TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS

Consultancy Title	**Duty Station**
Global Roster of Climate Innovation and Technology Experts	Global (remote)

Purpose of Activity/Assignment:

UNICEF is scaling up efforts to protect children from the increasing impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters. Guided by the UNICEF Strategic Plan (2026–2029) and the Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan (SCAP) 2023–2030, UNICEF works across all sectors—WASH, health, education, nutrition, social protection and child protection—to build climate resilience, reduce risks, and advance sustainable development for every child.

Under Strategic Plan Impact Area 5, UNICEF aims to ensure 500 million children are better protected from disasters and climate and environmental risks, including:

• 300 million children benefiting from climate-resilient water, sanitation, health and education infrastructure and services.

• 200 million children reached by solutions that reduce risks from climate and environmental hazards.

As UNICEF's ambition and demand for climate innovation and technology support continue to grow, there is an increasing need for experts at various levels who can be quickly mobilized to support a wide spectrum of interventions. These include climate-smart technologies, digital tools, environmental sensors, renewable energy systems, early warning and anticipatory action solutions, climate analytics, carbon finance, and market-shaping approaches.

Purpose of the Roster

Country Offices and government partners are requesting more frequent and more specialized assistance—often linked to climate shocks, programme scale-up, innovation pilots, and time-sensitive financing opportunities. Meeting this demand requires flexible, timely and high-quality technical support, delivered in close collaboration with the Climate Resilience Centre of Excellence, the Office of Innovation, UNICEF country and regional offices, other programme divisions, and external partners.

To meet this growing need, UNICEF is establishing a **Global Roster of Climate Innovation & Technology Experts,** which will serve as a stand-by mechanism to provide UNICEF with rapid access to pre-qualified exerts who can design, assess, pilot and scale innovations that strengthen the climate resilience and continuity of essential services, accelerating results for children in the face of a changing climate. It allows the organization to:

- Scale technical capacity on demand as CO and government requests increase
- Mobilize experts rapidly for time-sensitive programme, innovation or financing needs
- Match the right expertise to specific assignments across sectors and regions
- Strengthen collaboration across the CoE, Office of Innovation, COs, ROs, HQ divisions, and partners
- Ensure high-quality, consistent, and timely technical support

Note

Please note that inclusion in the roster does not imply automatic deployment or guarantee any type of formal engagement with UNICEF. Most assignments will be home-based with possible travel depending on country requirements.

Scope of Work

Under the Global Roster of Climate Innovation & Technology Experts, the thematic areas of work are: Climate Innovation & Technology; Digital Climate & Risk Analytics; Climate Investments, Carbon Finance & Market Shaping; Programme Integration, Policy Support & Capacity Development

Consultants may be classified under different experience tiers across thematic areas, depending on the depth, scope, and relevance of their experience in each specific domain.

A. Thematic Areas and Sub-Areas of Expertise

THEMATIC AREA 1: Climate Innovation & Technology

Design, assessment and scaling of innovations for resilient services

1. Climate-smart technologies for social services (WASH, health, education, nutrition, social protection)
2. Heat-resilient and air-quality-safe school environments
3. Flood- and drought-resilient WASH systems
4. Renewable energy systems (solar, hybrid, storage, mini-grids)
5. Low-carbon and energy-efficient infrastructure
6. DRR and early warning technologies (sensors, alerts, anticipatory action tools)
7. AI, IoT and remote environmental monitoring systems
8. Predictive maintenance for critical infrastructure

THEMATIC AREA 2: Digital Climate & Risk Analytics

Digital intelligence to strengthen risk-informed programming

9. Predictive climate risk modelling and AI/ML forecasting
10. GIS, geospatial analysis and remote sensing
11. Digital DRR and emergency communication platforms
12. Environmental monitoring dashboards (air, water, heat, pollution)
13. Multi-sector data integration architectures
14. Digital tools for service continuity planning

THEMATIC AREA 3: Climate Investments, Carbon Finance & Market Shaping

Financing, scaling and sustaining climate innovations

15. Climate innovation investment cases
16. Financial feasibility and cost–benefit analysis (CBA)
17. Climate finance proposal development (GCF, GEF, AF, bilateral)
18. Market landscape assessments for climate technologies
19. Public–private partnership (PPP) development
20. Carbon market methodologies and MRV system design
21. Carbon credit feasibility and business models

THEMATIC AREA 4: Programme Integration, Policy Support & Capacity Development

22. Integration of technologies and innovations into WASH, health, education, nutrition, DRR and social protection

23. Technical review of programme documents and innovation pilot designs
24. Policy and regulatory support for adaptation, DRR and resilience
25. Evidence-based advocacy materials and communication products
26. Design and delivery of tools, SOPs, guidance and knowledge products
27. Government capacity strengthening and institutional development

B. Application Requirements

To complete the application, applicants must submit the following document:

- A curriculum vitae (CV)
- A cover letter
- A completed Consultant Self-Assessment Form.xlsx indicating relevant thematic areas of expertise (from the sub-areas listed above), level of expertise, supporting evidence, and the proposed daily rate. Please indicate clearly which Area(s) of Expertise you are applying to.
- The names and contact details of three professional references (applications submitted without references will not be considered)

C. Evaluation of Applicants

Only applicants who submit a complete application and meet the minimum eligibility requirements will be considered for further evaluation. Reference checks and academic credential verification will be conducted for shortlisted candidates as part of the selection process.

