**China Scholarship Council (CSC) INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME**

**TERMS oF reference**

**I. Identification of the post**

**Title:** **Blue Economy and Youth Intern**

**Sectors of assignment:** Economic Transformation, Sustainable Development, Resources Mobilisation and Youth Empowerment

**Organizational unit:** Strategic and Policy Unit

**Country/Duty Station:** Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

**Fellowship duration:** 9 months

**Expected starting date:** May 2023

**Supervisor’s name:** Micha Bengobesaman, Ramón

**Supervisor’s title:** National Economist for UNDP CO of Equatorial Guinea

**II. CORPORATE BACKGROUND:**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the United Nations' global development network, working in about 170 countries and territories and helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion and build resilience so countries can sustain progress. As the largest UN agency fully specialized in development, UNDP plays a critical and integrating role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In the last years, UNDP's focus on inclusive economic development has been accorded enhanced prominence. Equally, its focus has further shifted to supporting the least developed and more fragile states, particularly in crisis prevention and early recovery, economic transformation, enhance sustainability and resilience, especially in the context of climate change, bringing innovative solutions and partnerships that enable the emergence of social change in civil society, capacity development and employment opportunities for youth. Additionally, UNDP annually publishes the Human Development Report. The recommendations and findings presented in this report often find expression in development strategies.

UNDP promotes technical and investment cooperation among nations and advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people, with a particular focus on women and youth, build a better life for themselves. The UNDP provides expert advice, training and grants support to developing countries, with increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries. UNDP works with nations on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and its wide range of partners.

**III. COUNRY OFFICE BACKGROUND:**

Even before being affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, Equatorial Guinea has been and remains characterized by a socio-economic context that is fragile and extremely challenging in terms of development pathways to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the early 2000s, Equatorial Guinea experienced significant economic growth driven by oil and gas production. This favoured public investment in large socioeconomic infrastructures, as well as stability in public finances with low debt levels. Since the discovery of hydrocarbons and their exploitation in the 1990s, the country has been heavily dependent on oil, to the detriment of agriculture, the sector that sustained the country's economy before the oil era. Until 2019, more than 80% of budget revenues came from this sector. However, the reserves created during the economic boom were not enough to face the oil price shock in 2014. Public debt increased significantly (from 8.7% of GDP in 2014 to 40.8% during the period 2014-20191), there was negative economic growth in the period 2013-2019 (-9% in 2015-2016) and real GDP declined by% between 2014 and 2019 according to the IMF.

In addition, the banking sector was affected with a large amount of non-performing loans linked to government arrears. Equatorial Guinea benefited from an IMF-supervised program (Staff Monitored Program, PMP) between January and July 2018 to carry out budget adjustments and structural reforms (governance, anti-corruption and economic diversification). Although, according to the IMF the program had delays, its performance was considered satisfactory. Additionally, in 2019, the country had access to an Extended Credit Facility for 205 million Special Drawing Rights (approx. $282.8 million) for three years. Equatorial Guinea is already embarking on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Development Plan, in which the diversification of its economy must be an imperative in order to ensure a prosperous and sustainable society over time and where youth empowerment generates a comprehensive change towards an economic model that respects our oceans and ecosystems.

**III. DUTIES:**

Under the overall responsibility of the UNDP National Economist, the Intern will work closely with the Youth Engagement Assistant and the Senior Economist to actively engage and empower youth across the country to accelerate SDGs mainstreaming, as well as facilitate youth participation in decision-making to harness Equatorial Guinea’s biodiversity and marine resources sustainably and innovatively.

Recognising youth as emerging champions for the revolution in the fisheries, tourism, transport, energy, biotechnology or underwater mining sectors, the Blue Economy and Youth Intern will contribute to making a positive difference by addressing the abovementioned challenges through social transformation and mobilising a network of committed young leaders to equip them with the tools to act in their communities by raising SDG awareness and building entrepreneurship expertise within the blue economy sector.

With UNDP's network of partners dedicated to youth empowerment and the mission to leave no one behind, the Intern will help the Strategic Policy Unit to target and empower the most vulnerable groups using a train-the-trainer approach, equipping young Equatoguineans with 21st century skills and practical knowledge on SDGs and their cross-cutting themes for the protection and preservation of the oceans, reduction of plastics and microplastics in marine ecosystems or project management and ecosystem-based small and medium enterprises, among others.

