

Section I. Instructions to Bidders

Table of Clauses

Contents

Table of Clauses	1
1. Scope of Bid.....	3
2. Source of Funds	3
3. Fraud and Corruption.....	4
4. Eligible Bidders.....	6
5. Eligible Goods and Related Services	8
6. Sections of Bidding Document	9
7. Clarification of Bidding Document, Site Visit, Pre-Bid Meeting.....	9
8. Amendment of Bidding Document	10
9. Cost of Bidding	11
10. Language of Bid.....	11
11. Documents Comprising the Bid.....	11
12. Letter of Bid and Price Schedules.....	12
13. Alternative Bids	12
14. Bid Prices and Discounts	13
15. Currencies of Bid and Payment	16
16. Documents Establishing the Qualifications of the Bidder	16
17. Documents Establishing the Eligibility of Plant and Installation Services.....	16
18. Period of Validity of Bids	16
19. Bid Security	17
20. Format and Signing of Bid.....	18
21. Submission, Sealing and Marking of Bids.....	19
22. Deadline for Submission of Bids	20
23. Late Bids	20

24.	Withdrawal, Substitution, and Modification of Bids	20
25.	Bid Opening	20
26.	Confidentiality	21
27.	Clarification of Bids.....	22
28.	Determination of Responsiveness	22
29.	Correction of Arithmetical Errors	23
30.	Conversion to Single Currency	23
31.	Bid Adjustments.....	23
32.	Qualification of the Bidder	24
33.	Comparison of Bids	25
34.	Employer 's Right to Accept Any Bid, and to Reject Any or All Bids	25
35.	Award Criteria	25
36.	Notification of Award.....	25
37.	Signing of Contract	26
38.	Performance Security	26

Section I. Instructions to Bidders

A. General

- 1. Scope of Bid**
- 1.1 The Employer indicated in Section II, Bid Data Sheet (BDS) issues this Bidding Document for the procurement of Plant and Installation Services, as specified in Section VI, Requirements. The name, identification, and number of lots are provided in the BDS.
- 1.2 Unless otherwise stated, throughout this Bidding Document definitions and interpretations shall be as prescribed in Section VII, General Conditions.
- 2. Source of Funds**
- 2.1 The Borrower or Recipient (hereinafter called “Borrower”) indicated in the BDS has applied for or received financing (hereinafter called “funds”) from the African Development Bank¹ (hereinafter called “the Bank”) toward the cost of the project named in the BDS. The Borrower intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the contract(s) for which this Bidding Document is issued.
- 2.2 Payments by the Bank will be made only at the request of the Borrower and upon approval by the Bank in accordance with the terms and conditions of the financing agreement between the Borrower and the Bank (hereinafter called the Financing Agreement), and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of that Financing Agreement. No party other than the Borrower shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the funds.

¹ The specific financing institution shall be as stipulated in the **BDS**.

3. Fraud and Corruption

3.1 It is the Bank's policy to require that Borrowers (including beneficiaries of Bank Financing), as well as Bidders, Suppliers, and contractors, and their agents (whether declared or not), subcontractors, sub-consultants, service providers or suppliers, and any personnel thereof, under Bank-financed contracts, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts². In pursuance of this policy, the Bank:

(a) defines, for the purposes of this provision, the terms set forth below as follows:

(i) "Corrupt Practice" is the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party³;

(ii) "fraudulent practice" is any act or omission, including a misrepresentation that knowingly or recklessly misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party to obtain financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation;

(iii) "Collusive Practice" is an arrangement between two or more parties⁴, designed to achieve an improper purpose, including to influence improperly the actions of another party; and

(iv) "Coercive practice" is impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property of the party to influence improperly the actions of a party⁵;

(v) "Obstructive practice" is

(v.1) deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering, or concealing of evidence material to the investigation or making false statements to investigators in order to materially impede a Bank investigation into allegations of a corrupt, fraudulent, coercive or

² In this context, any action to influence the procurement process or contract execution for undue advantage is improper.

³ For the purpose of this sub-paragraph, "another party" refers to a public official acting in relation to the procurement process or contract execution. In this context, "public official" includes Bank staff and employees of other organizations taking or reviewing procurement decisions.

⁴ For the purpose of this sub-paragraph, "parties" refers to participants in the procurement process (including public officials) attempting either themselves, or through another person or entity not participating in the procurement or selection process, to simulate competition or to establish bid prices at artificial, non-competitive levels, or are privy to each other's bid prices or other conditions.

⁵ For the purpose of this sub-paragraph, "party" refers to a participant in the procurement process or contract execution.

collusive practice; and/or threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation, or

(v.2) acts intended to materially impede the exercise of the Bank's inspection and audit rights provided for under paragraph 3.1(e) below.

- (b) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the Bidder recommended for award, or any of its personnel, or its agents, or its sub-consultants, sub-contractors, service providers, suppliers and/or their employees has, directly or indirectly, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices in competing for the Contract in question;
- (c) will declare misprocurement and cancel the portion of the Financing allocated to a contract if it determines at any time that representatives of the Borrower or of a recipient of any part of the proceeds of such Financing engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices during the procurement or the implementation of that contract, without the Borrower having taken timely and appropriate action satisfactory to the Bank to address such practices when they occur, including by failing to inform the Bank in a timely manner at the time they knew of the practices;
- (d) will sanction a firm or individual, at any time, in accordance with the prevailing Bank's sanctions procedures⁶ including by publicly declaring such firm or individual ineligible to bid for, or to be awarded Bank-financed contracts either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, (i) to be awarded a Bank-financed contract; (ii) to be a nominated⁷ sub-contractor, consultant, supplier, or service

⁶ A firm or an individual may be declared ineligible to be awarded a Bank financed contract: (i) upon completion of the Bank's sanctions proceedings as per its sanctions procedures, including, inter alia, cross-debarment as agreed with other International Financial Institutions, including Multilateral Development Banks, or otherwise decided by the Bank; and through the application of the Proposal for the Implementation of a Sanctions Process within the African Development Bank Group; and (ii) as a result of temporary suspension or early temporary suspension in connection with an on-going sanction proceeding. See footnote 18 and paragraph 9 of Appendix 1 of the Rules and Procedures for Procurement of Goods and Works.

