

## Request for Proposals (RFP)



**To** : Offerors  
**From** : Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (the Global Partnership)/  
United Nations Foundation (UNF)  
**Subject** : Political Strategist for Data Financing

**RFP Issue Date** : 9 November, 2021

**RFP Closing Date** : 23 November, 2021

**RFP Closing Time** : 17:00 hours U.S. Eastern Time.

**Performance Period** : Full-time over 12 months, other arrangements may be considered for the right candidate. Start date to be confirmed.

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (the Global Partnership) is looking for a highly experienced political and advocacy strategist, with a good understanding of dynamics among key donors and institutions in the international development sector. The consultant will be responsible for developing and implementing a strategy to increase financing for data, including through commitments to the World Bank Global Data Facility and the Complex Risk Analytics Fund.

She/he will work closely with the leadership of the Global Partnership and with the United Nations (UN) and the World Bank Group (World Bank) to build support and commitments among major actors from governments, foundations, the private sector and philanthropists, and to deliver key moments such as a proposed Development Partners Forum around the time of the World Bank Spring Meetings and a high-level meeting on data during the UN General Assembly in 2022.

The Global Partnership, United Nations and World Bank Group invites qualified individuals (“Offerors”) to submit a proposal for the requested services. The Contract resulting from this award will be a **Services Agreement**.

Offerors are encouraged to read this RFP in its entirety, paying specific attention to the scope of services, instructions, and requirements. Issuance of this solicitation does not, in any way, obligate UNF to award a contract, nor will UNF pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal. The agreement resulting from this RFP will be provided to the most responsive Offeror whose offer will be the most advantageous to the Global Partnership/UNF in terms of cost, functionality, and other factors as specified in this RFP.

## **Section 1: Background and purpose**

### **Background: United Nations Foundation**

The United Nations Foundation links the UN's work with others around the world, mobilizing the energy and expertise of business and non-governmental organizations to help the UN tackle issues including climate change, data, global health, peace and security, women's empowerment, poverty eradication, energy access, and U.S.-UN relations. The United Nations Foundation hosts and provides administrative, financial and contractual services for the Global Partnership. For more information, visit [www.unfoundation.org](http://www.unfoundation.org).

### **Background: Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data**

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data is a fast-growing, dynamic international partnership bringing together over 270 different organizations including governments, UN agencies, private companies, civil society organizations, and many others. The Global Partnership convenes, connects and catalyzes action to address the problems of poor data use, access, quality and production, and to work with stakeholders to fully harness the new opportunities of the data revolution in the service of sustainable development. For more information, visit [www.data4sdgs.org](http://www.data4sdgs.org).

### **Background**

Data is a key resource to power progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Basing policy on the best evidence is a critical part of accelerating progress and creating the public support and practical partnerships that make progress possible.

However, investments in data in the public sector remain fragmented, insufficient, and uncoordinated. Despite the huge opportunities of the data revolution, [funding for data from external sources](#) has remained almost static for nearly 10 years. There are many governments who lack the capacity to fully benefit from the opportunities of the data revolution, and as a result their populations risk falling further behind in the global battles to protect health, the planet and human progress.

Without this investment, it will be impossible to judge how countries are doing on their path towards achieving the SDGs, or whether progress is backsliding, including on climate, health, and other crises. A recent [UN/World Bank survey](#) suggested that in two-thirds of low and lower-middle income countries statistical agencies lack sufficient resources to meet the demands for data caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We urgently need a collective political effort to increase funding for data systems that provide the evidence to power good policy and programs and combat misinformation. This needs to come from both domestic and external resources, and to be underpinned by the ethics and values that ensure both public- and private-intent data are used for social good.

The World Bank and the United Nations have both made strong institutional statements around the need for better data systems to underpin progress on global priorities. With the 'World That Counts' report in 2014, the UN's Independent Expert Group articulated a vision of data as the 'lifeblood of decision making

and the raw material for accountability’ to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Similarly, the Secretary-General’s Data Strategy highlights the need to identify and leverage “**pooled funding for scale**” to deliver on priority data actions, mobilize resources and close the funding gap for data needed to deliver on the SDGs. In 2021, the World Bank’s World Development Report called for the development of integrated national data systems to increase data use and reuse, underpinned by a new social contract for data.

The announcement in late 2021 of both the World Bank’s Global Data Facility and the UN’s Complex Risk Analytics Fund provides an opportunity to advocate for specific commitments into these mechanisms, and the UN and the World Bank are now committed to leveraging political advocacy on financing for data. The Global Partnership will provide support to plan and execute a strategy aimed at increasing the financing for data systems from both domestic and external resources. We are looking for an expert consultant to advise and implement these advocacy efforts over the coming year.

## **Section 2: Scope of Services**

Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement an advocacy strategy to increase financing for data, including analyzing the dynamics around data and technology and related funding to identify opportunities, risks and leverage points for coalition-building and commitment-making.
- Marshall concrete, quantifiable financial commitments from public, private, and philanthropic donors.
- Manage the behind-the-scenes work of building a coalition of partners who are prepared to announce commitments at either/both the 2022 World Bank Spring Meetings and the UN General Assembly in 2022 and see them through based on clear implementation plans beyond this moment.
- Ensure that key actors in the data for development space are on board with the advocacy strategy and advocating from a harmonized “script” by building strong relationships and formal partnerships.
- Work closely with the Global Partnership secretariat, the United Nations, and the World Bank to exploit synergies between the Global Data Facility and Complex Risk Analytics Fund and leverage key moments and opportunities for joint advocacy for data and resource mobilization both within each organization and in other fora.
- Support the delivery of events including a Development Partners Forum during the World Bank Spring Meetings and a High-Level Event at the UN General Assembly.
- Develop a concrete follow-up plan and mechanisms for each event to ensure sustainability and to maintain momentum.

**Term:** Ideally full-time over 12 months, other arrangements may be considered for the right candidate.

## **Qualifications**

She/he will:

- Have a proven record of at least five years senior experience of political strategy, negotiation, and advocacy in the international development sector.

- Have successful experience with major resource mobilization efforts such as in education, health, or other sectors.
- Demonstrate a keen awareness of global political dynamics including around data and technology.
- Be comfortable among senior leaders in both public and private sectors, with a wide network and ability to command respect across different institutions.
- Be a keen strategic thinker, with experience of developing and implementing advocacy strategies across networks and large organizations.
- Have strong relationship building and management skills.
- Be able to conduct basic research and analysis to understand financing trends, donor priorities and political dynamics.
- Be a clear and persuasive writer.

### **Section 3: RFP Conditions**

UNF reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all offers and discontinue this RFP process without obligation or liability to any potential Offeror or other party.
- Accept other than the lowest price offered.
- Award a contract on the basis of initial offers received, without discussions or requests for best and final offers.
- Award more than one contract.

Nothing in this RFP is, or should be relied on by Offeror as a promise or representation by UNF. UNF does not make any representation or warranty as to the completeness of this RFP or have any liability for any representations (express or implied) contained in, or omissions from, this RFP. This RFP and any replies to any written notifications are transmitted to the Offeror solely for the purposes of the Offeror preparing and submitting a Proposal. Each Offeror shall keep the RFP and its contents confidential.

Any information or materials submitted in response to this RFP and/or as a proposal (whether successful or unsuccessful) shall become the property of UNF and will not be returned. In submitting a proposal, the Offeror must agree that the offer shall remain firm for a period of no less than **120** days from the RFP closing date. Failure to follow the specifications and requirements provided in this RFP may result in disqualification.

### **Section 4: Proposal preparation Instructions**

Proposals are expected to be comprehensive and include the information set forth below.

#### **1. A cover letter, no more than two pages**

The cover letter will include:

- A brief description of the Offeror's experience and expertise in the field that illustrates overall qualifications and capabilities to meet the terms of the RFP
- A brief description of the Offeror's understanding of the scope of services and proposed approach for the work
- Available start date and proposed schedule, if other than full time

**2. Resume or CV**

**3. List of three references, with contact details**

**4. Cost requirements**

The Offeror should include his/her daily rate in U.S. dollars. Travel and expenses should not be included as these will be managed separately.

**Proposal submission:** Proposals, including any attachments (limited to 6MB), should be sent electronically in PDF format to: [proposals@data4sdgs.org](mailto:proposals@data4sdgs.org). Be sure to include in the subject line: Political Strategy Consultant. UNF will not accept proposals received by fax or mail.

All proposals are due by the date and time stated above. Any proposal received after the required time and date specified for receipt shall be considered late and non-responsive. Late proposals will not be evaluated.

**Section 5: Selection**

The Global Partnership, the UN and World Bank will review candidates with the goal of selecting a consultant most advantageous to the successful execution of this work, based on the qualifications listed above, as demonstrated by the resume or CV, proposal narrative, and additional material, if applicable. The Global Partnership will consider the Offeror's capability to deliver the scope of services, and the feasibility of the approach. The Global Partnership will also consider the overall costs to ensure that they are reasonable to deliver the services. The Global Partnership may meet with one or more Offerors prior to selection.

**Section 6: Terms of payment**

Payment terms for the award shall be on a monthly basis. Payment is dependent upon receipt of valid invoice, and contingent upon successful completion of deliverables and related activities. Payment shall be made in U.S. dollars via check or electronic funds transfer/bank wire. The final payment terms in the contract will control, not this RFP. No advance payments will be provided.