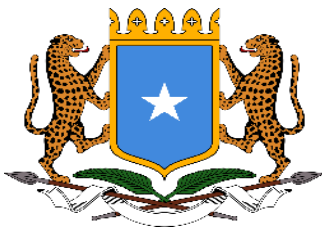


**Terms of Reference**

**For**

**RECRUITMENT OF CONSULTANT FIRM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
NATIONAL QUALITY POLICY**

**July 2023**



## A. Background

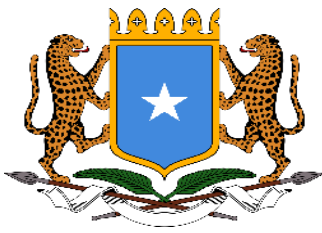
Under the Horn of Africa Initiative, the World Bank is funding the De-Risking, Inclusion and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies Project (DRIVE) and the Somali Bureau of Standards is one of the project beneficiaries. DRIVE Project aims to protect pastoralists against drought shocks, using a package of financial services including drought insurance, payment, savings, and provision of credit funding, and to connect the pastoralists better to markets by upgrading the livestock value chains and facilitating the regional livestock trade. This project is regional, and Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are the participating countries. The development objective of the Project is to enhance de-risking, financial inclusion, and value addition of pastoral economies in the HoA.

The Somali Bureau of Standards (SoBS) is an independent governmental agency under the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry responsible and fully mandated to develop and implement the National standardization mechanisms, metrology, and conformity assessment services (inspection, testing, product, system certification and accreditation) in Somalia. SoBS was established by Law No: 27 of the Standards and Quality Control Act in 2020. The Bureau started its operations and with Headquarter offices in Mogadishu and regional offices in Federal Member States, and significant entry and exit points. SoBS has full membership of Regional & International Standard bodies, including the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), African Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Arab Industrial Development, Standardization and Mining Organization (AIDSMO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and international food standards, guidelines, and codes (CODEX).

## B. Objectives of Assignment

The development of a National Quality Policy for Somalia is a critical step towards improving the country's economic growth, enhancing public health and safety, and promoting consumer protection. Following the establishment of the Somali Bureau of Standards in 2020, the policy will serve as a framework for establishing and coordinating a national quality infrastructure service (NQIS) that promote standardization, accreditation, conformity assessment, and metrology. This policy aims to facilitate international trade by aligning the NQIS with the best practices and requirements of the international quality infrastructure services, thus enhancing the country's export competitiveness. Furthermore, the policy seeks to inculcate a culture of quality both in production and consumption, encouraging stakeholders to prioritize quality in all their operations. To achieve this, the policy will establish a mechanism to monitor and evaluate adherence to quality standards and ensure continuous improvement.

The unique context of Somalia requires a concerted effort towards improving the quality of products and services offered in the country. Somalia's economy is heavily reliant on livestock products, with little value addition. The National Quality Policy will address this by providing guidelines for improving the quality of primary products and enhancing value addition through processing and manufacturing. The policy will also support improving the exports of Somali products to international markets by ensuring compliance with international quality standards, such as those set by the African Union and the World Trade Organization (WTO).



The African Union and the WTO have established guidelines for member countries to develop National Quality Policies. These guidelines outline the principles of standardization, conformity assessment, and metrology, which are critical components of quality infrastructure. The National Quality Policy for Somalia will incorporate these guidelines, ensuring compliance with international best practices. This will, in turn, provide a platform for Somalia to compete effectively in international markets, thereby enhancing the country's economic growth.

Additionally, the National Quality Policy will serve as a roadmap for establishing a quality culture in Somalia, creating awareness and sensitizing stakeholders on the importance of quality. By establishing a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating adherence to quality standards, the policy will ensure continuous improvement, thereby enhancing the quality of products and services offered in the country. This, in turn, will improve consumer confidence and protect public health and safety, as well as enhancing Somalia's reputation in the global market.

To achieve this, a reputable firm with solid experience in national quality infrastructure policy formulation is required to support the Somali Bureau of Standards in developing the policy. The policy development process will follow international best practice and a consultative approach with relevant stakeholders to ensure deep consideration of the local context and country priorities. For Somalia goods and services to be able to access regional and international markets amid increased global competition, it is important that Somalian products and services are considered to be synonymous with high quality and safety and compliance with international regulations and standards. A strengthened NQI has the potential to boost the standing of Somalian goods and services but also to provide an enabling environment for SMEs in managing requirements of local and international markets, thereby boosting rural economies and local markets of Somalia.

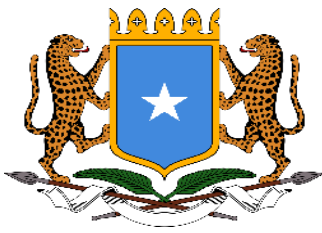
This National Quality Policy will build upon the findings of an NQI assessment that was conducted by the World Bank in 2020 and on previous assessments undertaken by UNIDO and GIZ. The TORs will develop a broader vision for the long-term improvement of the quality function, and defines a precise five-year implementation road map (action plan).

