Terms of Reference: Economic Advisor, Antigua and Barbuda

BACKGROUND

While the entire world is facing the COVID-19 global pandemic and countries are preparing emergency response measures and stimulus packages, the NDC Partnership is identifying ways to support its member countries in developing climate-compatible responses in line with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The NDC Partnership is providing Antigua and Barbuda and other countries with a special COVID-19 service offering, in the form of an Economic Advisor embedded in the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance, to support the country on the proposed scope of work outlined below.

The work of the Economic Advisor will also complement the work undertaken by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda’s Economic Recovery Commission (ERC). The ERC was recently established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It comprises public-private stakeholders, who advise the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda on the long-term economic recovery of Antigua and Barbuda, including avenues to stimulate development and create jobs.

The placement of the advisor would be proposed for a period of 4.5 months, and modalities can be adjusted based on country context and the government’s guidance.

Analyzing countries’ first wave of planned fiscal responses to COVID-19, countries are looking at tax instruments, safety net instruments, lending instruments, and special instruments. For the ongoing climate change response, the following three emerging messages can be considered:

- A short-term disaster relief response comes with opportunities for a low-carbon future
- Climate spending will be hit hard in the short term, but health spending can provide climate and economic co-benefits
- Embedding climate considerations within the first wave of economic recovery is important to keep up the momentum

Through special economic advisors supported by the NDC Partnership, countries can receive the support they need to incorporate these considerations into their COVID-19 response. Advisors are ideally local experts based in-country, however, given the current circumstances of primarily working virtually, international advisors are another option for governments’ consideration.
SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

The Economic Advisor's functions will be country-specific given the unique set of circumstances and priorities in Antigua and Barbuda. The advisor will be embedded in the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance and support the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in:

Medium Term Development Planning
- Supporting the Ministry’s Macro Fiscal Team with preparing the draft Medium Term Development Strategy for the period 2022 – 2026
- Leading preparation of the development of low-carbon and climate resilient sections of the Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS) and a monitoring framework
- Contributing to development of appropriate reporting and monitoring framework
- Aligning individual project monitoring frameworks with the medium term development strategy (MTDS)
- Ensuring the MTDS incorporates the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Drafting of the MTDS

Training and Capacity Development
- Conducting a training needs analysis and providing recommendations for improvements
- Building the capacity of the members of the Macro-Fiscal Team and other local ministry staff through trainings as well as mentor junior staff and experts
- Developing a training and capacity building plan based on the training needs assessment
- Conducting training for the duration of the contract

Deliverables

The economic advisor will provide support to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for 4.5 months, from 1 August 2021 to 15 December 2021.

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<tr>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review of the Medium Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF) and Medium Term Fiscal Strategy</td>
<td>1 September 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training needs analysis with recommendations for improvements and a capacity building plan</td>
<td>10 September 2021</td>
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<td>First training conducted for the Macro-Fiscal Team and other local ministry staff</td>
<td>30 September 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>First drafts of the low-carbon and climate resilient sections of the MTDS, ensuring the incorporation of the SDGs and NDC implementation plan</td>
<td>15 October 2021</td>
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<td>Draft climate and low-carbon sections of the reporting and monitoring framework, in alignment with relevant project monitoring frameworks and the MTDS</td>
<td>15 November 2021</td>
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INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND REPORTING

The advisor will be contracted for a period of 4.5 months. For the duration of the contract, the Economic Planning Advisor shall be primarily assigned to work the Ministry of Finance under the guidance and supervision of the Debt Manager and have day to day contact with the Head and members of the Macro Fiscal Team. The advisor will also collaborate directly with the Project Manager within the Ministry’s Project Management Unit. The Economic Advisor shall collaborate with the Climate Finance Analyst and the Project Management Consultant in the execution of his or her duties and responsibilities. The Advisor shall work closely with the Department of Environment – the focal agency for the NDC enhancement – other relevant government agencies, statutory bodies as well as liaise with the development partners and other key stakeholders.

The Economic Advisor will be given access to relevant information necessary for execution of the tasks under his or her assignment. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda will facilitate the arrangement of any requirements for the temporary work status in St. John’s, if necessary.

Duration of contract

The Consultant shall be engaged for a period of 4.5 months, from 1 August to 15 December 2021.

Qualifications and experience

- An advanced science degree (MSc and above) in a subject related to environmental management
- A minimum of 10 years of relevant experience in the field of climate change
- Familiarity with the Paris Agreement and NDC process
- Familiarity with the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Demonstrated successful leadership in the design and execution of projects related to the field of climate change
- Strong background in macro/micro-economics, finance or financial modeling, development policy
- Training and experience in preparing and delivering a MTDS
- Good understanding of Antigua and Barbuda’s environment and development issues as well as national obligations towards the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
• Experience with project development and project management, particularly for the Green Climate Fund resiliency
• Experience with data collection
• Experience with the Green Climate Fund and developing Green Climate Fund proposals and projects would be an asset

Application information

Candidates who fulfill the requirements are invited to submit the following documents:

• Curriculum vitae (CV)
• Financial proposal that includes your daily rate in either USD/day or USD/hour

Proposals should be submitted to econadvisors@ndcpartnership.org, with the subject line “Economic Advisor – Antigua and Barbuda”, no later than 9 July 2021, 17.00h EST.