



Issued on: 5 October 2017

Deadline For Application: 15 November 2017

JOB TITLE: General Legal Affairs Experts

TYPE OF CONTRACT: Consultant or PSA

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

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: LEGA

DURATION: will depend upon the specific role

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.

Organizational Setting

The Legal Office of FAO (LEG) 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 General Legal Affairs Service of the Legal Office (LEGA) provides advice to, and acts on behalf of, the Organization on legal matters. Specifically, it advises the Organization's technical and administrative departments, regional, sub-regional and field offices, and its Governing Bodies, on legal matters, including constitutional questions, the drafting of international treaties, the legal aspects of relations with the host government, with other governments and with international organizations, as well as specific legal aspects of personnel matters, including the interpretation and application of the Organization's internal rules and international administrative law. It represents FAO in judicial proceedings and in settlements of disputes and, in particular, in handling appeals cases before the competent administrative tribunals. It services the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

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 LEGA, 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. The experts may be located at the Organization's headquarters in Rome (Italy), at one of the Organization's decentralized offices, or home based. The assignments may cover a number of activities, or be dedicated to a specific issue or activity.

Applicants who have responded to earlier calls for expressions of interest issued by LEGA or LEGN (the Development Law Service of the Legal Office) are advised to resubmit their applications if they wish to be considered under the present call. Individual Vacancy Announcements may be issued for specific assignments when deemed appropriate.

Reporting Lines

Legal Experts report to the Legal Counsel, while day-to-day supervision is provided by the Deputy Director, LEG, the Senior Legal Officer, LEGA, and Legal Officers, as appropriate.

Technical Focus

Public international law and law of international organizations, including international administrative law.

Tasks and responsibilities

The tasks and responsibilities of each selected Legal Expert will be defined in the Terms of Reference for the specific assignment. The assignments will normally include the delivery of advice to units within Headquarters and to the FAO Decentralized Offices on legal matters related to their operations in light of FAO's regulations, rules, policies and procedures, as well as FAO's status as a Specialized Agency of the United Nations System. Normally, the assignments will cover one or more of the following:

- Contribution agreements, project agreements and other instruments related to donor funding and project implementation;
 - Contracts, matters related to procurement of services from commercial and non-commercial service providers (including settlements or litigation concerning contractual matters), publications, intellectual property, etc.;
 - Memoranda of Understanding and other legal instruments establishing institutional and operational modalities for cooperation with a wide variety of partners (including Governments, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector);
 - Host country agreements for FAO decentralized offices addressing the privileges and immunities of the Organization, including supporting negotiation of such agreements and upholding the provisions thereof;
 - Appeals filed by staff members under the internal appeals processes and with the ILO Administrative Tribunal and drafting of the pleadings of the Organization;
 - The Governing Bodies and the Statutory Bodies of FAO and the interpretation or application of the legal and procedural instruments governing the operation of such Bodies.
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CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Degree in law and either an advanced university degree in international law or admission to practice in a national jurisdiction.
- Minimum number of years of work experience required will depend on the specific assignment. At least one year of relevant legal work experience would be required for junior level assignments.
- Working knowledge of English. Limited knowledge of at least one other official language of the Organization (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish) is required; working knowledge of another official language may be required depending upon the assignment.

FAO Core Competencies

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

Technical/Functional Skills

- Extent and relevance of experience in public international law, law of international organizations and/or international administrative law.
- Work experience with international or regional organizations or other entities in a relevant field.
- Ability to carry out legal research and analysis.
- Ability to write clear and concise reports and experience in drafting legal texts (legal opinions, pleadings, formal correspondence, documents for meetings of governing and statutory bodies).
- Ability to provide effective legal support in more than one official language of the Organization.
- Extent of experience of different legal systems and working in different countries, including developing countries.
- Ability to develop legal advice with technical autonomy; the level of supervision and guidance and the capacity to work with technical independence will depend upon the specific assignment.

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

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
- 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/>

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

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