****

**PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

**CONSULTANCY TO CONDUCT A CAPACITY DIAGNOSTIC ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN MALAWI**

**Application Deadline:** 24th Oct. 2012

**Starting Date: 12**th Nov. 2012.

 **Duration of the Contract:**  40 man days

**Background and Objectives**

Many sectors of the economy in Malawi have witnessed some improvements in women economic empowerment (EEW). However, despite various strategies and programmes developed to reduce gender inequalities, implementation and coherence remains a big challenge. Among several factors, one of the key impediments to the realization of EEW in Malawi is the appropriateness of existing financial institutions to effectively serve the rural poor. The situation in the country is such that most of the micro-finance institutions are located in urban areas, out of reach of the majority of the population, most of whom live in rural areas. As such, the country still faces many challenges and unanswered questions that unless they are fully addressed, EEW will remain unattainable by many.

The capacity diagnostic on EEW is aimed at conducting a comprehensive situational analysis using a gender responsive and a rights-based approach, taking into account the care economy, in order to establish focus areas, structures and mechanisms where concrete results can be achieved. Other objectives include to map out required capacities and to identify areas of intervention and the roles that different stakeholders can play to strengthen capacity and achieve meaningful economic empowerment of women.

**Requirements**

The Consultant should have good knowledge, experience and understanding of gender mainstreaming, EEW, programme formulation and management. He/she should have at least a Master Degree in Economics, Social Science, International Development Studies or related discipline; minimum 7 years work experience in developing countries; a good understating of international treaties and agreements on EEW including the millennium declaration; and demonstrated understanding and experience in capacity diagnostic studies.

**Reporting:** Capacity Development Cluster, UNDP.

**Applications:** Submit expression of interest detailing understanding of the assignment, proposed approach, work plan, financial and time requirements and CV with at least three traceable referees who have supervised the applicant’s professional work. Requests for full Terms of Reference and Applications may be mailed to Ms Diana Nyirenda at Email: Diana.nyirenda@undp.org OR by Post to: Procurement Unit, UNDP, PO Box 30135, Lilongwe 3. Malawi. Attention: Ms Chisomo Chibwana