GAMBIA RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

NOTICE OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES TO REVIEW THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO IMPROVE THE ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE OF OMVG AND FACILITATE ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE FINANCING, PARTICULARLY UNDER THE BLUE PEACE FINANCING PROJECT

Grant Memorandum of Understanding Reference: Project 118651

Notice number: AMI 001/PDDI – OMVG-BP/01-2025

Countries: Multinational (The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal)

Project name: Review of OMVG's Institutional and Legal Framework

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As part of the Blue Peace Financing Project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), a pilot initiative is being implemented in collaboration between the Gambia River Basin Development Organisation (OMVG) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

OMVG seeks to enhance its ability to access private financing through capital markets. To achieve this objective, OMVG plans to adapt its institutional and legal frameworks to align with international financial standards and best governance practices while addressing cross-border legal complexities.

Representing The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal, OMVG, with the support of the Blue Peace Financing project, invites qualified legal advisory firms to express their interest in conducting a comprehensive review and reform of its institutional and legal structures. This review aims to ensure OMVG's alignment with contemporary financial standards and facilitate access to private capital markets.

1. The Blue Peace Movement

Blue Peace is a growing global movement aimed at fostering a culture of peace and promoting the preservation of valuable freshwater resources while ensuring equitable and sustainable use of water across borders, sectors, and generations. The Blue Peace movement is about creating a new development and political space for those who believe in an open and mobile society. Blue Peace envisions sustainable, integrated, transsectoral, and transboundary water management for the benefit of people and the planet, leading to prosperity and peace.

It achieves this by using water as an entry point for cross-border and cross-sector cooperation and impact investment. The Blue Peace movement proposes a cooperative approach at a time when population growth, rapid urbanisation and industrial expansion are putting increasing pressure on water supplies.

The Blue Peace Financing Mechanism implements innovative financial solutions for water cooperation by creating new avenues for regional, sub-regional, and local entities (non-sovereign) to access financial capital for transboundary and multisectoral water investment portfolios.

OMVG has been identified as the ideal pilot case, as a River Basin Organisation, to implement this innovative financing model.

2. Mission Objective:

OMVG seeks legal advisory services to review its institutional and legal framework, ensuring it aligns with the requirements for private financing through capital markets, as envisioned under the Blue Peace Financing Initiative. By engaging specialised legal advisory services, OMVG aims to strengthen its governance structure, address legal gaps, and establish a robust foundation for private sector investments. This will enable OMVG to achieve financial sustainability and expand its developmental impact.

3. Scope of work: The consultant (firm) will undertake the following activities:

a). Review of Institutional, Legal, Organisational, and Governance Frameworks

•Examine and provide recommendations to reform OMVG's institutional and legal framework, including its founding texts, charters, and regulatory and operational frameworks.

•Propose measures to align OMVG's governance structures and policies with international financing norms and standards.

b). Access to Capital Markets and Financing

- Provide legal advice on structuring mechanisms to access private financing through capital markets, such as bond issuance or other debt instruments.
- Review existing financing instruments outlined in OMVG frameworks and suggest improvements to ensure compliance with relevant securities laws and regulations in target markets.

c. International and Cross-Border Legal Considerations

- Assess international legal aspects, including treaty compliance and challenges associated with cross-border financing.
- Advise on the structuring (institutional, legal, and organisational) of project companies for financing projects and programs.
- Conduct a comparative study with practices from other River Basin Organisations.

4. Eligibility criteria: To be eligible, the firm must demonstrate:

Proven experience in institutional reform and governance for intergovernmental or public-sector entities.

- Expertise in structuring financing agreements in capital markets, including bond issuance and securities law compliance.
- Proven experience in addressing international and cross-border legal and institutional issues, including treaty compliance and project company structuring.
- Ability to provide comprehensive legal and institutional advisory services within the framework of multilateral development initiatives.
- Proven experience in the sub-region and Africa.

5. Submission interested firms must submit the following:

1. Expression of Interest: Brief description of the firm's capability to carry out the mission.

2. Company profile: Details of the firm, including relevant expertise and key personnel.

3. Experience: Examples of similar past assignments, including achieved outcomes.

4. Proposed methodology: Concise overview of the approach to achieve the mission's objectives.

5. Legal and financial capacity: Proof of the firm's capacity to manage similar assignments.

6. Contact information name, email address, and phone number of the primary contact person.

6. Deadline for submission:

All submissions must be sent to the addresses below by **22 February 2025.**

Submissions must be received no later than 3 pm local time (Dakar time). Each application file must be clearly marked with the following reference: **"Expression of interest:** Legal Advisory Services for the Review of OMVG's Institutional and Legal Framework."

7. Evaluation and Selection Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Firm's qualifications (25%)

- Relevant experience (25%)
- Mission approach (25%)
- Team composition (25%)

The minimum technical score required is 70%.

For any inquiries, please contact OMVG at the provided email addresses. **Gambia River Basin Development Organisation (OMVG)** ATTN: Mr **El Hadj Lansana FOFANA**, **OMVG High Commissioner,** Immeuble CTIMM, 5ème étage, sis Route de Ouakam, Mermoz, Dakar - Sénégal

P.O. Box: 2353 – CP: 18524 - Dakar R.P.

Tel.: + 221 33 859 28 40; Fax: + 221 33 822 59 26

Email: omvg@omvg.org, ldanso@omvg.org, djallow@omvg.org, ohane@omvg.org, and copy akourou@omvg.org, fkndiaye@omvg.org, nctoure@omvg.org, afall@omvg.org

The High Commissioner