⁷ A nominated sub-contractor, consultant, manufacturer or supplier, or service provider (different names are used depending on the particular bidding documents) is one which has either been: (i) included by the bidder in its pre-

provider of an otherwise eligible firm being awarded a Bank-financed contract; and

- (e) will require that a clause be included in Bidding Documents and in contracts financed by the Bank, requiring bidders, suppliers and contractors and their sub-contractors, agents, personnel, consultants, service providers, or suppliers to permit the Bank to inspect their accounts and records and other documents relating to the submission of bids and contract performance and to have them audited by auditors appointed by the Bank.

3.2 Furthermore, Bidders shall be aware of the provisions stated in Section VII, General Conditions.

4. Eligible Bidders

4.1 A Bidder may be a natural person, private entity, government-owned entity—subject to ITB 4.5—or any combination of such entities supported by a letter of intent to enter into an agreement or under an existing agreement in the form of a joint venture, consortium, or association (JVCA). In the case of a joint venture, consortium, or association:

- a) unless otherwise specified in the BDS, all partners shall be jointly and severally liable, and
- b) the JVCA shall nominate a Representative who shall have the authority to conduct all businesses for and on behalf of any and all the partners of the JVCA during the bidding process and, in the event the JVCA is awarded the Contract, during contract execution.

4.2 A Bidder, and all parties constituting the Bidder, shall have the nationality of an eligible country, in accordance with the Bank's **Rules and Procedures for Procurement of Goods and Works**, and as listed in Section V, Eligible Countries.⁸ A Bidder shall be deemed to have the nationality of a country if the Bidder is a citizen or is constituted, incorporated, or registered and operates in conformity with the provisions of the laws of that country. This criterion shall also apply to the determination of the nationality of proposed subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the Contract including Related Services.

4.3 A Bidder shall not have a conflict of interest. All Bidders found to have in conflict of interest shall be disqualified. A Bidder may be considered to have a conflict of interest with one or more parties in this bidding process, if:

- (a) they have controlling partners in common; or
- (b) they receive or have received any direct or indirect subsidy

qualification application or bid because it brings specific and critical experience and know-how that allow the bidder to meet the qualification requirement for the particular bid; or (ii) appointed by the Borrower.”

⁸ Including eligibility criteria for participation in the supply of goods, works and related services.

- from any of them; or
 - (c) they have the same legal representative for purposes of this bid; or
 - (d) they have a relationship with each other, directly or through common third parties, that puts them in a position to have access to information about or influence on the bid of another Bidder, or influence the decisions of the Employer regarding this bidding process; or
 - (e) a Bidder participates in more than one bid in this bidding process. Participation by a Bidder in more than one Bid will result in the disqualification of all Bids in which it is involved. However, this does not limit the inclusion of the same subcontractor, not otherwise participating as a Bidder, in more than one bid; or
 - (f) a Bidder participated as a consultant in the preparation of Section VI, Requirements that are the subject of the bid; or
 - (g) a Bidder or any of its affiliates has been hired, or is proposed to be hired, by the Employer or the Borrower for the supervision of the contract.
- 4.4 A Bidder that is under a declaration of ineligibility by the Bank in accordance with ITB Clause 3, at the date of the deadline for bid submission or thereafter, shall be disqualified.
- 4.5 Government-owned entities in the Borrower's country shall be eligible only if they can establish that they (i) are legally and financially autonomous, (ii) operate under the principles of commercial law, and (iii) are not dependent agencies of the Employer or the Borrower.
- 4.6 Bidders shall not be under execution of a Bid-Securing Declaration in the Employer's Country.
- 4.7 Bidders shall provide such evidence of their continued eligibility satisfactory to the Employer, as the Employer shall reasonably request.
- 4.8 Firms from an eligible country shall be excluded if:
- (a) as a matter of law or official regulation, the Borrower's country prohibits commercial relations with that country; or
 - (b) by an act of compliance with a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Borrower's country prohibits any import of Goods from that country or any payments to persons or entities in that country.
- 4.9 In case a prequalification process has been conducted prior to the bidding process, this bidding is open only to prequalified Bidders.
- 4.10 A firm sanctioned by the Bank in accordance with the above ITB Clause 3.1 (d), or in accordance with the Bank's policies on anti-

5. Eligible Goods and Related Services

corruption and fraud and Bank's sanctions procedures⁹, shall be ineligible to be awarded a Bank-financed contract, or to benefit from a Bank-financed contract, financially or in any other manner, during the period of time determined by the Bank.

