



## **International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (IKNOW Politics) Evaluation**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Tender Reference No. 258-16/87**

#### **1. Background**

The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (IKNOW Politics) [www.i-know-politics.org](http://www.i-know-politics.org)<sup>1</sup> was established in 2007 to advance women's equitable participation and representation in politics. The IKNOW Politics platform is an online knowledge hub/space on women in politics from across global regions, which facilitates access to key resources and capacity building materials on women's political participation and representation, exchange of knowledge and experiences around issues of common interest and news/events on women's political participation globally in four languages- Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

The objectives of IKNOW Politics are:

- To facilitate a global forum of knowledge and resources on women and political participation, linking members in discussions designed to advance women's political participation;
- To equip women at the national, regional and grassroots levels with tools and resources that can be used to inform and support efforts to increase the numbers of women in politics and the contribution women make in the political arena (IKNOW Politics Project Document 2007 and MOU 2016-2018 Annex 1).

Since its inception nine years ago, IKNOW Politics has bolstered an online community of women elected to political leadership positions, civil society, international organisations, practitioners/experts, aspiring women leaders and students. The platform continues to be recognized as the one-stop-shop for global, regional and country specific dynamics and comparative knowledge exchange /information, tools/resources on women in politics and women's political participation and representation. Women aged 18-34 represent IKNOW Politics' largest audience and it is recommended and planned to increasingly tailor information, tools and services to their needs (Sources: Google Analytics and Facebook statistics 2013-2015).

---

<sup>1</sup> At the time of its establishment IKNOW Politics was a joint project of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women). Current partners include IPU, International IDEA, UNDP and UN Women.

At a global level, it is also evident that IKNOW Politics is strategically aligned to the new global agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals- SDG 5 'achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' and its targets:

- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life (*Target 5.5*)
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women (*Target 5.6b*)

### **Purpose for the Evaluation**

International IDEA, in the context of the Institute's 2012-2017 Strategy which is coming to an end is commissioning the evaluation of the IKNOW Politics project. IKNOW Politics has been selected for the evaluation to assess its overall performance levels, assess the usefulness of the content of the platform for the different users and achievements of the set objectives. The results of the evaluation will contribute towards informing the IKNOW Politics partners' strategic direction and future planning for the IKNOW Politics project.

Therefore, the evaluation should provide concise and actionable recommendations about the strengths, the weaknesses, the management structure, financial arrangements and the strategic direction on what should be done to improve the overall performance of IKNOW Politics to enhance its cost-effectiveness and sustainability.

In the context of declining funding and resources constraints, the IKNOW Politics partners are cognisant of the fact that the prevailing IKNOW Politics funding model solely dependent on partners' contributions is challenged due to budget cuts by Member States and donors of the IKNOW Politics partners. In view of this, the IKNOW Politics Steering Committee met in October 2015 to assess the functions of the platform and development of new strategies to engage members by applying innovative technological tools. As a result, the Steering Committee tasked the IKNOW Politics Secretariat to develop IT and resources mobilisation strategies in order to start broadening the funding base for IKNOW Politics. Therefore, the evaluation is also expected to provide recommendations on efficiency and sustainability that can also strengthen the two strategies.

The new outreach, IT and fundraising strategies that are been developed by the IKNOW Politics Secretariat seek to strengthen the relevance of the platform and ensure that participation in the platform is worthwhile for the target groups and broader users/audience. The aim for the resource mobilisation strategy is to diversify the funding resource base, build new strategic partnerships and secure reliable sources of annual revenue to build operational, technical and substantive support. The IT strategy seeks to leverage opportunities on technological development toward IKNOW Politics' objectives by mobilising resources around new technologies and potential donations from technology

firms. The overarching entry point is the link between international gender equality and the development of new technologies and their potential to cater to a new generation of women leaders in particular young women.

The evaluation for IKNOW Politics is timely as the project was last evaluated in July 2011 and this evaluation is taking place when it is almost ten years since the existence of IKNOW Politics.

## 2. Evaluation Scope

The evaluation should cover the following elements:

**Effectiveness:** evaluate the effectiveness of the existing functionalities of the platform and the positive and negative effects of the project for the target groups/participants, determine the extent to which progress has been made towards the achievement of the set objectives at the outputs level (direct result of the project outputs) and outcomes level (changes that have occurred as a result of the realised outputs), how can the existing functionalities and configuration of the platform be enhanced?.

**Efficiency:** evaluate the reasonability of the relationship between the project costs, outputs and outcomes, if the same outputs and outcomes could have been achieved at lower costs/less financial and non-financial resources, are there other more efficient ways for achieving the same results in terms of the inputs/resources that are used for the project, how efficient is the implementation and coordination structure for the IKP project?

**Relevance:** evaluate whether the project aligns with and supports the target groups and the broader global context in the area of democratic governance and women's political empowerment priorities and needs, to what extent has the project resulted in strengthening the cooperating organisations' partnership to promote women's political empowerment and gender equality?

**Sustainability:** evaluate the extent to which the project outputs and outcomes are likely to be durable/sustainable or not and why? Can the project approach be replicated at national or regional levels?

## 3. Methodology and Deliverables

In line with the evaluation purpose and scope, the Evaluation Consultant(s) will be expected to define a more detailed evaluation work plan which highlights the methodological framework, information gathering and analysis strategies, sources of information (describing how the evaluation is to be carried out and structure/outline of the Final Evaluation report-the primary deliverable. All documents will be in English.

## Key Milestones and Deliverables

- Final Work Plan and an agreed outline of the Final Evaluation Report within one week upon commencement of the contract (estimated date October 10<sup>th</sup> , 2016).
- Expected first draft of the Final Evaluation Report within five weeks upon commencement of contract (estimated date November 7<sup>th</sup> 2016).
- Final Evaluation Report to be delivered within seven weeks upon commencement of contract (estimated date November 18<sup>th</sup> 2016).

All the above documents should be delivered in word format.

#### **4. Management arrangements and timeframe**

International IDEA will commission the evaluation and hire the Evaluation Consultant who will report to the Head of the DAAA Unit. The IKNOW Politics Secretariat based at the UN Women Headquarters will work and facilitate the Evaluation Consultant's access to the project information. The Evaluation Consultant will also consult with the Steering Committee of the project partner organisations at all stages, including inception report and draft report.

The evaluation will be conducted between October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 and November 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 for an estimated total of 40 working days. Only one trip to the IKNOW Politics Secretariat is foreseen and most of the work will be done remotely and virtual consultations with the project partners and target groups will be conducted.

**Estimated budget:** the estimated budget for the evaluation is 10 000-15 000 EURO

#### **5. Evaluator Qualifications**

The Evaluation Consultant is required to have the following qualifications, competencies and experience;

- Masters degree or higher in social or political science, law, international relations or a related field;
- At least 5 years' experience in managing or conducting evaluations, including on online or social platforms, or have demonstrated experience of conducting evaluations of a similar scope, preferably for international organisations and/or NGOs
- Knowledge and or work experience on women's political empowerment programmes
- Proficiency in both qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods and analysis and sampling strategies;
- Excellent oral and writing skills in English
- IT experience will be an added advantage.