital development at national level in Somalia.

Somalia currently has a National ICT Policy and Strategy for 2019-2024. Therefore, developing a **Digital Transformation Strategy and Master Plan (DTSMP) 2025-2029** as a successor to this policy is critical for aligning the country's strategy with regional and international ambitions. This DTSMP 2025-2029 aims to develop a comprehensive Digital Transformation Strategy and Master Plan (DTSMP) 2025-2029. This plan will cover all critical areas, including digital infrastructure (backbone networks, datacentres, Internet exchange points, and community centres), digital uses (identity and payment systems, e-services, cybersecurity, and interoperability), and digital ecosystem (regulation, digital skills, innovation and entrepreneurship). The implementation period is **4 (four) months**. The services and requirements for this Consultancy are stipulated in the Terms of Reference (ToRs) that can be obtained from the address below.

The **IGAD** now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

The eligibility criteria, short-listing and selection procedure will follow the African Development Bank's *“Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations”*, *October 2015*, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours **Sunday to Thursday**, from **7:30 AM to 2:30 PM GMT+3**

Expressions of interest including supporting documents must be **delivered OR emailed** to the address below by **12 noon GMT+3 on November 07<sup>th</sup>, 2024** quoting 'Expression of Interest for **Consultancy Services to Undertake Development of a Digital Transformation Strategy and Master Plan 2025-2029 for Somalia - Ref No: IGAD-HDMI/B2/QCBS/2024/05.**' The format for emailed documents shall be PDF.

**Project Coordinator**  
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