- 5.1 All goods and related services to be supplied under the Contract and financed by the Bank, shall have as their country of origin an eligible country of the Bank in accordance with the Bank's **Rules and Procedures for Procurement of Goods and Works**, and as listed in Section V, Eligible Countries.
- 5.2 For purposes of this Clause, the term "Goods" includes commodities, raw material, machinery, equipment, and industrial plants; and "Related Services" includes services such as insurance, transportation, installation, commissioning, training, and initial maintenance.
- 5.3 The term "country of origin" means the country where the Goods have been mined, grown, cultivated, produced, manufactured, or processed; or through manufacture, processing, or assembly, another commercially recognized article results that differs substantially in its basic characteristics from its imported components.
- 5.4 The nationality of the firm that produces, assembles, distributes, or sells the Goods shall not determine their origin.

B. Contents of Bidding Document

⁹ See the Proposal for the Implementation of a Sanctions Process within the African Development Bank Group and the Bank's Whistleblowing and Complaints Handling Policy. The Bank's sanctions procedures are publicly disclosed on the Bank's external website."

6. Sections of Bidding Document

6.1 The Bidding Document consists of Parts 1, 2, and 3, which include all the Sections indicated below, and should be read in conjunction with any Addenda issued in accordance with ITB 8.

PART 1 Bidding Procedures

- Section I. Instructions to Bidders (ITB)
- Section II. Bid Data Sheet (BDS)
- Section III. Evaluation and Qualification Criteria
- Section IV. Bidding Forms
- Section V. Eligible Countries

PART 2 Employer's Requirements

- Section VI. Requirements

PART 3 Conditions of Contract and Contract Forms

- Section VII. General Conditions (GC)
- Section VIII. Particular Conditions (PC)
- Section IX. Contract Forms

6.2 The Invitation for Bids issued by the Employer is not part of the Bidding Document.

6.3 The Bidder shall obtain the Bidding Document from the source stated by the Employer in the Invitation for Bids; otherwise the Employer is not responsible for the completeness of the Bidding Document.

6.4 The Bidder is expected to examine all instructions, forms, terms, and specifications in the Bidding Document. Failure to furnish all information or documentation required by the Bidding Document may result in the rejection of the bid.

7. Clarification of Bidding Document, Site Visit, Pre-Bid Meeting

7.1 A prospective Bidder requiring any clarification of the Bidding Document shall contact the Employer in writing at the Employer's address indicated in the BDS or raise his enquiries during the pre-bid meeting if provided for in accordance with ITB 7.4. The Employer will respond to any request for clarification, provided that such request is received prior to the deadline for submission of bids, within the number of days specified in the BDS. The Employer's response shall be in writing with copies to all Bidders who have acquired the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 6.3, including a description of the inquiry but without identifying its source. Should the Employer deem it necessary to amend the Bidding Document as a result of a request for clarification, it shall do so following the procedure under ITB 8 and ITB 22.2.

7.2 Where applicable, the Bidder is advised to visit and examine the project site and obtain for itself on its own responsibility all information that may be necessary for preparing the bid and entering into a contract for the provision of the Requirements.

The costs of visiting the site shall be at the Bidder's own expense.

- 7.3 Pursuant to ITB 7.2, where the Bidder and any of its personnel or agents have been granted permission by the Employer to enter upon its premises and lands for the purpose of such visit, the Bidder, its personnel, and agents will release and indemnify the Employer and its personnel and agents from and against all liability in respect thereof, and will be responsible for death or personal injury, loss of or damage to property, and any other loss, damage, costs, and expenses incurred as a result of the visit.
- 7.4 The Bidder's designated representative is invited to attend a pre-bid meeting, if provided for in the BDS. The purpose of the meeting will be to clarify issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage. If so provided for in the BDS, the Employer will organize a site visit.
- 7.5 The Bidder is requested, as far as possible, to submit any questions in writing, to reach the Employer not later than one week before the meeting.
- 7.6 Minutes of the pre-bid meeting, including the text of the questions raised without identifying the source, and the responses given, together with any responses prepared after the meeting, will be transmitted promptly to all Bidders who have acquired the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 6.3. Any modification to the Bidding Document that may become necessary as a result of the pre-bid meeting shall be made by the Employer exclusively through the issue of an Addendum pursuant to ITB 8 and not through the minutes of the pre-bid meeting.
- 7.7 Non-attendance at the pre-bid meeting will not be a cause for disqualification of a Bidder.

**8. Amendment
of Bidding
Document**

- 8.1 At any time prior to the deadline for submission of bids, the Employer may amend the Bidding Document by issuing addenda.
- 8.2 Any addendum issued shall be part of the Bidding Document and shall be communicated in writing to all who have obtained the Bidding Document from the Employer in accordance with ITB 6.3.
- 8.3 To give prospective Bidders reasonable time in which to take an addendum into account in preparing their bids, the Employer may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of bids, pursuant to ITB 22.2

C.Preparation of Bids

9. **Cost of Bidding** 9.1 The Bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its Bid, and the Employer shall not be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.
10. **Language of Bid** 10.1 The Bid, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the bid exchanged by the Bidder and the Employer, shall be written in the language specified in the BDS. Supporting documents and printed literature that are part of the Bid may be in another language provided they are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages in that language, in which case, for purposes of interpretation of the Bid, such translation shall govern.
11. **Documents Comprising the Bid** 11.1 The Bid shall comprise the following:
- a) Letter of Bid;
 - b) Completed Schedules as provided in Section IV, Bidding Forms;
 - c) Bid Security or Bid -Securing Declaration, in accordance with ITB 19;
 - d) at the Bidder's option, alternative proposals, if permissible, in accordance with ITB 13;

- e) written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder, in accordance with ITB 20.2;
- f) documentary evidence establishing the eligibility of the Goods and Related Services offered by the Bidder, in accordance with ITB 17.1;
- g) documentary evidence establishing the Bidder's qualifications in accordance with the requirements of Section III, Evaluation and Qualification Criteria, using the relevant forms furnished in Section IV, Bidding Forms;
- h) documentary evidence as specified in the BDS, establishing the conformity of the Plant and Installation Services offered by the Bidder with the Bidding Document, using the relevant forms furnished in Section IV, Bidding Forms;
- i) in the case of a bid submitted by a JVCA, JVCA agreement, or letter of intent to enter into a JVCA including a draft agreement, indicating at least the parts of the Requirements to be executed by the respective partners;
- j) any other document required in the BDS.

