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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. Position Information

Title: Engaging youths in parliamentary affairs and policy dialogues in three provinces

Department/Unit: Parliament Support Project

Reports to: National Project Manager

Duty Station/place of project implementation: Province 2, Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces

Duration of Assignment: 6 months between May to November, 2019

II. Background Information

One of the rationales of democracy is that in it everybody gets a chance to be heard. All citizens have the right to express their opinions freely and thereby contribute to the taking of right decisions and passing of good laws that govern the country. In order to actively and meaningfully participate in the democratic functioning of our civic and political institutions, citizens are required to have certain competencies. In absence of such competencies on the citizen's part, many a time discussion become one-sided in the sense that only the more vocal people present their views and others sit as silent observers. As a result, various aspects of a problem are not presented properly, and consequently appropriate decisions are not taken, which further, jeopardizes the functioning of the institution. However, it is expected in democracy that the efforts are made to take a decision as would please most and antagonize least. Such decisions are frequently taken by Parliament. The decisions of Parliament are important since they affect the whole country. These decisions should result from long drawn debates among every segment of the society. Unfortunately, there has not been a routine and adequate debates particularly in formulation of policies. As a result, the government confronts unexpected objections from the stakeholders. In this context, the ensurance of diverse views and optimum efforts to represent all kinds of interests related to a problem becomes urgent. In fact, it's the accommodation of various interests and ideas that help strengthen democratic system.

Over the years the law-making procedure has become complex and, therefore, requires training and special effort to be conversant with it. Familiarity with the procedure is an imperative for effective and purposeful participation in parliamentary debates. While in the past the earlier experience gained by our parliamentarians in the various representative institutions at the local level, stood them in good stead, in recent years many youth leaders have become members of parliament, without any corresponding chance to get requisite training and exercise at the local or state level. This has compounded by interruption in the local election for over 15 years by now.

The country has embarked on a federal political system and the new constitution has categorically divided the list of competencies to the centre, state and local bodies. This has made the issue of civic knowledge on new system and empowerment to participate in the same more important.

The law-making and public engagement in federal system has been even more challenging. The youth engagement and participation at policy level lacks a systematicity. The youth population also lacks proper forum to help them grow for informing and engaging in policy sphere. So, it is necessary to think not only in terms of developing competencies in them but also in terms of influencing their attitudes which are essential for functioning democracy. This is possible by designing and organizing purposeful activities for youth engagement. However, there is lack of relevant material on the subject for the youth and school students to prepare, sensitize and aware themselves on parliamentary business. Informed and aware youth on parliamentary system, engaging them in policy dialogues with parliaments, mobilizing youth parliamentarians, reviewing policies, and conducting youth assemblies at provincial level could be some indicative activities. This pilot-based intervention in province 3, 2, Karnali and Sudurpaschim is expected to institutionalize some good practices of youth engagement at policy and parliamentary affairs.

III. Objectives of Assignment

The objectives of Youth Engagement in Parliament will be as follows:

- To make youth understand the parliamentary system, procedure and to develop in them an insight into the working of parliament and thereby increase their engagement in parliamentary affairs
- To facilitate dialogues among youth and parliamentarians towards addressing their concerns
- To develop in them respect and tolerance for the views of others while also enhancing their skills to express their views in an articulated manner (in view of parliamentary deliberations)

IV. Scope of work Expected Results/Deliverables/Final Products Expected

1. Duties and Responsibilities:

- To research, gather, and collate information on the best practices of the youth engagement in parliamentary sphere

- To develop a brief project proposal with clear mentioning of implementation procedures of such engagement plan including approaches, a plan of action with activities, resource mobilisation, quality assurance/governance measures, and reporting/documentation, expected outputs, budgetary indications, among others.
- To ensure diverse participation including young parliamentarians and women to add the value in the product.
- To ensure accuracy in procedures, preciseness in the event by engaging a former/sitting staff or anyone as a resource person with good knowledge from parliament secretariat.
- Coordinate with project team and other relevant stakeholders on a regular basis.

V. Expected Results/Final Products/Deliverables: conduct a series of youth engagement activities in line with the spirit of background and objectives outlined above. This includes activities such as 1) Training to youths and informing them on parliamentary system, 2) engaging them in policy dialogues with parliaments, 3) mobilizing youth parliamentarians on various public issues of accountability, 4) reviewing laws and policies, and 5) conducting mock youth assemblies at provincial level on thematic issues and/or SDGs.

VI. Payment modality: as per agreement

VIII. Requirements

Describe the required degree of expertise and qualifications, including specialized knowledge, language needs, experience, selection criteria, qualifications and performance or other standards the Contractor must fulfil.

IX. Recruitment Qualifications

Education: Postgraduate studies	The service provider institution will have a sound team of experts and other human resources with relevant experience in parliament and youth engagement.
Experience: (Indicate the extent (in years), type and level of experience)	Minimum of 3 years' experience on youth mobilisation and advocacy initiatives. Proven track record of similar successful projects undertaken (evidenced by documentation). The team will have a good experience of having conducted trainings, policy engagements, mock sessions on leadership, and organised mass events
Language Requirements:	Proficient in English and Nepali language, both spoken and written.
X. Documents Required	Registration certificate PAN certificate Profile of the organizations CV of the resource persons

XI. OTHER SELECTION CRITERIA

Experience of having worked with or represented the youth concerns and organisations.
Previous experience with UNDP on a similar area and cost-sharing offer will be an added value.