



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR AFRICA CENTRE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE AND INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP (ACTIL) VIRTUAL KNOWLEDGE HUB

Background of ACTIL

The African Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership (ACTIL) was established in 2013 by UN Women in partnership with Kenyatta University, and officially launched in February 2014. Since inception we have sought to develop strategic and transformational leadership capacities of current and emerging African national leaders, with a special focus on women and youth, with great success stories as proof.

ACTIL complements the work of UN Women's 14 country offices¹. The Center's approaches training through various methodologies, while remaining flexible to meet client demands. These include: tutorials, individual mentoring and experiential learning from notable leaders, to enhance the learning experience.

ACTIL has made great strides in securing strategic partnerships with AUC, UNDP, MASHAV and LVCT Health. Discussions are ongoing with, key Parastatals, National and County Governments and Local Authorities, other UN organizations including UNV, and UNHCR who have expressed interest in working with ACTIL to develop courses targeted at youth within the region, refugees and civil society leaders.

ACTIL's management is headed by a seven-person international Advisory Board, which is currently chaired by Hon. Thokozani Khupe – Member of Parliament and former Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. The Advisory Board's role is to provide overall policy guidance. A high level multi-agency Technical Committee is in charge of quality assurance and ensuring that ACTIL has cutting-edge programs and products. Day to day management is done by a secretariat based at ACTIL and headed by a Director.

ACTIL's unique approach to leadership development includes a mentorship component which is already showing results among its alumnae. Its potential is reflected in the interest shown by different stakeholders. To date ACTIL has trained over 600 women and youth from across East, West and Southern Africa. Our Popular courses include Transformative Leadership (TL) for women political leaders, TL in Agribusiness, TL in Entrepreneurship, and TL for Youth Group Leaders.

¹In ESA, UN Women has country presence in Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa (which covers countries in the Southern Africa Customs Union-[Republic of South Africa](#), [Botswana](#), [Lesotho](#) and Swaziland), South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. UN Women also has a Somalia country programme.



Expression of Interest

UN Women is seeking to build on the achievements of ACTIL. Specifically UN Women ESARO proposes to strengthen ACTIL's capacities to not only deliver quality services/products, but also to track and document results and learning from its activities.

In light of this, we wish to establish an electronic knowledge management platform that will keep our alumni connected to each other and share post training experiences, as well as offering potential clientele the opportunity to continually engage with us. This platform will also create and increased public awareness of the Center and improve the access to relevant information to past and potential participants, who are not able make use of information already available in hard copy at the Center. The knowledge hub will complement the activities of and offerings at the Gender and Elections Resource Unit, which in itself is gradually maturing into a rich source of valuable materials which include but are not limited to: constitutions and laws analyzed by country, policies, practices, training materials, political party manifestos, and individual women experiences, on gender and elections from across the continent under one platform.

We therefore seek services of a company to develop the platform with guidance from ACTIL and UN Women. The company shall be working under the supervision of ACTIL and UN Women and shall deliver an interactive platform that serves the purpose discussed above.

Expected results

- A vibrant interactive knowledge and communication platform where knowledge will be shared and exchanged.
- A special knowledge and communications platform for the ACTIL alumni and mentors that will facilitate online discussions and sharing of experiences.
- A functioning Gender and Elections Resource Unit, accessible virtually and physically-to contribute to ACTIL's overall leadership development programme.

Components of the Proposed Leadership and Governance Knowledge Hub

Initial components include

- **Knowledge Café**- here, we propose to have resources- books, publications, journals, guidelines and How To's, articles, video and audios on leadership and governance. This shall support wide dissemination of existing knowledge products.
- **Elections Centre**- with resources related to elections in Africa
- **ACTIL Mentor** shall be an online community that connects ambitious women and leaders with experienced and inspiring leadership. The section shall encourage ideas and knowledge sharing among Africa's most promising young women and leaders, inspiring a collaborative approach to growth in leadership and governance. ACTIL Mentor shall be extended from the ACTIL trainings and targets all women's endeavors, in recognition that they are the driving force behind the continent's growth and future prosperity.



Mentees shall be encouraged to interact with the online community by:

- Raising a question
- Kick-starting a discussion
- Reaching out for personalized advice in relation to leadership and governance

Mentees can use the platform to showcase their leadership participation, best practice governance models and legislation in their regions and seek out like-minded individuals to identify new opportunities. The section shall develop a full range of online training materials, including free guides and tools for women leaders, along with a series of inspiring videos and articles from the ACTIL Mentors.

Under the ACTIL Mentors, we shall have a section on ACTIL One-on-One where we shall link all trainees of ACTIL to a mentor for a period of six months to be guided on utilizing the results of ACTIL trainings on transformative leadership. Mentors shall be allowed to register their interest in mentorship online and be committed to the programme for six months.

- **Leadership Networks-** This section shall provide a space to browse and find members, and promote networking among members. Once users have registered they will be able to create a personal profile that highlights, among other things, their key interest areas;
- **Leadership Circles-** This section shall promote knowledge sharing, collaborate on practical and high-priority initiatives (including developing joint advocacy), and provide peer support and interaction with experts and leaders. This is where members shall be able to;
 - Raising a question
 - Kick-starting an e discussion
 - Reaching out for personalized advice in relation to leadership and governance

Thematic areas of focus shall be developed for the Hub and linked to the Hub for targeted engagements.

Other Proposed Components of the Hub

- **An Events Calendar:** to enable users to share information about upcoming conferences, training opportunities and other events on leadership and governance;
- **Integrated social media tools,** such as Facebook and Twitter: to promote social engagement with users, invite them back to the Hub and recruit new users. Other social media tools, such as LinkedIn, Pinterest and YouTube, will be used to raise awareness of the Hub, promote visibility of women's ideas and innovation, showcase messages through media and visuals, such as infographics and store video clips;
- **A News Page:** to provide comprehensive news on leadership and governance and regular news and updates from media outlets from all regions prepared by the Hub team;

One of the key strengths of the platform will be its content search capability. The platform may be integrated with various social networking services, including, but not limited to google plus, Twitter and Facebook, so that the participants can also bring in elements from these sources into the platform's content stream.



EOI

Please submit a proposal detailing your understanding of the TOR and an activity plan showing the timeline for the assignment. Please also submit your indicative budget for the assignment.

All applications should reach us through to Director ACTIL on director-actil@ku.ac.ke and copied to jack.abebe@unwomen.org by COB 31st May 2016.