12. Letter of Bid and Price Schedules

12.1 The Bidder shall submit the Letter of Bid using the form furnished in Section IV, Bidding Forms. This form must be completed without any alterations to its format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.

13. Alternative Bids

13.1 Unless otherwise indicated in the BDS, alternative proposals shall not be considered. If alternative proposals are permitted, their method of evaluation shall be as stipulated in Section III, Evaluation and Qualification Criteria.

13.2 When alternative times for completion are explicitly invited, a statement to that effect will be included in the BDS, and the method of evaluating different times for completion will be described in Section III, Evaluation and Qualification Criteria.

13.3 Except as provided under ITB 13.4 below, Bidders wishing to offer technical alternatives to the requirements of the bidding document must first price the Employer's requirements as

described in the bidding document and shall further provide all information necessary for a complete evaluation of the alternative by the Employer, including drawings, design calculations, technical specifications, breakdown of prices, and proposed construction methodology and other relevant details. Only the technical alternatives, if any, of the lowest evaluated Bidder conforming to the basic technical requirements shall be considered by the Employer.

13.4 When specified in the BDS, Bidders are permitted to submit alternative technical solutions for specified parts of the requirements, and such parts shall be identified in the BDS, as will the method for their evaluation, and described in Section VI, Requirements.

14. Bid Prices and Discounts

14.1 The prices and discounts quoted by the Bidder in the Letter of Bid and in the Price Schedules shall conform to the requirements specified in ITB 14.2.

14.2 Unless otherwise provided in the BDS and the General Conditions (GC), the prices quoted by the Bidder shall be fixed.

14.3 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, bidders shall quote for the entire Plant and Installation Services on a “single responsibility” basis such that the total bid price covers all the Contractor’s obligations mentioned in or to be reasonably inferred from the bidding document in respect of the design, manufacture, including procurement and subcontracting (if any), delivery, construction, installation and completion of the plant. This includes all requirements under the Contractor’s responsibilities for testing, pre-commissioning and commissioning of the plant and, where so required by the bidding document, the acquisition of all permits, approvals and licenses, etc.; the operation, maintenance and training services and such other items and services as may be specified in the Bidding Document, all in accordance with the requirements of the General Conditions. Items against which no price is entered by the Bidder will not be paid for by the Employer when executed and shall be deemed to be covered by the prices for other items.

14.4 Depending on the scope of the Contract, the Price Schedules may comprise up to the six (6) schedules listed below. Separate numbered Schedules included in Section IV, Bidding Forms, from those numbered 1-4 below, shall be used for each of the elements of the Plant and Installation Services. The total amount from each Schedule corresponding to an element of the Plant and Installation Services shall be summarized in the schedule titled Grand Summary, (Schedule 5), giving the total bid price(s) to be entered in the Letter of Bid.

Schedule No. 1 Plant (including Mandatory Spare Parts)

Supplied from Abroad

Schedule No. 2 Plant (including Mandatory Spare Parts)
Supplied from within the Employer's Country

Schedule No. 3 Design Services

Schedule No. 4 Installation Services

Schedule No. 5 Grand Summary (Schedule Nos. 1 to 4)

Schedule No. 6 Recommended Spare Parts

Bidders shall note that the plant and equipment included in Schedule Nos. 1 and 2 above **exclude** materials used for civil, building and other construction works. All such materials shall be included and priced under Schedule No. 4, Installation Services.

14.5 In the Schedules, bidders shall give the required details and a breakdown of their prices as follows:

(a) Plant to be supplied from abroad (Schedule No. 1):

The price of the plant shall be quoted on CIP-named place of destination basis as specified in the BDS

(b) Plant manufactured within the Employer's country (Schedule No. 2):

(i) The price of the plant shall be quoted as per the EXW Incoterms specified in the BDS,

(ii) Sales tax and all other taxes payable in the Purchaser's country on the plant if the contract is awarded to the Bidder, and

(iii) The total price for the item.

(c) Design Services (Schedule No. 3).

(d) Installation Services shall be quoted separately (Schedule No. 4) and shall include rates or prices for local transportation to named place of destination as specified in the BDS, insurance and other services incidental to delivery of the plant, all labor, contractor's equipment, temporary works, materials, consumables and all matters and things of whatsoever nature, including operations and maintenance services, the provision of operations and maintenance manuals, training, etc., where identified in the Bidding Document, as necessary for the proper

execution of the installation and other services, including all taxes, duties, levies and charges payable in the Employer's country as of twenty-eight (28) days prior to the deadline for submission of bids. [Note: When the named place of destination is the project site, the transportation costs for Schedule No. 1 items are covered under CIP and therefore will not be stated here. This schedule will cover only for items in Schedule No. 2. If the named place of destination is different from the site of installation (project site), then the transport cost from the named place of destination to project site for Schedule No. 1 shall be also included here.]

- (e) Recommended spare parts shall be quoted separately (Schedule 6) as specified in either subparagraph (a) or (b) above in accordance with the origin of the spare parts.

- 14.6 The current edition of Incoterms, published by the International Chamber of Commerce shall govern.
- 14.7 In the case of **Fixed Price**, prices quoted by the Bidder shall be fixed during the Bidder's performance of the contract and not subject to variation on any account. A bid submitted with an adjustable price quotation will be treated as non-responsive and rejected.
- 14.8 In the case of **Adjustable Price**, prices quoted by the Bidder shall be subject to adjustment during performance of the contract to reflect changes in the cost elements such as labor, material, transport and contractor's equipment in accordance with the procedures specified in the corresponding Appendix to the Contract Agreement. A bid submitted with a fixed price quotation will not be rejected, but the price adjustment will be treated as zero. Bidders are required to indicate the source of labor and material indices in the corresponding Form in Section IV, Bidding Forms.
- 14.9 If so indicated in ITB 1.1, bids are being invited for individual lots (contracts) or for any combination of lots (packages). Bidders wishing to offer any price reduction (discount) for the award of more than one Contract shall specify in their Letter of Bid the price reductions applicable to each package, or alternatively, to individual Contracts within the package, and the manner in which the price reductions will apply.
- 14.10 Bidders wishing to offer any unconditional discount shall specify in their Letter of Bid the offered discounts and the manner in which price discounts will apply.

15. **Currencies of Bid and Payment** 15.1 The currency(ies) of the bid and the currency(ies) for payment shall be as specified in the BDS.
16. **Documents Establishing the Qualifications of the Bidder** 16.1 To establish its qualifications to perform the Contract the Bidder shall provide the information requested in Section IV, Bidding Forms.
- 16.2 If so required in the BDS, a Bidder shall submit the Manufacturer's Authorization, using the form included in Section IV, Bidding Forms where the Bidder does not manufacture or produce the Goods it offers to supply.
- 16.3 If so required in the BDS, a Bidder shall submit evidence that it will be represented by an Agent in the country, equipped and able to carry out the Contractor's maintenance, repair and spare parts-stocking obligations prescribed in the Conditions of Contract and Requirements, where a Bidder does not conduct business within the Employer's Country.
17. **Documents Establishing the Eligibility of Plant and Installation Services** 17.1 To establish the eligibility of the Plant and Installation Services in accordance with ITB Clause 5, Bidders shall complete the forms included in Section IV, Bidding Forms.
18. **Period of Validity of Bids** 18.1 Bids shall remain valid for the period specified in the BDS after the bid submission deadline date prescribed by the Employer, pursuant to **ITB 22**. A bid valid for a shorter period shall be rejected by the Employer as non-responsive.
- 18.2 In exceptional circumstances, prior to the expiration of the bid validity period, the Employer may request Bidders to extend the period of validity of their bids. The request and the responses shall be made in writing. If a bid security is requested in accordance with ITB 19, the Bidder granting the request shall also extend the bid security for twenty-eight (28) days beyond the deadline of the extended validity period. A Bidder may refuse the request without forfeiting its bid security. A Bidder granting the request shall not be required or permitted to modify its bid, except as provided in ITB 18.3.
- 18.3 In the case of fixed price contracts, if the award is delayed by a period exceeding fifty-six (56) days beyond the expiry of the initial bid validity, the Contract price shall be adjusted as specified in the request for extension. Bid evaluation shall be

based on the Bid Price without taking into consideration the above correction.

19. Bid Security

19.1 The Bidder shall furnish as part of its bid, at the option of the Employer, and as stipulated in the **BDS**, the original of either a Bid-Securing Declaration or a bid security using the relevant form included in Section IV, Bidding Forms. In the case of a bid security, the bid security amount and currency shall be as specified in the BDS.

19.2 A Bid-Securing Declaration shall use the form included in Section IV, Bidding Forms.

19.3 If a bid security is specified pursuant to ITB 19.1, the bid security shall be a demand guarantee in any of the following forms at the Bidder's option:

- (a) an unconditional guarantee issued by a bank or surety;
- (b) an irrevocable letter of credit; or
- (c) a cashier's or certified check;

from a reputable source from an eligible country. If the unconditional guarantee is issued by an insurance company or a bonding company located outside the Employer's Country, the issuer shall have a correspondent financial institution located in the Employer's Country to make it enforceable. In the case of a bank guarantee, the bid security shall be submitted either using the Bid Security Form included in Section IV, Bidding Forms or in another substantially similar format approved by the Employer prior to bid submission. In either case, the form must include the complete name of the Bidder. The bid security shall be valid for twenty-eight days (28) beyond the original validity period of the bid, or beyond any period of extension if requested under ITB 18.2.

19.4 Pursuant to the option stipulated at ITB 19.1, any bid not accompanied by a substantially responsive bid security or Bid-Securing Declaration shall be rejected by the Employer as non-responsive.

19.5 If a bid security is specified pursuant to ITB 19.1, the bid security of unsuccessful Bidders shall be returned as promptly as possible upon the successful Bidder's furnishing of the performance security pursuant to ITB 38.

19.6 The bid security of the successful Bidder shall be returned as promptly as possible once the successful Bidder has signed the Contract and furnished the required performance security.

19.7 The bid security may be forfeited or the Bid-Securing Declaration executed:

- (a) if a Bidder withdraws its bid during the period of bid validity specified by the Bidder in the Letter of Bid or
- (b) if the successful Bidder fails to:

- (i) sign the Contract in accordance with ITB 37; or
- (ii) furnish a performance security in accordance with ITB 38.

19.8 The Bid Security or the Bid Securing Declaration of a JVCA shall be in the name of the JVCA that submits the bid. If the JVCA has not been legally constituted into a legally enforceable JVCA at the time of bidding, the Bid Security or the Bid Securing Declaration shall be in the names of all future partners as named in the letter of intent referred to in ITB 4.1.

