



नेपाल सरकार
कृषि विकास
मन्त्रालय



UNNATI-Advocacy for Rights and Good Corporate Governance in Nepal

CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTE for Advocacy Challenge Fund

1. BACKGROUND:

The UNNATI- Inclusive Growth Programme in Nepal is being implemented in Nepal with funding support from the Government of Denmark. The overall objective of the programme is to promote sustainable and inclusive growth that aims to reduce poverty and raise the living standards of poor people in Nepal.

DANIDA and ILO completed the development of a new strategic partnership 4-year project Advocacy for Rights and Good Corporate Governance in Nepal (UNNATI-Inclusive Growth Programme in Nepal) to promote improved advocacy for responsible business, including rights and good corporate governance in selected four value chains, i.e. Tea, Ginger, Milk and Cardamom. UNNATI has three components: i) commercializing selected value chains, ii) infrastructure development and iii) enabling environment. The project is a sub-component of the UNNATI–Inclusive Growth Programme in Nepal to support three complementary areas of interventions focusing on advocacy and dialogue, sustainability and public awareness of the responsible business including rights and good corporate governance issues. The project operates in seven districts of eastern region, namely, Ilam, Panchthar, Dhankuta, Sankhuwasabha, Terhathum, Taplejung and Bhojpur.

The project contributes at improving advocacy for responsible business development, including rights and good corporate governance through an Advocacy Challenge Fund mechanism for disbursing funds through an efficient, fairly and competitive process. An Advocacy Challenge Fund is a special fund under the project managed by Advocacy Fund Manager-ILO that is open to support associations, federations, private sector organizations (PSOs) and other organizations interested in conduct evidence based advocacy and lobby activities, build capacities for advocacy and dialogue, promote sustainability and promotion broad public awareness initiatives addressing responsible business issues, including the Global Compact initiatives, corporate governance and business and human rights issues to support four value chains. Reflecting the outputs of the Advocacy Challenge Fund three windows have been established: (1) Advocacy and Policy Window; (2) Sustainability Window; and (3) Public Awareness Window. The Advocacy Challenge Fund ultimately contributes to improve the enabling environment pertaining to inclusive growth.

2. ADVOCACY CHALLENGE FUND:

The Advocacy Challenge Fund was established under component three, Enabling Environment Component, sub component (3.2) Advocacy for responsible Business of the UNNATI programme. The immediate objective of the sub component is improved advocacy for responsible business including the rights and good corporate governance. The Advocacy Fund will provide advocacy support to the following in relation to the prioritized value chains in seven districts:

- a) **Building capabilities for advocacy and dialogue:** Selected private sector organisations (business associations, commodity associations, labour unions, value chain actors/working group and civil organisations) in target districts and beyond that are actively engaged in advocating the interests of their members.

- b) **Promoting sustainability:** Selected private sector organisations become financially, managerially and technically sustainable and are able provide services to their members.
- c) **Promoting broad public awareness** of the importance of responsible business including rights and corporate governance issues.

3. OBJECTIVES:

The present **Call for Concept Note** invites the participation of associations, federations, private sector organizations and other organizations interested in conduct evidence based advocacy and lobbying activities, build capacities for advocacy and dialogue, and promote sustainability and broad public awareness addressing responsible business issues, including the Global Compact initiatives, corporate governance and business and human rights issues to support the above four value chains.

4. TARGET GROUP:

The general target groups in the project are as follows:

- Commodity Associations
- Business associations
- Research Organizations
- Government organization
- Trade Unions
- Employer Organizations
- Media Houses
- Farmers Association
- Federation

The ultimate beneficiaries will be those working with the four proposed value chains (Orthodox tea, ginger, cardamom and dairy) as well as with key national, regional and district business organizations such as Nepal Business Forum (NBF), Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Federation of Nepalese Cottage and Small Industries (FNCSI) and District Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) along with producers' and commodity associations. At a broader level, the project will benefit the Nepali economy in general through its focus on private sector development and advocacy.

5. ADVOCACY CHALLENGE FUND WINDOWS:

A. ADVOCACY AND POLICY DIALOGUE:

Advocacy Challenge Fund will provide funds within three separate windows that will seek to build capabilities for advocacy and dialogue, promote sustainability of the PSOs and promote broad public awareness of the importance of responsible business. The advocacy and policy windows which provides funding for specific advocacy and capacity building initiatives. The intended target group is national, regional (Eastern Region) and district based (the 7 UNNATI districts) Private Sector Organizations (PSOs) that wish to advocate for issues that are directly or indirectly related to value chain development and that fulfil the criteria of responsible business. The expected applicants for the window are selected private sector organizations (business associations, commodity associations, labour unions, value chain actors/working group and civil organizations) in target districts and beyond that are actively engaged in advocating the interests of their members.

B. SUSTAINABILITY WINDOW:

The objective of the sustainability support is to help eligible organisations to build their organisational, governance and management capacity which will ultimately enable them to undertake effective advocacy activities and develop and implement strategies to become financially self-sufficient. The sustainability window will support a (limited) number of PSOs to become independent, sustainable representatives of the business and labour market community. The sustainability support will focus on two critical aspects of sustainability: the development of

membership and fee-based services, and the development of additional income streams for the PSOs. Expected applicants –selected private sector organizations become financially, managerially and technically sustainable and are able to provide services to their members.

Applicants must note that the sustainability window support will only be provided alongside funding for advocacy and policy window and will not be provided independently.

