

Terms of Reference

External collaborator to develop sectoral policy briefs for the Responsible Supply Chains in Asia (RSCA) Programme

Background

The "Responsible Supply Chains in Asia" (RSCA) programme (RAS/16/13/EUR) is a programme developed by the European Union together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The programme promotes corporate social responsibility (CSR) / responsible business conduct (RBC) with regard to the environment, decent work and the respect of human rights.

This initiative is a part of the EU's long-standing commitment to promote human rights, decent work and sustainable development, a pledge underpinned by the EU Treaties and reinforced in the European Commission's trade policy strategy of 2015 "Trade for All". It falls in particular under the Commission's commitment to identify opportunities for responsible supply chain partnerships and the EU's strategic approach to responsible business conduct, which is based on internationally agreed principles and guidelines. It will also contribute to the EU strategic approach to CSR/RBC as put forward in the Commission 2011 Communication "A renewed EU strategy 2011-14 for Corporate Social Responsibility."

The four-year programme (2018-2021), carried out in collaboration with Japan, China, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, has two broad objectives to:

- promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by ensuring that investors and businesses have a better understanding of corporate social responsibility;
- create policy environments conducive to promoting responsible business conduct and increased opportunities for dialogue

The RSCA programme takes a multi-faceted approach to respecting human rights and labour standards, as well as promoting environmental sustainability. This approach is anchored in internationally agreed principles and guidelines on corporate responsibility, within the framework of the ILO's Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration). The programme has accordingly undertaken sectoral assessments in each of the 6 target countries under the project to map the employment and labour situation, identify causes of decent work challenges and explore/propose possible solutions within and beyond supply chains for addressing the challenges. The five thematic areas of the MNE Declaration were used as the reference framework for these sectoral assessments, namely employment, training, conditions of work and life and industrial relations as well as general policies.

Based on the validated findings of these studies, as well as recommendations on the way forward, and the most recent ILO COVID-19 resource materials, the sectoral briefs will:

- i) Present the global decent work challenges facing each sector complemented with a brief assessment of the COVID-19 related impact on the sector;
- ii) Highlight country-level opportunities and challenges for generating decent work in this supply chain as identified in the study,
- iii) Put forward tripartite-validated recommendations on the way forward to address decent work challenges as well as key take-aways from the country-level/sectoral dialogues.
- iv) Include boxes on employment and labour statistics, national initiatives that advance the labour dimension of CSR/RBC, and ILO resource materials on the promotion of the ILO MNE Declaration.

The sectoral policy briefs are meant to serve as forward-looking thematic tools that provide pointers for ‘building back better’ by advancing decent work in COVID-19 recovery. They will serve as practical tools for further outreach and dialogue in the countries under the project aimed at enhancing tripartite-plus action for more and better jobs.

In addition, the briefs will be instrumental to the programme’s advocacy activities, and continue the engagement of relevant partners in the field of the labour dimension of RBC/CSR.

Objective and scope of the assignment

The objective of the assignment is to develop policy briefs for the sectors targeted by the RSCA Programme in the six countries where the Programme is active and also for the regional context of the supply chains in Asia. The briefs will encapsulate insights developed in the context of the four-year programme and formulate recommendations to continue to inform social dialogues and influence policy at the sectoral and national level.

Country/focus

A total of 12 sectoral policy briefs will be developed, following the RSCA project set-up.

- **China:** 2 briefs - electronics, textiles
- **Japan:** 2 briefs – auto-parts, electronics
- **Myanmar:** 2 briefs – agriculture, fishing
- **Philippines:** 1 brief – agriculture
- **Thailand:** 2 briefs – agriculture, auto-parts
- **Viet Nam:** 2 briefs – seafood processing, wood processing
- **Regional:** 1 brief – regional context of supply chains in Asia

The policy briefs for Japan and Myanmar will also integrate findings and recommendations from the CSR/RBC mapping (outputs from activities JPN A.4, MMR A.4 respectively)

In order to develop the briefs, the consultant will be required to conduct secondary research (desk reviews of project documents, technical papers, workshop outcomes, internet research and others), and primary research (interviews with up to 2 sources from partners/stakeholders). The interviewees will also include the National Project Coordinators, specialists from the ILO regionally and at the country level as well as senior management where relevant and partners/stakeholders (for example tripartite constituents, academics, project partners, social partners, and policy-makers).

The consultant will be responsible to ensure that the policy briefs are anchored within the recommendations of the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration) and developed according to the following structure:

Structure/design layout

All 12 policy briefs will use the same structure. Each product will be 8-pages long, including boxes and photos. The new ILO branding will be used for design-layout. Structure and estimated text length of each section as follows:

Section 1: Global decent work challenges facing each sector (max 1 page)

Providing an overview of key employment and labour trends from pre-COVID times followed by a highlight of the COVID-19 impact drawing on existing ILO sectoral briefs. Present available statistics.

Section 2: Country-level opportunities and challenges for generating decent work (max 1.5 pages)

Presenting key employment and labour issues following the five topical areas of the ILO MNE Declaration, drawing principally from the findings of the RSCA study conducted.

Section 3: The way forward (max 1 page)

Capturing key take-aways from country level tripartite and tripartite-plus dialogues and sectoral roundtables, highlighting the respective roles of the tripartite constituents as well as sectoral associations as well as agreed priority areas for joint action. To the extent relevant, refer to the roles of MNEs in the home/host countries through cross-border social dialogue and introduce replicable models of action at the enterprise, sectoral, national, and international levels.

- Box 1: Decent work at-a-glance (1/2 page)
- Box 2: CSR/RBC initiatives advancing decent work (1/2 page)
- Box 3: ILO MNE Declaration in a nutshell (1/2 page text)

- Box 4: ILO resource materials (1 page in design layout)
- Information about the RSCA programme (max1/2 page with logos)

Expected outputs

The outputs of this consultancy are:

- Output 1: The first draft of the two policy briefs for Thailand - agriculture and automotive sectors.
- Output 2: The first draft of policy briefs for the other 10 sectors as identified in the “objective and scope of the assignment” section of these ToR.
- Output 3: Final revised version of all the 12 policy briefs incorporating technical feedback and comments from ILO.

Duration and payment schedule

The total contract duration is from 21 September 2021 – 8 December 2021.

The payment schedule is as follows:

- First payment of 20% after submission of Output 1 to the satisfaction of RSCA Programme;
- Second payment of 40% after submission of Output 2 to the satisfaction of RSCA Programme;
- Final payment of 40% after submission of all outputs to the satisfaction of RSCA Programme.

Interested individuals or companies are invited to send CV or profile of companies, previous work samples and proposed fee, with break down cost, to RSCA@ilo.org and mokkhasen@ilo.org