**Consultancy – Institutional Brokerage - Addressing Education Data Gaps**
**Terms of Reference**

### 1. Background:

The quality and quantity of UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) educational data, despite the progress, is still heterogeneous in terms of coverage and quality. This suggests several issues at work: (i) many countries produce scant data because they do not have the resources or internal, national incentives to support enough trained personnel to produce good quality data on a regular basis for many key indicators; (ii) other countries produce data that they do not use for education policy decisions, but do so because of external funding obligations, and/or to comply with specific agendas of external agencies, and this is a weak incentive; (iii) some countries fail to produce data they could use for policy decisions because their limited resources (especially human resources) are being crowded out by the production of data that disproportionally benefits the global commons, such as international tests or large education surveys.

Data production needs a clear purpose and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda has given that purpose. The situations just noted have developed over time, reaching a point where development agencies and catalogues disseminate massive amounts of data, but without a clear idea about their purpose, their use, and their impact on education policy decisions.

There is a clear need of both funding and coordination. In that sense, the Second UN Data Forum has ended with a call for both. The [Dubai Declaration](#) aims to establish a funding mechanism - under the mandate of the United Nations Statistics Commission - to raise resources to address the data needs for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and support national statistical systems.

SDG 4 is not the exception. Funding gaps for SDG 4 monitoring require about 280 USD million per year, and an extra 60 USD million in financial aid for low and middle-income countries for data production. The issue is not only how much support is provided, but the way it is provided. The current set-up resembles a fairly disorganized ecosystem where actors do not have full information on needs, capabilities, and so on. Therefore, a first need is to bring order to the ecosystem for data, using information sharing, networking, and coordination of support by both donors and recipients of aid for education statistics, to better mobilize existing funds.

Ensuring and maximizing the effectiveness of financing for capacity development is essential for the success of implementing the SDG 4 agenda. Support to statistical capacity building has been supply-driven and piecemeal, with little emphasis placed on partner countries' demand for data, which in many cases is more focused on external stakeholder needs. Resources are a problem, but also the approach is somewhat flawed. In many cases, external Consultants carry out the work of statistical agencies, an approach described by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as "fix a broken piece in the data machine" without laying out the ability of the system to self-repair in the future (PARIS21).

This situation has changed since 2015, with the United Nations (UN) Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP) (UNSC, 2017) that defines the role of development co-operation providers with a demand driven approach supporting better coordination. The CTGAP proposes action in six strategic areas, each associated with several objectives: 1) co-ordination and strategic leadership on data for sustainable development; 2) innovation and modernisation of national statistical systems; 3) strengthening of basic statistical activities and programmes; 4) dissemination and use of sustainable development data; 5) multi-stakeholder partnerships; and 6) mobilisation of resources and co-ordination of efforts for statistical capacity development.

## 2. Overall Objective:

The UIS wishes to understand in depth education data gaps. Under the overall authority of the Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the Consultant will report on the issues that could prevent countries to report the SDG 4 indicators in a consistent and sustainable way through conducting research, fieldwork, and data analysis. This will allow UIS to direct its capacity development efforts in the right direction, as well as act as an effective coordinator between donors and recipients.

## 3. Main Tasks:

The Consultant  will produce:
1. A framework that outlines the issues behind data reporting
2. The design and implementation of quick tools that allow for the identification of issues behind the market and non-market failures that could be utilized on a global basis

## 4. Expected duration of the assignment: January 2019 to May 2019.

## 5. Deliverables and Expected Timeline:

a. After 18 days from contract start date :

| Task 1 | Description |
|---|---|
| Framework paper | Preparation of a short (10-15 pages) framework paper that fleshes out the ideas presented here. The paper would review existing UIS and other development agency (e.g., World Bank's relatively recent publication on EMIS) materials, and relevant materials from other institutions, to define the issues to be addressed by the quick assessments, the potential countries to be visited for pre-testing, and the issues to be presented in depth in the analysis. This paper would be circulated at UIS and with the most relevant UIS partners, for feedback and would serve as the main blueprint for the quick assessment. |
| Deliverables | Paper<br>Questionnaires on donors and countries |

b. After <u>45 days</u> from contract start date :

| Task 2 | Description |
|---|---|
| Application of the Quick Assessment questionnaire in four pilot countries | Visit selected respondents in four countries chosen by UIS, to apply the questionnaires, evaluate its user friendliness, and assess the usefulness and accuracy of responses. |
| Deliverables | Revised questionnaires |

c. After <u>75 days</u> from contract start date :

| Task 3 | Description |
|---|---|
| Selection of countries and creation of online questionnaires | In collaboration with UIS, make a selection of the countries that would receive and fill out the questionnaires. Logistics to be handled by UIS. |
| Deliverables | Data analysis of responses to the questionnaires |

d. After <u>110 days</u> from contract start date :

| Task 4 | Description |
|---|---|
| Preparation of draft technical report | Preparation of technical report on the results of the quick assessment |
| Revisions to draft report | Revisions to the report based on UIS feedback |
| Deliverables | Presentation of the report to UIS |

All travel expenses will be calculated in accordance with UNESCO rules for Consultants and paid as a lump sum.

**6. Qualifications and experience required:**

Education: Master's degree in a related field (preferably in Economics).

Work Experience:

It is required that the Consultant have a minimum of 20 years experience in programme and project coordination with countries as part of a global initiative and experience with at least 7 projects in survey design and implementation in the field of education and/or learning assessments.

The Consultant should provide at least 3 references related to survey administration and capacity building at the national level.

Previous work experience within the U.N. is desirable; please provide 2-3 references.

**7. Submission:**

Please submit your application, in English, electronically <u>by 14 December 2018</u> to the email address:

uis.procurement@unesco.org

Include the following:

- Curriculum vitae
- A statement indicating how your qualifications and experience make you suitable for this assignment
- Your approach/methodology/work plan for the assignment
- Examples of past experience in this area of work and references
- The amount to be charged for the assignment, which should be quoted in US dollars and expressed as an overall lump sum

**Please indicate your name and "Consultancy – Institutional Brokerage" in the subject line.**