

Call for Applications

Consultancy: FATF and Civic Space Research in Francophone Africa

Project Information

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is soliciting applications for an individual or organizational consultant to assess the implementation of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT) measures and their impact on the Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) sector in Francophone Africa.

Applications are due by June 15, 2025. The assessment must be completed by August 30, 2025. For more details and application instructions, please see below.

Background

ICNL is an international not-for-profit organization that promotes an enabling legal environment for civil society, freedom of association, assembly, expression, and public participation around the world. ICNL has provided technical, research and capacity-building assistance to support the reform of laws affecting civil society organizations in over 100 countries. We draw upon a worldwide network of partners and experts to produce innovative research and analysis on legal topics affecting civil society.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental organization that sets standards for legal and regulatory measures to counter money laundering (ML), terrorist financing (TF), and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The FATF's Recommendation 8 (R8) provides guidance for states to address the risks of TF abuse in the non-profit sector. Civil society and human rights experts have raised concerns over the misunderstanding and misapplication of these standards by states that have resulted in over-regulation of NPOs in the region. The threats to NPOs are especially challenging in states found by FATF to have serious deficiencies in their AML/CFT responses and that are under increased monitoring by FATF ("grey listed" countries). Currently, the grey-listed countries in Africa include Angola, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan and Tanzania.

ICNL's Africa program supports regional NPO Learning Hubs involving a diverse network of organizations that undertake advocacy, learning and experience sharing on protecting civic space while countering ML and TF. The Hubs proactively engage national, regional and global regulatory bodies such as the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) – a regional body of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) – to share information on how AML/CFT standards are being implemented at the country level and collaboratively address negative impact on NPOs, including in grey-listed countries.

The proposed research seeks to assess various measures adopted by States in the Francophone Africa region to combat ML/TF abuse and how these are affecting the NPO sector. This assessment will provide a basis for further engagement by NPOs with FATF-style regional bodies, and with national regulators. The research will also take stock of the NPOs engaging with FATF processes to understand their technical needs and identify specific opportunities to strengthen engagement between NPOs, policy actors and the private sector (e.g., banks and financial services).

Scope of Work

In close collaboration with ICNL's Africa team, the Consultant will (1) carry out research on AML/CFT measures and their impact on the NPO sector; (2) identify NPOs in the grey-listed Francophone countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mali) that are working on FATF issues, including specific information about active networks and umbrella bodies and their current programs and capacity needs; and (iii) highlight opportunities for strategic collaboration between NPOs, policy actors and private sector actors to promote civic space in national FATF processes.

The consultant will be responsible for all desk and field research, and for drafting and submitting the final assessment to ICNL at the end of the consultancy. ICNL will work with the consultant to review and finalize the assessment. The research must be finalized by August 30, 2025.

ICNL expects to issue one Firm Fixed Price contract.

Application Instructions

APPLICATION MATERIALS

To apply for this consultancy, please send:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV) of consultant (or team) stating relevant work history and education (no more than 3 pages);

- Proposal (no more than 3 pages) that addresses:
 - Your qualifications (which should demonstrate how you meet the selection criteria listed below);
 - If more than one person will be involved in this project, a description of who will undertake different aspects of the project. ICNL reserves the right to approve or reject the use of any personnel;
 - The proposed plan for conducting the research;
- Timelines for completion of each deliverable;
- A proposed budget in USD and fully itemized. For personnel costs, please list each person who will be involved in this project, the proposed day rate(s) and number of days. All other costs should be listed and explained. The proposed price should be inclusive of all taxes.
- A recent sample of research or an assessment similar to the work envisaged under this Call.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Applicant is expected to be based in Francophone Africa, with deep knowledge of civil society networks within the region;
- Demonstrated experience working on civic space issues in Francophone Africa;
- Understanding of AML/CFT issues and their impact on civil society, and knowledge of FATF processes;
- Fluency in French and English plus at least one local language is required;
- Law degree highly preferred, with at least five years' professional experience, ideally in international human rights law or a related field;
- Excellent research, analytical and writing skills;
- Experience in undertaking similar research and assessments;
- Commitment to producing high quality work product in a timely manner.

Selection criteria

Applicants will be evaluated based on their qualifications and the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures;
- Quality of the proposal;
- Depth of experience with the subject matter of this research consultancy and experience researching and writing similar reports;
- Commitment to producing high quality reports in a timely manner; and
- Cost proposal and value for money.

Applications should be emailed to africa@icnl.org, with reference made to “Civic Space and FATF Francophone Africa Researcher” in the subject line. All application materials should be submitted in English. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis through June 15, 2025.

Please contact us via email at africa@icnl.org should you have questions about the application process.

Please note that ICNL is under no obligation to issue a consultancy and that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Application Coversheet

Please complete the coversheet and submit it, along with your proposal and other application documents, to africa@icnl.org. Please ensure that the subject of your email is “**Civic Space and FATF Francophone Africa Researcher.**”

Full Name:

Position:

Organization:

Mailing Address Line 1:

Mailing Address Line 2:

Mailing Address Line 3:

Country:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

Click on the boxes below to indicate that you have properly completed the application.

- ☐ I have attached a proposal that is no more than three pages in length.
- ☐ I have attached the CVs of people responsible for the research.
- ☐ I have attached a line-item budget.
- ☐ I have attached a time schedule.
- ☐ I have attached a writing sample.