

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Consultancy for Comparative Study on Political Party Regulation with a Focus on Gender Inclusion – Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Malawi

WYDE | Political Parties Project

1. Background

The Women and Youth in Democracy Engagement (WYDE) is a project funded by the European Union and implemented by the European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) consortium. It aims to promote inclusive democratic participation by strengthening the representation and leadership of women and youth in politics. Under the ENoP consortium the Christian Democratic International Centre (KIC) is implementing the programme in East Africa.

The following ToR pertain to activity A 1.1 of the log frame of the programme i.e., *conducting operations to improve the framework conditions for political parties such as national political party legislation, regulatory bodies, or funding*¹. The focus in this assignment is on improving the framework of the regulatory bodies also referred to as the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) in three countries. These include Kenya, Sierra Leone and Malawi. In line with this, a study is planned to examine the regulatory frameworks of Kenya, Sierra Leone and Malawi which would serve as foundational document for the collaboration between the three counter parts.

The ORPP's of the three countries are at different stages of operationalisation. The Kenyan ORPP is well established and has played a leading role in promoting gender-sensitive reforms and public financing schemes to improve inclusivity. Malawi is in the process of setting up the regulatory body and as an emerging institution has shown interest in finding ways of sharing knowledge, collaborating, and harnessing best practices. Similarly, the Political Parties Regulatory Commission of Sierra Leone has expressed that a collaborative framework will enhance political governance across the countries by promoting best practices, knowledge exchange, and harmonized regulatory standards². This study will therefore directly support such efforts by generating actionable insights, comparative data, and best practices.

¹ Refer to Activity A.1.1 in the attached Activity Matrix.

² The ORPP Kenya has established contact with the two counter parts from Malawi and Sierra Leone who have expressed their interest to be part of this initiative.

2. Objective of the Assignment

The objective of the assignment is to conduct a comparative legal and institutional analysis of the ORPPs in Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Malawi, with a strong focus on mechanisms that enhance the inclusion of women and youth in political parties of these three countries. The study will inform national political party regulators with recommendations to strengthen legal frameworks, funding models, institutional oversight on gender and youth inclusion and sharing of best practices when it comes to supporting women and youth within political parties.

Furthermore, the Kenyan ORPP is spearheading the formation of the Africa Association of Political Parties Regulatory Authorities (AAPRA). The study will therefore also serve as a foundational document for that initiative highlighting what are the common areas that three ORPPs can jointly work on to support the inclusion of women and youth in political parties. The focus of the study therefore should not be on the historical differences but more on operative clauses and recommendations on collaboration between the three countries and support to women and youth.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant will:

1. Conduct a comparative analysis of political party regulation laws and policies in Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Malawi.
2. Examine the mandates and roles of political party regulatory bodies in each country.
3. Identify existing or emerging frameworks that promote gender and youth inclusion particularly during election process and nominations.
4. Assess gaps and barriers in law and practice affecting participation of women and youth.
5. Provide a mapping of inter-agency collaboration potential relevant to AAPRA formation.
6. Propose evidence-based recommendations and a draft framework for regulatory reform.
7. Engage in person and virtually with key stakeholders to validate findings.
8. Facilitate the first in person meeting of the three ORPPs and present the findings of the report in an engaging and participatory manner.

4. Deliverables

- Inception Report including workplan, methodology, country-specific desk research strategy.
- Three Country Briefs, summary of regulatory contexts and inclusion practices.
- Comparative Report with full analysis of frameworks, gaps, and sharing of good practices including policy recommendations brief actionable proposals for each regulatory body.
- Recommendations on areas of cooperation between the three regulatory bodies.
- A final power point presentation of the findings.

5. RESEARCH METHODS

A mixed approach of reviewing the relevant documents, interviewing key officials such as the registrars of the ORPPs, political party heads, and representatives of youth / women leagues (when relevant) shall be employed. The idea here is to have a triangulation of data to assess the effectivity of the existing framework and to give recommendations for future collaborations.

6. Duration and Timeline

The assignment is expected to last 10 weeks from the time of signing the contract. The methodology, data collection, and research questions shall be shared in advance with KIC and relevant stakeholders for input and approval. The expected timeline is between July-September 2025 with end of August as a tentative deadline for the draft finding.

7. Consultant Profile

- Advanced degree in Law, Political Science, Gender Studies, or related fields.
- Experience in democratic governance and or political party law.
- Understanding of gender mainstreaming and electoral law in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Experience working with regulatory institutions in Africa preferred.
- Excellent analytical and writing skills.

8. Reporting and Coordination

- The consultant will report to the KIC | Programme Manager.
- Coordinate with the three ORPPs.

9. Application Requirements

Interested applicants should submit:

- A technical proposal outlining their approach and methodology.
- A financial proposal including daily rate and estimated total budget.
- Curriculum Vitae and 2 examples of comparable work.

10- Application Deadline

Interested applicants should send their application not later than 8th of July 2025.

Send your applications to: omer@kicsweden.org



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