19.9 If a Bid-Securing Declaration is executed in accordance with ITB 19.7, the Employer will declare the Bidder ineligible to be awarded a contract by the Employer for the period of time stated in the Form of Bid-Securing Declaration.

**20. Format and
Signing of
Bid**

20.1 The Bidder shall prepare one original of the documents comprising the bid as described in ITB 11 and clearly mark it "ORIGINAL." In addition, the Bidder shall submit copies of the bid, in the number specified in the BDS and clearly mark them "COPY." In the event of any discrepancy between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail.

20.2 The original and all copies of the bid shall be typed or written in indelible ink and shall be signed by a person duly authorized to sign on behalf of the Bidder. This authorization shall consist of a written confirmation as specified in the BDS and shall be attached to the bid. The name and position held by each person signing the authorization must be typed or printed below the signature. All pages of the bid where entries have been made shall be signed or initialed by the person signing the bid.

20.3 A bid submitted by a JVCA shall comply with the following requirements:

- (a) Unless not required in accordance with ITB 4.1 (a), be signed so as to be legally binding on all partners and
- (b) Include the Representative's authorization referred to in ITB 4.1 (b), consisting of a power of attorney signed by those legally authorized to sign on behalf of the JVCA.

20.4 Any amendments, interlineations, erasures, or overwriting shall be valid only if they are signed or initialed by the person signing the bid.

D.Submission and Opening of Bids

**21. Submission,
Sealing and
Marking of
Bids**

21.1 Bidders may always submit their bids by mail or by hand. If so specified in the **BDS**, bidders shall have the option of submitting their bids electronically. Procedures for submission, sealing and marking are as follows:

(a) Bidders submitting bids by mail or by hand shall enclose the original and copies of the Bid in separate sealed envelopes. If so permitted in accordance with ITB 13 alternative proposals, and copies thereof, shall also be placed in separate envelopes. The envelopes shall be duly marked as “ORIGINAL,” “ALTERNATIVE,” “ORIGINAL COPY,” and “ALTERNATIVE COPY” These envelopes shall then be enclosed in one single package. The rest of the procedure shall be in accordance with ITB 21.2 and 21.3.

(b) Bidders submitting bids electronically shall follow the electronic bid submission procedures specified in the BDS.

21.2 The inner and outer envelopes shall:

- (a) bear the name and address of the Bidder;
- (b) be addressed to the Employer in accordance with ITB 22.1;
- (c) bear the specific identification of this bidding process pursuant to ITB 1.1; and
- (d) bear a warning not to open before the time and date for bid opening

21.3 If envelopes and packages are not sealed and marked as required, the Employer will assume no responsibility for the misplacement or premature opening of the bid.

- 22. Deadline for Submission of Bids**
- 22.1 Bids must be received by the Employer at the address and no later than the date and time indicated in the BDS.
- 22.2 The Employer may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of bids by amending the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 8, in which case all rights and obligations of the Employer and Bidders previously subject to the deadline shall thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended.
- 23. Late Bids**
- 23.1 The Employer shall not consider any bid that arrives after the deadline for submission of bids, in accordance with ITB 22. Any bid received by the Employer after the deadline for submission of bids shall be declared late, rejected, and returned unopened to the Bidder.
- 24. Withdrawal, Substitution, and Modification of Bids**
- 24.1 A Bidder may withdraw, substitute, or modify its bid after it has been submitted by sending a written notice, duly signed by an authorized representative, and shall include a copy of the authorization in accordance with ITB 20.2, (except that withdrawal notices do not require copies). The corresponding substitution or modification of the bid must accompany the respective written notice. All notices must be:
- (a) prepared and submitted in accordance with ITB 20 and ITB 21 (except that withdrawals notices do not require copies), and in addition, the respective envelopes shall be clearly marked “Withdrawal,” “Substitution,” “Modification;” and
 - (b) received by the Employer prior to the deadline prescribed for submission of bids, in accordance with ITB 22.
- 24.2 Bids requested to be withdrawn in accordance with ITB 24.1 shall be returned unopened to the Bidders.
- 24.3 No bid may be withdrawn, substituted, or modified in the interval between the deadline for submission of bids and the expiration of the period of bid validity specified by the Bidder on the Letter of Bid or any extension thereof.
- 25. Bid Opening**
- 25.1 The Employer shall conduct the bid opening in public, in the presence of Bidders` designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend, and at the address, date and time specified in the BDS. Any specific electronic bid opening procedures required if electronic bidding is permitted in accordance with ITB 21.1, shall be as specified in the BDS.
- 25.2 First, envelopes marked “Withdrawal” shall be opened and read out and the envelope with the corresponding bid shall not be opened, but returned to the Bidder. No bid withdrawal shall be permitted unless the corresponding withdrawal notice contains a valid authorization to request the withdrawal and is read out at bid opening. Next, envelopes marked “Substitution” shall be opened and read out and exchanged with the corresponding bid being substituted, and the substituted bid shall not be opened, but

returned to the Bidder. No bid substitution shall be permitted unless the corresponding substitution notice contains a valid authorization to request the substitution and is read out at bid opening. Envelopes marked "Modification" shall be opened and read out with the corresponding bid. No bid modification shall be permitted unless the corresponding modification notice contains a valid authorization to request the modification and is read out at bid opening. Only bids that are opened and read out at bid opening shall be considered further.