The Intern will also help to boost the political, social and economic empowerment of young people through the action of UNDP’s Malabo Youth Centre as a safe, inclusive and enabling environment for youth participation and civic engagement, especially for women and marginalised groups, with the aim of strengthening technical skills, entrepreneurship and knowledge development to build a network of young ambassadors representing Equatorial Guinea at major United Nations and other international events such as Conferences, Summits or High Level Blue Economy and Youth Events.

Finally, the Intern will support the visibility of UNDP's contributions to national policy dialogue through advocacy initiatives led by Equatoguinean youth as a powerful driver for social transformation and the implementation of the blue economy agenda, both with the government, the UN family and other development partners. This will be done through data analysis and policy-oriented research, the conceptualisation and design of innovative programmes and policies, the creation of strategic partnerships at local and international levels, and the identification and creation of opportunities for resource mobilisation.

| **No** | **Duties and responsibilities** | **% of time** |
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| 1 | **Contribute to strategic research and dialogue of selected issues to engage and empower youth in decision-making to harness Equatorial Guinea’s biodiversity and marine resources through innovative solutions:**  Specific tasks required:   * Collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data on economic transformation and diversification, blue economy, regional integration, innovative financing, youth empowerment and social inclusion. * Review of relevant studies and other useful information to develop projects and awareness raising activities on protection and preservation of the oceans, reduction of plastics and microplastics in marine ecosystems or project management and ecosystem-based small and medium enterprises and other relevant topics. * Contribute to the drafting of specific sections of studies/reports/concept notes and proposals on the role of youth in the development of strategies for economic diversification and the blue economy. * Substantively engage with the supervisor and colleagues on key development issues of Equatorial Guinea. | **30%** |
| 2 | **Contribute to UNDP’s integrator role in advancing the SDG agenda at national level, especially in the design and implementation of youth-led initiatives and projects in the context of post-Covid19 recovery phase:**  Specific tasks required:   * Assist in the design, organisation and implementation of workshops, conferences, seminars, round tables, projects and other dialogue events on awareness raising, training of trainers, entrepreneurship, knowledge management and capacity building on blue economy and seaport support related topics. * Actively participate and contribute to the design, organisation and implementation of workshops, conferences, seminars, round tables, projects and activities to promote opportunities for youth participation in the blue economy sector and the dissemination of the SDGs hosted at UNDP’s Youth Centre. | **30%** |
| 3 | **Contribute to enlarge and deepen partnerships and increase resources mobilisation for youth-led and youth-targeted initiatives to facilitate job, skills and entrepreneurship opportunities in the blue economy and economic diversification sectors:**  Specific tasks required:   * Undertake partners and donors mapping and intelligence, searching for relevant data and information on youth empowerment, blue economy and economic diversification, among others. * Contribute to prepare Concept Notes and MoU for resources mobilisation and partnerships. * Contribute to prepare and make presentations to present UNDP and the Youth Centre's action in the field, including through the use of visual art, infographics and other innovative formats. | **30%** |
| 4 | **Personal development and learning**   * Undertake all the UNDP compulsory courses. * Deepen the knowledge on youth participation, economic transformation and diversification, blue economy, regional integration, innovative financing, or any other relevant area of interest through courses, seminars, tutorials and other learning tools. | **10%** |

**IV. REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

**Education:**

Candidates must meet one of the following educational requirements:

* Hold at master’s degree or higher degree/qualification in economics and/or development studies with specialization in development, macroeconomics and/ or econometrics, statistics, environment, sociology, anthropology or another related field.
* 1 year experience in the same academic fields, possibly working at policy level in a development or academic/think tank entity
* Any experience in event organization and activity coordination addressed to young audiences would be an advantage.

**IT skills:**

* Knowledge and a proficient user of Microsoft Office productivity tools.
* Some quantitative skills and/or knowledge of using some econometric tools for analyzing data would be an advantage.
* Ability to process and present data in innovative and appealing visual forms, using infographics, power points and other similar format would be an advantage

**Language skills:**

* English is required.
* Knowledge of Spanish, French or Portuguese is an advantage.

**Other competencies and attitude:**

* Interest and motivation in working in an international organization.
* Good analytical skills in gathering and consolidating data and research for practical implementation.
* Outgoing and initiative-taking person with a goal-oriented mind-set.
* Communicates effectively when working in teams and independently.
* Good in organizing and structuring various tasks and responsibilities.
* Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.
* Responds positively to feedback and differing points of view.
* Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude.