CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
**Regional Advisory Group for Climate International Negotiations of ECOWAS**

**(RAG-CLIN)**

# Introduction

ECOWAS wishes to set up a Regional Advisory Group for Climate International Negotiations (RAG-CLIN) to support its member states and be proactive in defending common West African interests within the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), in particular to better coordinate common regional positions on relevant areas of competence of ECOWAS.

To this end, ECOWAS intends to select climate change experts with experiences in international negotiations within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement on climate.

The RAG-CLIN is established in the form of a technical advisory-support body to the ECOWAS Commission, placed under the supervision of the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources of the ECOWAS Commission.

This group should be formed in early 2021. ECOWAS mandated the GCCA+ West Africa project to support the operationalization of the group. The implementing regulation relative to the RAG-CLIN is not yet formally adopted by the Commission, therefore the first few months of operating the RAG-CLIN will constitute a prefiguration phase during which the coordination and operational mechanisms will be tested and could then evolve.

**Focus on the GCCA+ West Africa project**

The GCCA+ WA project aims at contributing to the West African regional effort for the implementation of the Paris Agreement through capacity building of ECOWAS, and its other regional partner institutions and its Member States. Funded by the European Union (EU) for a budget of 12.1 million euros, the project is implemented by Expertise France under the political and institutional leadership of ECOWAS, and with the technical partnership of CILSS for specific activities related to information, training and research.

# Objectives pursued by the establishment of RAG-CLIN

* Analyze the stakes of the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and other relevant meetings of international negotiations on climate change and suggest constitutive elements for a West African common position;
* Assist the ECOWAS Commission during informal consultations and side events at the COPs and other relevant meetings of the associated agreements.
* Build the capacities of national institutions and representatives of ECOWAS Member States for the preparation and review of decision proposals and support them during the negotiations happening during COPs and other related relevant meetings;
* Stimulate and intensify strategic dialogue within West Africa on climate negotiations.

# Terms of reference

The RAG-CLIN brings its expertise in the following fields and topics:

* Mitigation: updating / revision of the NDCs, issues relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and transparency of action (indicators to measure progress achieved towards the purposes of the NDC);
* Adaptation: methodologies and information to develop communications on adaptation;
* Sector approaches: agriculture and the continuation of the Koronivia Program;
* Financing: regional and sub-regional initiatives, transparency of financial support, and other topics related to financing within the climate negotiations.

The RAG-CLIN is a technical advisory body which assists ECOWAS by performing the following tasks:

* Expound, at the beginning of the calendar year, the results of the negotiations, and the way in which the sub-region’s expectations have been upheld by the AGN and captured in the decisions of the COP,
* Identify current or future priority topics in international negotiations which present implementation challenges for the region,
* Propose an annual work program with regard to (i) regional positions to be consolidated in line with ECOWAS priorities, (ii) negotiation topics to be documented for capacity building of negotiators,
* Document, clarify and deepen the negotiation topics identified through briefing notes for distribution to negotiators,
* Consolidate the positions of ECOWAS on the subjects identified by the work program at the beginning of the year,
* Prepare position papers based on literature reviews and consultations from other countries, experts, and / or the academic world,
* Share knowledge and results of this work, coordinate the consultation process of Member States and consolidate their comments,
* Support the dissemination and argumentation of ECOWAS positions and challenges within the Africa Group of Negotiators,
* Provide support in the form of advice to national negotiators during COPs and other relevant official climate negotiation meetings,
* Monitor and evaluate the region’s influence within the AGN and during the COP.

# Selection criteria for experts

Expert candidates for the RAG-CLIN must possess the following qualifications:

* An advanced university degree in law, economics, energy, social sciences, environmental studies, natural sciences, engineering, development studies or any other related discipline.
* Technical or scientific expertise specialized in at least one of the four fields referred to in point 3 above, including through publications.
* At least 5 years of experience in international climate negotiations.
* A very good proficiency in English, and the proficiency in one other official language of ECOWAS (French, Portugese) will be an asset.
* Strong operational and analytical skills as well as writing skills, including in English.
* Ability to work as a member of a team.

# Conditions of participation in the RAG-CLIN

By applying, the experts accept the following conditions:

* The experts of the RAG-CLIN act in their personal capacity and their professional capacity; they undertake not to defend the positions or interests of their country when they fulfill the tasks listed in point 3 above.
* The RAG-CLIN meets virtually and physically as much as needed. The experts commit to make themselves available at the dates of the meetings whether they are online or in person.
* Experts work within the RAG-CLIN under the coordination of the ECOWAS Environment Directorate.
* The experts work within the RAG-CLIN under the coordination of a “team leader” appointed by the Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources (CAENR), whose mission is to coordinate the work and to report to ECOWAS on the basis of a result-based management for the implementation of the annual work plan.
* The RAG-CLIN works in close collaboration with any other relevant regional or national institutions according to its needs to access and analyse scientific data and available studies for the region.

# Duration

The experts are selected for a period of 1 year renewable by unilateral decision of ECOWAS taking into account the priority areas and topics of negotiation as well as the available funding, for a maximum duration of 2 years.

# Remuneration and support

The RAG-CLIN experts receive a fixed fee for their services as well as support (plane ticket and per diem) for the main work meetings in which they will be required to participate. The conditions of this remuneration and support are detailed below.

## Fees

Each member of the RAG-CLIN will receive a fixed fee of 3,600 euros to cover all of the contractual tasks described above. Specific tasks of each expert will be further detailed during contracting. Payment will be made in two or three installments, based on the work done and the documents produced: 40% in June after the intersession in Bonn, 30% after the regional preparation workshop, and 30% in December after the COP.

## Mission expenses

In addition to the fixed fee compensation, each member will benefit from the following support for travel inherent in the performance of their missions within the framework of the RAG-CLIN.

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| **Missions** | **Unit** | **Number of units**  | **Unit Price** |
| Kick-off meeting  | Air Tickets (R/T) | 1 | Actual price |
| DSA (EU rate) | 4 |
| ECOWAS coordination meetings during the Bonn intersession  | Air tickets (R/T)  | 1 |
| DSA (EU rate)  | 3 |
| Regional preparatory workshop for COP  | Air tickets (R/T)  | 1 |
| DSA (EU rate)  | 5 |
| ECOWAS coordination meetings during the COP  | Air tickets (R/T) | 1 |
| DSA (EU rate) | 4 |

# Estimated calendar for the first year



# Selection procedure

The 4 experts will be selected so that the 4 themes of point 3 are represented, the effective distribution of subjects will be decided by ECOWAS once the selection has been made.

The experts will be selected by a pluri-disciplinary committee validated by the Environment Directorate of the Commission.

The experts will be contracted by Expertise France for the first year of their mandate, and eventually until December 2022.

* Application deadline: January 17th of 2021 at 12 pm UTC.
* Documents to provide: CV and cover letter in English.
* Submission address : cecile.vivien@expertisefrance.fr / candidates can ask for clarifications or additional information until January, 13th.