- 25.3 The Employer shall open all other envelopes one at a time and read out: the name of the Bidder, the Bid Price(s), any discounts and their application methodology, alternative bids, the presence or absence of a bid security or Bid-Securing Declaration; and any other details as the Employer may consider appropriate. Only discounts and alternative bids read out at bid opening shall be considered for evaluation. No bid shall be rejected at bid opening except for late bids, in accordance with ITB 23.1.
- 25.4 The Employer shall prepare a record of the bid opening that shall include, as a minimum: the name of the Bidder and whether there is a withdrawal, substitution, or modification; the Bid Price, per lot if applicable, including any discounts and alternative proposals; and the presence or absence of a bid security or a Bid-Securing Declaration. The Bidders' representatives who are present shall be requested to sign the record. The omission of a Bidder's signature on the record shall not invalidate the contents and effect of the record. A copy of the record shall be distributed to all Bidders who submitted bids in time, and posted online when electronic bidding is permitted.

E. Examination of Bids

- 26. **Confidentiality** 26.1 Information relating to the evaluation of bids shall not be disclosed to Bidders or any other persons not officially concerned with such process until information on Contract award is communicated to all Bidders.
- 26.2 Any attempt by a Bidder to influence improperly the Employer in the evaluation of the bids or Contract award decisions may result in the rejection of its bid.
- 26.3 Notwithstanding ITB 26.1, from the time of bid opening to the time of Contract award, if any Bidder wishes to contact the Employer on any matter related to the bidding process, it should do so in writing.

27. Clarification of Bids

- 27.1 To assist in the examination, evaluation, and comparison of the bids and qualification of the Bidders, the Employer may, at its discretion, ask any Bidder for a clarification of its bid, allowing a reasonable time for response. Any clarification submitted by a Bidder that is not in response to a request by the Employer shall not be considered. The Employer's request for clarification and the response shall be in writing. No change in the prices or substance of the bid shall be sought, offered, or permitted, except to confirm the correction of arithmetic errors discovered by the Employer in the evaluation of the bids, in accordance with ITB 29.
- 27.2 If a Bidder does not provide clarifications of its bid by the date and time set in the Employer's request for clarification, its bid may be rejected.

28. Determination of Responsiveness

- 28.1 The Employer's determination of a bid's responsiveness is to be based on the contents of the bid itself, as defined in ITB 11.
- 28.2 A substantially responsive bid is one that meets the requirements of the Bidding Document without material deviation, reservation, or omission.
- (a) "Deviation" is a departure from the requirements specified in the Bidding Document;
 - (b) "Reservation" is the setting of limiting conditions or withholding from complete acceptance of the requirements specified in the Bidding Document; and
 - (c) "Omission" is the failure to submit part or all of the information or documentation required in the Bidding Document.
- 28.3 A material deviation, reservation, or omission is one that,
- (a) if accepted, would:
 - (i) affect in any substantial way the scope, quality, or performance of the Requirements as specified in Section VI; or
 - (ii) limit in any substantial way, inconsistent with the Bidding Document, the Employer's rights or the Bidder's obligations under the proposed Contract; or
 - (b) if rectified, would unfairly affect the competitive position of other Bidders presenting substantially responsive bids.
- 28.4 The Employer shall examine the technical aspects of the bid in particular, to confirm that all requirements of Section VI have

been met without any material deviation, reservation, or omission.

- 28.5 If a bid is not substantially responsive to the requirements of the Bidding Document, it shall be rejected by the Employer and may not subsequently be made responsive by correction of the material deviation, reservation, or omission.
- 28.6 Provided that a bid is substantially responsive, the Employer may waive any quantifiable nonconformities in the bid that do not constitute a material deviation, reservation or omission.
- 28.7 Provided that a bid is substantially responsive, the Employer may request that the Bidder submit the necessary information or documentation, within a reasonable period of time, to rectify nonmaterial nonconformities in the bid related to documentation requirements. Requesting information or documentation on such nonconformities shall not be related to any aspect of the price of the bid. Failure of the Bidder to comply with the request may result in the rejection of its bid.
- 28.8 Provided that a bid is substantially responsive, the Employer shall rectify quantifiable nonmaterial nonconformities related to the Bid Price. To this effect, the Bid Price shall be adjusted, for comparison purposes only, to reflect the price of the non-conforming item or component. The adjustment shall be made using the methodology indicated in Section III, Evaluation and Qualification Criteria.

F. Bid Evaluation and Comparison

29. Correction of Arithmetical Errors

- 29.1 The Employer shall use the criteria and methodologies indicated in Section III, Evaluation and Qualification Criteria. No other evaluation criteria or methodologies shall be permitted.
- 29.2 Provided that the bid is substantially responsive, the Employer shall correct arithmetical errors as indicated in Section III, Evaluation and Qualification Criteria.
- 29.3 If a Bidder does not accept the correction of errors, its bid shall be declared non-responsive and its Bid Security shall be forfeited or the Bid Securing Declaration executed.

30. Conversion to Single Currency

- 30.1 For evaluation and comparison purposes, the currency (ies) of the bid shall be converted into a single currency as specified in Section III, Evaluation and Qualification Criteria.

31. Bid Adjustments

- 31.1 For the evaluation and comparison purposes the Employer shall adjust the bid prices using the criteria and methodology specified in Section III, Evaluation and Qualification Criteria.
- 31.2 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, no margin of domestic or regional preference shall apply. If a margin of preference applies, the application methodology shall be as specified in Section III,

Evaluation and Qualification Criteria, and in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Bank's **Rules and Procedures for Procurement of Goods and Works**.