The objective of this assignment is to develop a NQP, including a short-medium-long term implementation plan for Somalia, with the aim of providing strategic and operational direction for the accelerated development of a NQI including, an appropriate technical regulation system. The policy is designed to assist in safeguarding human, animal, and plant health and safety whilst improving the competitiveness of businesses for Somalia firms as they participate in the international trading system.

### **C. Scope of the Assignment**

The assignment will be implemented in three distinct phases:

1. **Inception phase** (due diligence): The firm is expected to conduct a situational analysis to familiarize itself with the DRIVE Project, review of the existing policies in place, the outputs of other similar works or consultancies on national quality infrastructure, Law No: 27 of the Standards and Quality Control Act, WTO, and AU guidelines regarding formulation of National Quality Policies, global and regional trends in quality infrastructure. The firm should



research and consider the private sector's needs for a robust quality infrastructure to boost consumer trust both in the domestic and international market. As part of the inception stage, the firm is required to do a rapid assessment of the gaps in quality infrastructure related to livestock trade with particular focus on meeting international quality standards for livestock products to access international markets.

2. **Implementation phase** (drafting of documents): Based on, inter alia, the findings from the inception phase of this engagement, the firm is expected to prepare initial draft versions of the national quality policy, and an action plan as follows:

- a. **A draft National Quality Policy:** To develop a comprehensive National Quality Policy for Somalia, it is essential to consider the guidelines provided by the World Trade Organization, the African Union, and international and regional standardization bodies such as ISO, ARSO, The International Accreditation Forum (IAF), The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), among others. The critical areas that the policy should address include standardization, conformity assessment, metrology, accreditation, institutional framework, and human and institutional capacity development. The policy should be based on the country's context and priorities, as identified during the inception study, and should aim to promote quality infrastructure development, enhance export competitiveness, improve consumer protection, and protect public health and safety. The policy development process should involve a consultative approach with relevant stakeholders, and the institutional framework should promote coordination and collaboration among stakeholders. Moreover, capacity-building initiatives should accompany the policy to ensure that stakeholders are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to implement the policy effectively.

The National Quality Policy needs to include:

Section 1 describes the current NQI situation in Somalia including:

- National Quality Infrastructure
- Technical Regulation Framework
- Compliance with WTO TBT Agreement, East African Community, AcFTA and related regional obligations
- Gaps analysis

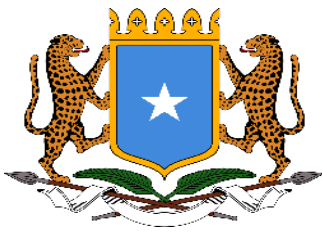
Section 3: develops a Policy Vision/Goal with Policy Objectives and Policy Outcomes

Section 4: the future of Quality infrastructure highlighting issues and opportunities to improve NQI

Section 5: The Technical Regulation Framework

Section 6: Education and Training

Section 7: Role of Stakeholders



- Private Sector
  - Non governmental organizations
  - International Development Partners
  - National TBT Enquiry Point
  - Export promotion

Section 8: International and Regional Liaison

Section 9: Financing the Quality Infrastructure and Technical Regulation Framework:

Government

Conformity assessment

Technical Regulation

Section 10: Legal Framework

Section 11: Implementation

Lead Ministry

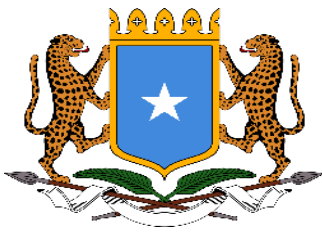
Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee

Implementation Plan Strategy

## **b: Strategic Framework and Implementation**

The consultant will develop how to move forward by establishing the strategic framework for the NQI and prepares the action framework to carry out the strategy including the Plan of Activities. It also indicates the institutional anchoring and how to implement the NQP, together with key factor for successful implementation, as well as an analysis of benefits and expected results and key factors for successful implementation. The draft NQI policy will take into consideration the following:

- (i) will be based on specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound QI objectives;
- (ii) details short, medium and longer-term priorities and strategies for achieving the QI objectives;
- (iii) addresses appropriate arrangements for coordinating the implementation of the NQP;



(iv) recommend the legislative requirements required to support the implementation of the NQP;

(v) recommends capacity building for public and private sector personnel and enterprises to support the development and adoption of standards and quality assessment instruments;

(vi) includes a realistic Implementation Plan and Budget to guide the implementation process.

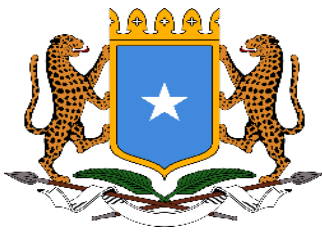
3. **Wide Stakeholder consultation and validation phase:** Stakeholder consultation and concurrence on the consultancy work is critical for building ownership of the document and subsequent adoption of policies. The successful development and implementation of the policy will depend on building consensus among concerned stakeholders, around an agreed platform of realistic priorities. Key stakeholders will be identified and included in the consultation, validation and during the implementation period to promote local ownership at every stage. The firm is expected to support the Somali Bureau of Standards by facilitating a series of consultations with stakeholders. Subsequently the Consultant firm will be expected to support SOBS in holding an interim and final validation workshop with key Ministry officials of the Federal Government of Somalia, Federal Member States and other key stakeholders (MDAs, private sector, civil society bodies, academia and corresponding Bureau of Standards of the HOA DRIVE project etc.) for the national quality policy to both receive feedback and create ownership of the policy and facilitate adoption of implementation plan.

