



Issued on: 31 August 2017

Deadline For Application: 30 September 2017

JOB TITLE: Development Law Experts

TYPE OF CONTRACT: Consultant or PSA

DUTY STATION: FAO Headquarters in Rome, FAO  
Decentralised Office or home-  
based

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: LEGN

DURATION: will depend upon the specific role

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*FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.*

**Qualified female applicants and qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged to apply.**

**Persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.**

**All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.**

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## Organizational Setting

The Legal Office of FAO ensures that the activities of the Organization are carried out in accordance with the Constitution of FAO and the other Basic Texts of the Organization, in a manner consistent with its status as an inter-governmental organization of the United Nations system, and that its relationships with governments, organizations and individuals are on a sound legal basis.

The Development Law Service of the Legal Office (LEGN) provides legal advisory services to governments on food and agriculture and natural resources (including land, water, fisheries and aquaculture, plants, animals, food, forestry, wildlife, environment, climate change and biodiversity), as well as general agricultural issues (institutions, trade, economic reform).

It is anticipated that LEGN will need to retain external experts to assist it to deliver technical legal support for various FAO projects and other activities. This call for expressions of interest is for the purpose of identifying suitably qualified experts who may be invited to undertake short-term assignments for LEGN, ranging in length from a few days or weeks to a maximum of 11 months. This call is aimed at experts with various levels of experience, in particular, **Specialist Legal Experts** and **Junior Legal Experts**, to support LEGN's work in the areas listed under **Technical Skills** below. The Legal Experts may be located at the Organization's headquarters in Rome (Italy), at one of the Organization's decentralized offices, on field missions or home based. The assignments may cover a number of activities, or be dedicated to a specific project or other activity.

Applicants who have responded to earlier calls for expressions of interest issued by LEGN are advised to resubmit their applications if they wish to be considered under the present call.

Notwithstanding this call for expressions of interest, individual Vacancy Announcements may be issued for specific assignments where this is deemed appropriate.

## Reporting Lines

The Legal Officer reports to the Senior Legal Officer (Chief) LEGN.

## Technical Focus

Legal research and advisory services to governments in relation to food and agriculture and management of renewable natural resources.

## Tasks and responsibilities

The tasks and responsibilities of each selected Legal Expert will be defined in the Terms of Reference for the specific assignment. Legal experts working with LEGN are normally called upon to provide advice contributing to the progressive development of national systems of law, review draft legislation, or participate in or lead projects to draft legislation, analyse, evaluate and explain various alternative laws or legal systems or legal approaches.

**Specialist Legal Experts** work under the overall supervision and guidance of senior Legal Officers, but are expected to undertake tasks with technical independence, according to the deadlines and deliverables established under their Terms of Reference. Their assigned tasks and responsibilities will normally include several of the following elements:

- advising countries on possibilities for legislative assistance;
- preparing project concept notes, and designing projects involving different relevant technical units, as well as regional, subregional and national FAO offices;
- preparing, reviewing and updating workplans;
- representing LEGN at internal and external meetings, undertaking field missions, conducting training and other capacity development activities, and briefing the Chief LEGN and the designated LEGN officer on outcomes and results achieved;
- undertaking capacity development activities and providing legal support and assistance in the development of project outputs;
- reviewing the work of national and/or junior personnel, and providing inputs on and technical review and clearance of work and reports carried out by them;
- preparing materials, undertaking legal research, preparing legal notes, reports and written advice;
- preparing or contributing to legal publications and analyses.

**Junior Legal Experts** work under the close supervision and guidance of Legal Officers, supporting them to deliver LEGN's programme of work. Their assigned tasks and responsibilities will normally include several of the following elements:

- preparing project concept notes;
- supporting the design of projects involving different relevant technical units, as well as regional, subregional and national FAO offices;
- preparing, reviewing and updating workplans;
- supporting the preparation for, and delivery of, training and capacity development activities;
- preparing materials, undertaking legal research, preparing legal notes, reports and written advice;
- preparing or contribute to legal publications and analyses;
- attending internal and external meetings, and briefing the Chief LEGN and the designated LEGN officer on outcomes and results achieved.

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## CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

### Minimum Requirements

- Degree in law and advanced university degree in international law related to food, agriculture, environment or related field.
- Work experience: **Specialist Legal Experts**: At least five years of relevant legal work experience; **Junior Legal Experts**: At least one year of relevant legal work experience.
- Working knowledge of English. Working knowledge of the other official languages of the Organization (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish) may be required depending upon the assignment.

### Technical/Functional Skills

- LEGN is looking for legal experts who are able to cover one or more of the following technical fields:
  - Agricultural law, including agricultural health (food safety, plant health and veterinary legislation; antimicrobial resistance), sustainable agricultural production (seeds, pesticides, organic agriculture and other marketing schemes) and other areas of agriculture law (supply chain regulatory mechanisms, contract farming, agricultural finance, cooperatives and other farmers' organisations, agricultural insurance schemes).
  - Forestry, wildlife, pastoralism
  - Fisheries and aquaculture
  - Sustainable land management
  - Sustainable water management
  - Social protection and decent rural employment in rural areas
  - Food and nutrition security, right to adequate food, school food and nutrition
  - Gender-sensitive and responsible governance of tenure
  - Climate change law as it relates to agriculture, fisheries and, forestry
  - Enabling environment for responsible investments in agriculture and food systems

Applicants for assignments as **Specialist Legal Experts** should clearly indicate their specific technical expertise in their application.

Applicants for assignments as **Junior Legal Experts** should have demonstrated interest in the technical areas listed above, as well as strong analytical, legal research and writing skills.

### FAO Core Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

### Selection criteria

- Extent of knowledge and experience on legal issues relating to a relevant technical field;
- Extent of experience in developing national legislative and regulatory measures to implement international agreements, codes, guidelines or other instruments;
- Ability to carry out legal research and analysis;
- Ability to write clear and concise reports and to draft legal texts, legislative and regulatory instruments;
- Extent of experience of different legal systems and working in different countries, including developing countries.
- Work experience with international or regional organizations or other entities in a relevant field

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Please note that all candidates should adhere to *FAO Values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency*.

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## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- All applications will be reviewed and qualified applicants will be contacted for interviews.
- FAO does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing).
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you need help, or have queries, please contact: [iRecruitment@fao.org](mailto:iRecruitment@fao.org)
- Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.
- Only language proficiency certificates from UN accredited external providers and/or FAO language official examinations (LPE, ILE, LRT) will be accepted as proof of the level of knowledge of languages indicated in the online applications.
- For other issues, visit the FAO employment website: <http://www.fao.org/employment/home/en/>

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## **HOW TO APPLY**

To apply, visit the iRecruitment website at <http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/> and complete your online profile. Only applications received through iRecruitment will be considered.

Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile.

Vacancies will be removed from iRecruitment at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the deadline for applications date. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline date.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: [iRecruitment@fao.org](mailto:iRecruitment@fao.org)

**FAO IS A NON-SMOKING ENVIRONMENT**