CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Consultancy Vacancy for the

Evaluation of the Ethical Fashion Initiative

Background: The Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) of the International Trade Centre (ITC) plans to conduct an evaluation of the ITC ‘Ethical Fashion Initiative’ (EFI). The purpose of this call for expression of interest is to identify a qualified evaluation consultant to conduct this programme evaluation. Therefore, individuals (or teams of consultants) are invited to apply for this assignment.

The main evaluation process, including the preparation of the evaluation, designing the approach, data collection, report writing and communication, is expected to take place in the timeframe from September 2023 to March 2024.

Description and context of the programme: The ITC ‘Ethical Fashion Initiative’ (EFI) aims to enable poor workers in marginalized communities in developing countries to take advantage of the opportunities of globalization and reap the benefits of the highly profitable and competitive international fashion market. The initiative contributes directly to ITC’s mission of fostering inclusive and sustainable growth and development through trade and international business development.

EFI works at five levels: with fashion brands; educational institutions, governments and regulators, cooperatives and social enterprises; and marginalized workers and artisans. EFI mobilizes these different actors to create an ecosystem that provides access to capacity building, finance, product design, and development services to artisans and emerging brands. The organization works closely with local and international trade partners, including fashion brands and distributors, to offer skills training, mentorship programs, and market access. This evaluation takes place at a transition moment where EFI is willing to consolidate its network of Social Enterprises into an autonomous and sustainable commercial and development system. Its business model is deployed through three components:

- Build and expand sustainable supply chains that are managed by social enterprises. Create jobs for women and youth and invest in human capital.
- Accelerate emerging fashion and creative businesses. Help young creatives in green and circular economy production models. Connect them to EFI supply chains for production and to investors for investment.
- Manage environmental, social, and corporate governance standards and human rights due diligence in all supply chain processes. Promote the development and use of these standards through corporate sustainability reporting and at UN-wide level.

Main objectives and scope of the evaluation: In particular, the evaluation is supposed to:

- Describe EFI’s value and impact, during its different historical stages.
- Assess the quality of the initiative to date and the extent to which intended goals have been achieved.
- Assess adaptation to the changed circumstances caused by the multiple challenges, in particular since 2020.
- Provide lessons learned, examples of good practice or transferable findings that may benefit future activities.
- Provide recommendations for the current transition phase towards the consolidation of a green and inclusive international fashion ecosystem and its transfer to beneficiaries and the private sector.

The evaluation will encompass all activities in the EFI portfolio over the last 14 years (2010-2023).

Application process: To apply, please send your expression of interest to evaluation@intracen.org, with a copy to mfarag@intracen.org, indicating in the title ‘EOI for EFI Evaluation’. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview.

The application should include an updated CV and 2-3 exemplary reports of evaluations conducted. In addition, applicants are encouraged to address the following questions in their cover letter:

- Why are you interested in this evaluation?
- What expertise and experience do you have that qualifies you for this specific evaluation?
- What are the daily rates that would apply?

The terms of reference for this consultancy are attached in the annex of this document.

--- The closing date for this call is 10 September 2023
**ANNEX**

**Terms of Reference**

**Evaluation Consultant**

**Assignment title:** Evaluation of the ITC ‘Ethical Fashion Initiative’

**Vacancy job title:** Evaluation Consultant

**Duty station:** Home-based

**Travel:** Possibly once to Geneva and/or to other destinations for case studies

**Total workdays:** about 50-60 days, from September 2023 to March 2024

**Background**

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization for trade-related technical cooperation in developing countries. The Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) of ITC seeks an evaluation consultant, with proven experience in evaluation, trade and development, as well as in marginalized communities and informal workers dimensions and approaches in the aforementioned areas, to design and conduct the evaluation of ITC’s ‘Ethical Fashion Initiative’.

**Duties and responsibilities**

The evaluation consultant will work under the supervision of ITC’s Head of the Independent Evaluation Unit, OED/SPPG.

The consultant will be responsible for the delivery of the outputs as set out below:

- **Preparation and inception phase:** conduct a desk review and additional exploratory data collection as needed to prepare the evaluation; design the evaluation approach, data collection instruments, and prepare a draft inception report; revise the inception report based on comments received.

  The inception report should include (i) an initial analysis based on data collected and reviewed, including key issues to be assessed by the evaluation and likely data gaps, and (ii) the envisaged evaluation approach including the design, data collection methods and foreseen indicators to measure performance and results, the evaluation matrix and the suggested timeline for the evaluation.

  (approx. 15 days)

  **Main deliverable:** draft inception report

- **Data collection and analysis:** conduct interviews with different stakeholders of the programme and use other data collection methods, which may include case studies (possibly with country visits), a survey and/or other means of data collection; prepare a synthesis paper summarizing findings from interviews, case study and/or survey results. Possibly prepare and carry out a validation workshop with key stakeholders to discuss main findings.

  (approx. 20 days)

  **Main deliverable:** synthesis paper
• **Report drafting:** prepare an outline of the evaluation report, indicating the report structure and key inputs to be integrated; prepare a draft evaluation report based on the findings from data collection and analysis (and possibly the feedback from the validation workshop).
  (approx. 20 days)
  **Main deliverable:** draft evaluation report

• **Finalization and dissemination:** Revise the draft report based on comments received; document how comments have been addressed; prepare a draft communication product that highlights the most significant learning points generated by the evaluation, and a presentation to be delivered to key stakeholders.
  (approx. 5 days)
  **Main deliverables:** revised evaluation report;
  audit trail addressing comments;
  draft communication products

**Required profile**

**Education**

• Advanced university degree in economics, social science, international trade, business administration, development studies, or other related areas

**Experience and skills**

• Minimum of eight years’ experience in conducting evaluations, including experience in evaluating activities in the area of development cooperation;

• Experience in the area of trade and development is required; specific experience related to marginalized communities and informal workers development measures and/or evaluation approaches is highly desirable;

• Knowledge of the international sustainable and ethical fashion market is an asset;

• Work experience with UN agencies or international organizations is an asset;

• In-depth knowledge of qualitative and quantitative data collection and analytical methods;

• Knowledge of UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation, the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation and the Guidance Document on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations is desirable;

• Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to communicate clearly and effectively with stakeholders from different backgrounds; and

• Excellent report writing skills, being able to write clear and concise analytical reports.

**Languages**

• Proficiency in English. Working knowledge of other ITC/UN official languages is an advantage (in particular French and/or Russian)