31.3 If in the opinion of the Employer the bid which results in the lowest Evaluated Bid, is seriously unbalanced or front loaded or substantially below the Employer's estimates, the Employer may require the Bidder to produce detailed price analyses for any or all items of the Schedules, to demonstrate the internal consistency of those prices with the methods and schedule proposed. After evaluation of the price analyses, taking into consideration the schedule of estimated Contract payments, the Employer may require that the amount of the performance security be increased at the expense of the Bidder to a level sufficient to protect the Employer against financial loss in the event of default of the successful Bidder under the Contract.

32. Qualification of the Bidder

32.1 The Employer shall determine to its satisfaction whether the Bidder that is selected as having submitted the lowest evaluated and substantially responsive bid meets the qualifying criteria specified in Section III, Evaluation and Qualification Criteria.

32.2 The determination shall be based upon an examination of the documentary evidence of the Bidder's qualifications submitted by the Bidder, pursuant to ITB 16.

32.3 An affirmative determination shall be a prerequisite for award of the Contract to the Bidder. A negative determination shall result in disqualification of the bid, in which event the Employer shall proceed to the next lowest evaluated bid to make a similar determination of that Bidder's qualifications to perform satisfactorily.

32.4 The capabilities of the manufacturers and subcontractors proposed in its Bid to be used by the lowest evaluated Bidder for identified major items of the Requirements will also be evaluated for acceptability in accordance with the criteria and methodologies defined in Section III, Evaluation and Qualification Criteria. Their participation should be confirmed with a letter of intent between the parties, as needed. Should a manufacturer or subcontractor be determined to be unacceptable, the Bid will not be rejected, but the Bidder will be required to substitute an acceptable manufacturer or subcontractor without any change to the bid price.

33. **Comparison of Bids** 33.1 Subject to **ITB** 29, 30 and 31, the Employer shall compare all substantially responsive bids to determine the lowest evaluated bid.
34. **Employer 's Right to Accept Any Bid, and to Reject Any or All Bids** 34.1 The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders. In case of annulment, all bids submitted and specifically, bid securities, shall be promptly returned to the Bidders.

G. Award of Contract

35. **Award Criteria** 35.1 Subject to **ITB** 34.1, the Employer shall award the Contract to the Bidder whose offer has been determined to be the lowest evaluated bid and is substantially responsive to the Bidding Document, provided further that the Bidder is determined to be qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.
36. **Notification of Award** 36.1 Prior to the expiration of the period of bid validity, the Employer shall notify the successful Bidder, in writing, that its bid has been accepted. The notification letter (hereinafter and in the Conditions of Contract and Contract Forms called the "Letter of Acceptance") shall specify the sum that the Employer will pay the Contractor in consideration of the execution and completion of the Plant and Installation Services (hereinafter and in the Contract Forms called "the Contract Price").
- 36.2 Until a formal contract is prepared and executed, the notification of award shall constitute a binding Contract.
- 36.3 At the same time, the Employer shall also notify all other Bidders of the results of the bidding, and shall publish in UNDB online and at the Bank's website (www.afdb.org), the results identifying the bid and lot numbers and the following information: (i) name of each Bidder who submitted a Bid; (ii) bid prices as read out at bid opening; (iii) name and evaluated prices of each Bid that was evaluated; (iv) name of bidders whose bids were rejected and the reasons for their rejection; and (v) name of the winning Bidder, and the price it offered, as well as the duration and summary scope of the contract awarded. After publication of the award, unsuccessful bidders may request in writing to the Employer for a debriefing seeking explanations on the grounds on which their bids were not selected. The Employer shall promptly respond in writing to any unsuccessful Bidder who, after Publication of contract award, requests a debriefing.

37. Signing of Contract

- 37.1 Promptly upon notification, the Employer shall send the successful Bidder the Contract Agreement.
- 37.2 Within twenty-eight (28) days of receipt of the Contract Agreement, the successful Bidder shall sign, date, and return it to the Employer.
- 37.3 Upon the successful Bidder's furnishing of the signed Contract Agreement and Performance Security pursuant to ITB 38, the Employer will discharge its Bid Security, pursuant to ITB 19.
- 37.4 Notwithstanding ITB 37.2 above, in case signing of the Contract Agreement is prevented by any export restrictions attributable to the Employer, to the country of the Employer, or to the use of the products/goods, systems or services to be supplied, where such export restrictions arise from trade regulations from a country supplying those products/goods, systems or services, the Bidder shall not be bound by its bid, always provided, however, that the Bidder can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Employer and of the Bank that signing of the Contract Agreement has not been prevented by any lack of diligence on the part of the Bidder in completing any formalities, including applying for permits, authorizations and licenses necessary for the export of the products/goods, systems or services under the terms of the Contract Agreement.

38. Performance Security

- 38.1 Within twenty-eight (28) days of the receipt of notification of award from the Employer, the successful Bidder shall furnish the performance security in accordance with the conditions of contract, subject to ITB 31.3, using for that purpose the Performance Security Form included in Section IX, Contract Forms, or another form acceptable to the Employer. If the performance security furnished by the successful Bidder is in the form of a bond, it shall be issued by a bonding or insurance company that has been determined by the successful Bidder to be acceptable to the Employer. A foreign institution providing a bond shall have a correspondent financial institution located in the Employer's Country.
- 38.2 Failure of the successful Bidder to submit the above-mentioned Performance Security or sign the Contract shall constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment of the award and forfeiture of the bid security, or execution of the Bid-Securing Declaration. In that event the Employer may award the Contract to the next lowest evaluated Bidder whose offer is substantially responsive and is determined by the Employer to be qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.