Terms of Reference

Title: Consultant for Manufacturing 4.0 policy research in South Asia

Organisational Section/Unit: Trade Oceans and Natural Resources Directorate

Budget: £15,000

Period of Engagement: March to July 2021

Background

General Information

The Trade, Oceans and Natural Resources Directorate (TONRD) is one of the three Directorates of the Commonwealth Secretariat. The Directorate brings together work in Trade Policy, Competitiveness, Hub and Spokes and Oceans and Natural Resources. TONRD is responsible for delivering on two strategic outcomes:

- Effective policy mechanisms for increased trade, increased access to trade, employment and business growth and
- Sustainable development of marine, other natural resources, including blue economies.

A significant part of the Directorate’s work is of a consultancy and advisory nature, delivered through a combination of in-house and external expertise.

Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda

At the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the Commonwealth adopted the Declaration on the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade and Investment (CCA). The CCA is a major new member-state led initiative to grow intra-Commonwealth trade and investment to US$2 trillion by 2030 and promote expanded investment to support global growth, create employment, and promote knowledge exchange among Commonwealth members.

The CCA focusses on five clusters of work: physical connectivity to reduce physical barriers to trade; digital connectivity to enable all members to take advantage of the opportunities presented by digital trade; regulatory connectivity to reduce regulatory barriers to trade; business to business connectivity focussing on investment and public-private dialogue and supply-side connectivity to encourage the participation of all members in global value chains. Throughout these areas, inclusive and sustainable trade, addressing women’s economic empowerment and youth unemployment, will be mainstreamed.

Each cluster acts as a platform, bringing together regulators/implementing agencies and users from across Commonwealth member states, as well as knowledge partners such as
other international organizations to collaborate on hard and soft connectivity, as well as undertake capacity building.

**Purpose of the assignment**

The consultant is being engaged to contribute regional research support on the impact of Manufacturing 4.0 on digital industrial development in SIDS in South Asia.

**Scope of Work**

The consultant will undertake background and field research in South Asia on the current state of industrialisation and the opportunities created by Manufacturing 4.0 for regional economic and digital industrial development.

Surveying the impact on various industries by new and emerging technologies, the consultant will produce practical policy-relevant research outputs.

The consultant will:

- Review current industrial strategies in the region and evaluate their relevance in a digital age
- Undertake deep dives into local manufacturing industries and assess the potential impact of new and emerging digital technologies on regional development
- Conduct gap analyses between current states of play and policy changes necessary to capitalise on Manufacturing 4.0 opportunities
- Identify opportunities for regional economies to participate in existing, new and emerging value chains
- Explore and identify emerging and/or non-conventional industry trends and how LDCs and SIDS may benefit directly or indirectly from them
- Explore trends around the servicification of manufacturing and new opportunities created for regional service-based economies
- Explore the MSME context and how regional businesses can take advantage of opportunities created by Manufacturing 4.0
- Construct case studies of best practice policymaking and application of Manufacturing 4.0 technologies on regional industries

**Deliverables:**

- The consultant will deliver a written report of their findings, detailing their evaluation of the impact and potential of Manufacturing 4.0 in South Asia and recommendations for digital industrial policy development
- The report will include the MSME context, detailing how businesses can take advantage of opportunities created
- The report will include visualisations where possible and case studies of best practice, and should not exceed 30 pages
- The consultant will also deliver a PowerPoint presentation detailing project findings and key outcomes

**Person Specification**

- 5+ years’ experience in policy-related research and analysis related to industrial policy, digitisation and/or economic development in South Asia
Experience in performing policy analysis, drafting reports and producing policy recommendations
Specialised knowledge of Manufacturing 4.0 technologies and/or industry impacts is an advantage
Ability to constructively and tactfully engage with senior stakeholders and policymakers to solicit relevant information, demonstrated by relevant experience
Knowledge of LDC and SIDS context is an advantage
Experience working with government officials and stakeholders from academia, private sector and civil society is an advantage