Applicants accepted onto the roster will be eligible for direct recruitment by UNICEF offices for short-term consultancy assignments over a period of three years. When a need arises, UNICEF offices will contact suitable roster consultants with a specific Terms of Reference outlining the scope and duration of the assignment and will confirm interest, availability, and the applicable fee.

Work Assignment Overview	Indicative Deliverables/ Outputs	Delivery deadline	Estimated Budget and funding information (WBS, fund, grant)
1. Climate Innovation & Technology	• Climate innovation diagnostics for social services (WASH, health, education, nutrition, social protection) • Technical designs and scale-up plans for climate-smart, heat-, flood- and drought-resilient systems • Feasibility studies and deployment plans for renewable energy and low-carbon infrastructure • Design or assessment of DRR and early warning technologies, including anticipatory action tools • Concepts or pilots for AI, IoT, remote monitoring, and predictive maintenance of critical infrastructure	TBD	
2. Digital Climate & Risk Analytics	• Climate and disaster risk analytics reports using predictive modelling and AI/ML • GIS-based multi-hazard risk maps and spatial analyses	TBD	

	• Design or review of digital DRR and emergency communication platforms • Environmental monitoring dashboards (heat, air quality, water, pollution) • Data integration architectures and digital tools for service continuity planning		
3. Climate Investments, Carbon Finance & Market Shaping	• Climate innovation investment cases and scaling strategies • Financial feasibility and cost–benefit analyses (CBA) • Climate finance concept notes and full proposals (e.g. GCF, GEF, AF, bilateral) • Market landscape assessments and PPP models for climate technologies • Carbon market feasibility studies, MRV system designs, and business models	TBD	
4. Programme Integration, Policy Support & Capacity Development	• Frameworks for integrating climate technologies and innovations into sector programmes • Technical reviews of programme documents and innovation pilots • Policy briefs and regulatory support for adaptation, DRR, and resilience • Evidence-based advocacy and communication products • Design and delivery of tools, SOPs, guidance, training, and government capacity-strengthening packages	TBD	

Total estimated consultancy costs[i]			
Minimum Qualifications required*: ☐ Bachelors ☒ Masters ☐ PhD ☐ Other **Enter Disciplines:** Climate science, environmental engineering, renewable energy, data science, innovation management, geospatial science, DRR, or related disciplines.	**Knowledge/Expertise/Skills required *:** **Education** • Advanced university degree (Master's degree or higher) in climate science, environmental engineering, renewable energy, data science, innovation management, geospatial science, DRR, or related disciplines. **Professional Experience** • A minimum of 3 years of relevant professional experience • Demonstrated expertise in at least one thematic area and one sub-area • Experience working in low-resource, climate-vulnerable or fragile settings • Experience working with governments, UN agencies, NGOs or private sector • Strong portfolio of technical products (dashboards, models, reports, pilots, investment cases)		

*Minimum requirements to consider candidates for competitive process	• Excellent communication and coordination skills, with the ability to work independently. **Language Requirements** • Fluency in English required. Proficiency in French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Russian or Mandarin is an asset. *Listed requirements will be used for technical evaluation in the competitive process
A) Technical Evaluation (e.g., maximum 75 Points) • **Educational Background (15)** • **Relevant Professional Experience (30)** Aligned with thematic areas, quality of past assignments. • **Quality of Technical Outputs (15)** Evidence of modelling, prototypes, dashboards, tools, technical products. • **Knowledge/Skills (5)** Innovation expertise, digital tools, climate analytics etc. • **Soft Skills (5)** Communication, coordination, ability to work independently. • **Language Proficiency (5)** English mandatory; additional UN languages add value.	B) Financial Proposal (e.g., maximum of 25 Points) • Financial proposal, including daily rate (25 points)

[i] Costs indicated are estimated. Final rate shall follow the "best value for money" principle, i.e., achieving the desired outcome at the lowest possible fee. Consultants will be asked to stipulate all-inclusive fees, including lump sum travel and subsistence costs, as applicable.

Payment of professional fees will be based on submission of agreed deliverables. UNICEF reserves the right to withhold payment in case the deliverables submitted are not up to the required standard or in case of delays in submitting the deliverables on the part of the consultant.

Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered "staff members" under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and UNICEF's policies and procedures and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultants and individual contractors are responsible for determining their tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.

The selected candidate is solely responsible to ensure that the visa (applicable) and health insurance required to perform the duties of the contract are valid for the entire period of the contract. Selected candidates are subject to confirmation of fully-vaccinated status against SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) with a World Health Organization (WHO)-endorsed vaccine, which must be met prior to taking up the assignment. It does not apply to consultants who will work remotely and are not expected to work

on or visit UNICEF premises, programme delivery locations or directly interact with communities UNICEF works with, nor to travel to perform functions for UNICEF for the duration of their consultancy contracts.

UNICEF offers reasonable accommodation for consultants with disabilities. This may include, for example, accessible software, travel assistance for missions or personal attendants. We encourage you to disclose your disability during your application in case you need reasonable accommodation during the selection process and afterwards in your assignment.