Terms of reference for a consultant to update the UN-Water Policy brief

on water and climate change

final 14 December 2018

Background:

Climate change is heavily affecting water resources. Already today, many basins around the world suffer from impacts of climate variability and change. Numerous United Nations agencies and partners are therefore working on water and climate change issues. UN-Water, therefore, created a Task Force (now expert group) on Water and Climate in 2009, which is currently co-led by WMO, UNESCO and UNECE.

The first activity of the Task Force in 2009 was the preparation of a Policy Brief on water and climate, published in 2010, as well as a complimentary one-pager with main messages. It represented the main and only common view/position on water and climate change by UN-Water members and partners at that stage.

However, since 2010, the climate change discussion has significantly advanced in terms of attention to the topic, information about expected impacts and vulnerabilities, legal and policy frameworks at national and international levels such as the Paris Agreement, the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction etc. Furthermore, the recent release of IPCC 1.5 report (SR15) and upcoming launches of IPCC special reports expected in 2019, such as the Special Report on Climate Change and Land and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, will provide further scientific evidence and offer a unique opportunity to update and re-position the issues that should be addressed by the Policy Brief on water and climate. It has, therefore, been decided to update the UN-Water policy brief on water and climate by mid-2019 for use at the 3rd High-level Political Forum in July 2019, which will be reviewing SDG 13 on climate action; the Climate Summit foreseen in September 2019 in conjunction with the HLPF meeting under the auspices of the UNGA; the 25th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties; and the World Water Day in 2020 focused on water and climate. The draft should therefore be prepared by May 2019.

The updated policy brief should be short (max 10 pages), solutions-oriented, relevant for policy-makers and for negotiators outside the water sector, namely the climate negotiators, in line with but complementary to the 2020 World Water Development Report on water and climate change, currently being prepared by the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) on behalf of UN-Water.

This work is carried out under the UN-water expert group on water and climate change, coordinated by WMO, UNECE and UNESCO.

Consultant tasks:

The consultant is requested to prepare a new version of the policy brief with a summary of main messages. This involves the following tasks:

- Review the past paper and relevant policy, legal and scientific developments since its publication;
- Review key messages, including policy recommendations relevant for Water and Climate from recent scientific literature, including IPCC special reports;

- Prepare key messages based on the evidence provided in recent publications namely modelling results as well as empirical evidence, tools methodologies and experiences , to identify risk and uncertainty of climatic projections along the lines of the global commitments;
- Propose a new annotated table of contents of the policy brief and the one-pager for comments by the Expert Group;
- Once the annotated table of contents is agreed on, draft the full new policy brief;
- Integrate comments from the expert group in consultation with the co-coordinators;
- Prepare final version;
- Throughout the process: organize and participate in phone conferences and meetings with the expert group and coordinators, as appropriate.

Terms of the assignment:

20-25 days, between January and June 2019, contract by WMO on behalf of UN-Water.

Requirements:

- Advanced university degree in environment, natural sciences, political science, law, economics, or related discipline. A Ph.D would be an advantage
- At least 5 years of experience at the international level in water, environment or climate change areas
- Ability to translate scientific findings in to key policy messages and recommendations
- Knowledge of issues related to climate change and water, in particular the negotiations in the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Excellent drafting skills in English, “diplomatic” skills/experience with intergovernmental/ multi-stakeholder processes
- Experience in or with United Nations agencies, UN-water and their activities on water and climate is an asset

Application modalities:

Candidates should send their CV and motivation letter by email to a.mishra@unesco.org and Sonja.koeppel@un.org before **18 December 2018**.

The selection process may include an interview by phone.