C. PUBLIC AWARENESS WINDOW

The public awareness window support intend to build critical public awareness and importance of better business environment and follow responsible business practices. The public awareness support will pursue initiatives that broaden the public awareness of the importance of a better business environment and the role PSOs can play in influencing the enabling business environment including the need for enterprises to follow responsible business principles. The awareness window of the Advocacy Fund will provide funding for initiatives that intend to provide documentation on and call attention to issues related to “business and human rights”, to the Global Compact agenda, and to inclusive growth rights issues. Expected applicants -NGOs, Research Institutions, large business associations, trade unions, business organizations and media houses.

6. ILLUSTRATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR CHALLENGE FUND WINDOWS:

The Applicant(s) will take full responsibility for the provision of required services in close co-operation with ILO project team. The objective of advocacy and policy window shall be met through activities that include, but are not limited to the following:

i. ILLUSTRATIVE ACTIVITIES TO BE ENCOURAGED FOR POLICY AND DIALOGUE WINDOW:

- Surveys, research and studies to gather evidence and support of policy negotiations.
- Advocacy for social change to the structural causes.
- Monitoring and assessing the implementation of central or local government policies to provide policy feedback.
- Seminars, workshops and meetings to facilitate policy dialogue with relevant central and/or local authorities and PSOs.
- Mass communications to engage key people in policy dialogue and motivate others to act.
- Collection of data on economic potentials in relation to the selected value chains (Orthodox tea, Ginger, Cardamom and Dairy) and analyse the data for policy advocacy.
- Address issues related to labour rights, equal wages, fixation of wages, insurance of labour/worker, establish/develop the market information system, decent work; and global compact agenda and so on.
- Governance issues for advocacy such as lack of policy implementation, implementation of prevalent laws, transparency issues; and business human rights.
- Lobby and advocacy activities to form and reform the policy, programme related to value chain products.
- Advocacy for social change to the structural causes.
- Mass communications to engage key people and motivate others to act.
- Business related human rights issues; equality and rights of women in business.

ii. ILLUSTRATIVE ACTIVITEIS TO BE ENCOURAGED FOR SUSTAINABILITY WINDOW:

- Build/improve organizational, governance and management capacity to be able to undertake advocacy activities
- Development of Business Plans
- Development of additional income streams through income generating activities
- Develop communication skills and platforms
- Respond to vulnerability and needs through right-based approaches to service delivery
- Building broader alliances/networks
- Support and strengthening organizations and movements.

iii. ILLUSTRATIVE ACTIVITIES TO BE ENCOURAGED FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS WINDOW:

- Build critical public awareness and importance of better business environment and follow responsible business practices.
- Provide documentation on and call attention related to 'business and human rights', Global Compact initiatives, inclusive growth rights issue, and improving working condition at workplace.
- Involving/ engaging the media in dialogue and advocacy efforts
- Awareness program on the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (i.e. effective abolition of child labour; elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; and freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
- Organize and mobilize for collective action, supporting and strengthening organizations and movements.
- Use communications to raise the visibility and awareness on advocacy issues.

7. RESULTS:

When completed, the sub-component is expected to have engaged a greater number of people from the business community both formal and informal, and local governments in advocacy and policy for responsible business development including rights and good corporate governance which contribute to socially balanced-economic development in the seven programme districts and beyond especially in areas relating to the supported value chains.

Specific results are:

- PSOs have identified their member needs and concerns and responded by offering related business development services and/or by voicing their concerns in appropriate forum backed up with factual information and free of biases to achieve optimum potential of business growth.
- Policies and plans at national, regional and district levels reflect economic potentials with focus on value chain development.
- Built capacity of constituents for generating evidence-based policy advice through social dialogue, effective policy making and systemic development planning.
- Improved seriousness of the advocacy activities of the private sector through improved documentation of the effects of the proposed changes.
- Business-related human rights issues are placed on the policy agenda and media is writing articles on responsible business.
- Private business has initiated and internalized value of human rights, Global Compact agenda MNE declaration and corporate good governance.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA:

A formal, centralized or local service provider/private sector development organizations should be evaluated on the strength of its capacity, organizational structure, leadership, management, the quality of its portfolio and services, its access to financial resources and the strength of its internal control system and transparency.

a) Administrative Compliance

It confirms that a concept note has been submitted within the deadline set; the concept note has the template specified by Advocacy Fund Manager, is complete and meets all the requirements set in the respective Call, all requested documents are attached.

b) Eligibility Criteria

These criteria examine whether the concept note/proposal fulfils the minimum requirements for being eligible for funding by the Advocacy Challenge Fund. Concept note/proposals which do not fulfil the eligibility criteria will be rejected. To be eligible to apply for the funding, the organisation (the lead applicant in case of a consortium or partnership), must:

- Be a registered/renewed firm, organization or company operating in Nepal, in compliance with relevant licensing, taxation, and other relevant regulations in Nepal.
- Be able to show at least the two years audit accounts
- Be able to demonstrate its capacity and the expertise to undertake the project
- Be legally registered as one of the following:
 - Private Sector Organization
 - Business Association
 - Commodity Association
 - Cooperative/Association
 - Farmers Association
 - Trade Union
 - Civil Society Organization
 - Research Institution
 - NGO
 - Media houses

Applicants that do not fully comply with the eligibility criteria will not be considered for assessment.

b) Due diligence process

Due diligence process will be conducted on all selected applicants that have submitted the full proposals. The Advocacy Fund Manager may request additional information and conduct a field visit to the applicant's headquarters and project site.

Concept Note should be submitted through any of the following **not later than 20 June 2016**:

- (i) Visit the website <http://advocacychallengefund.org> for online application
- (ii) Email: acf@ilo.org; and
- (iii) Sealed envelope to the following address, clearly mentioning "Reference: ACF Concept Note Application" with the full address of applicant.

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