**D. Finalize the National Quality Policy, including the implementation plan and Budget incorporating stakeholder feedback:** the implementation plan for the National Quality Policy should propose policy, institutional, and investment measures that would facilitate regional trade flows in various sectors and industries. This proposed action agenda will focus on areas such as: (i) promoting harmonization of national and sub-regional quality policies affecting manufacturing, services, and trade; (ii) monitoring and eliminating administrative and regulatory barriers to efficient trans-border trade and cooperation in various sectors and industries, ensuring compliance with international quality standards, and fostering a culture of quality in production and consumption. **Firm and Core Team Qualifications**

The selected firm (or consortium of firms) should demonstrate competence and capability to successfully undertake the assignment. The minimum qualification guidelines are enumerated as follows.

- **A minimum of 10 years of relevant experience in quality infrastructure and national policy development**, including in-depth practical experience in standards, certification, metrology, conformity assessment and quality infrastructure priorities for primary production-based economies including livestock and supporting public institutions in developing the national policies using best practice approaches.
- **Familiarity with quality infrastructure priorities of developing countries**, preferably in Sub-Saharan Africa, demonstrated through at least one past assignment in a developing and fragile country.
- **Familiarity with international guidelines on NQP** including WTO TBT Key Principles, AU National Quality Policy Guidelines, and other relevant international guidelines.





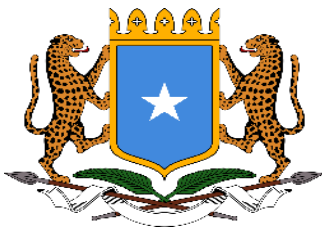
- **Sound knowledge of the linkages between the various components of an NQI and international best practices of NQIs.**
- **Fluency in written and spoken English.**

The Consultant firm should demonstrate the following capacities/skills within its team of key staff of their multi-disciplinary team:

- Quality Infrastructure Expert (Team Leader):** The firm should provide a Team Leader with requisite successful experience of at least 20 years and with a minimum Master of Science degree in a relevant field. This expert should have extensive experience in developing quality infrastructure systems, including standardization, accreditation, conformity assessment, and metrology. The expert will be responsible for ensuring that the policy framework is robust and comprehensive, covering all aspects of quality infrastructure development.
- International Trade and Policy Expert:** This expert should have experience in international trade, including knowledge of the African Union and WTO guidelines on establishing National Quality Policies. They will be responsible for ensuring that the policy aligns with international quality standards, thereby enhancing Somalia's export competitiveness.
- Agro-processing Expert:** This expert should have experience in agro-processing and manufacturing, including value addition to primary products. The expert will be responsible for providing guidance on improving the quality of primary products, particularly livestock products and enhancing value addition through agro-processing and manufacturing.
- Consumer Protection Expert:** This expert should have experience in consumer protection and public health and safety. S/He will be responsible for ensuring that the policy promotes consumer protection and public health and safety, including establishing a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating adherence to quality standards.
- Local consultants:** this expert should be someone who is very informed on Somali affairs as well as someone well informed in the quality infrastructure in general and in the Somali context in particular.

## **E. Reporting Arrangements/Structures**

The consultancy firm will work under the direct supervision of the Director General of Somali Bureau of Standards and coordinate with the Director General of Commerce and Industry as well as with the Director General of Livestock; and shall provide bi-weekly basis progress reports summarizing progress; challenges and presenting any issues that require action from the DRIVE Project. The consultant firm will coordinate with SOBS, the PIU of the DRIVE project and the



World Bank to include inputs from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range, Ministry of Agriculture, and other relevant MDAs since the development of the policy needs to be harmonized and coherent with the regulations of the other institutions.

Sharing of work progress updates, stakeholder meetings, and workshops shall be conducted within the agreed timelines by the parties and the final validation workshop shall be stakeholder sensitive, consultative, and inclusive. A validation workshop shall be conducted for a final consultative opportunity by the stakeholders.

## **F. Deliverables and Timelines of the Assignment**

The firm is expected to conclude the proposed assignment within 4 months. Expected deliverables and an indicative timeline for delivery is included below:

- i. Inception report and work plan (15 days weeks after contract signature) (payment 10%)
- ii. Draft National Quality Policy that is aligned with the African Quality Policy (75 days after contract signature) payment 20%
- iii. Validation workshop on the policy (90 days after contract signature) payment 20%
- iv. Final versions of all deliverables, incorporating feedback and recommendations (120 days 4 months after contract signature), including short read-out of consultations with relevant stakeholders and how they have been reflected. 50% final payment