UNFCCC Internal/External Vacancy Announcement

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND CONFERENCE AFFAIRS (ICA)
Intergovernmental and Legal Affairs (ILA) subprogramme

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. : UNFCCC Internal/External VA 06/E022
PUBLICATION/TRANSMISSION DATE: 07 August 2006
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 18 September 2006
TITLE AND GRADE: Legal Officer, P-4
POST NUMBER: FRA-2933-V003-P4-004
INDICATIVE NET ANNUAL SALARY: US$ 59,132 net salary (without dependents) US$ 63,499 net salary (with dependents) plus applicable post adjustment
DURATION OF APPOINTMENT: 1 and half years, with possibility of extension
DUTY STATION: Bonn, Germany
EXPECTED DATE FOR ENTRY ON DUTY: as soon as possible

Background

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the focus of the political process to address Climate Change. The Convention secretariat is supporting the Convention and its Protocol by a range of activities, including substantive and organizational support to meetings of the Parties.

The Intergovernmental and Legal Affairs (ILA) subprogramme provides guidance on legal issues relating to the technical and analytical work of the UNFCCC secretariat and support to the work of constituted bodies of the Convention and of the Kyoto Protocol.

Responsibilities

Reporting to the Senior Legal Adviser in the ICA, and with regular guidance from the Coordinator of the Project-based Mechanisms Programme (PBM), the incumbent is responsible for the provision of legal advice to bodies established under the Kyoto Protocol and on issues relating to the mechanisms established under the Kyoto Protocol, as well as for the provision of in-session legal support to the COP/MOP and subsidiary bodies. While work priorities will be set by, and the usefulness of the output evaluated by the Coordinator of PBM, the incumbent will be held accountable to the Senior Legal Adviser for ensuring that the legal opinions produced by the incumbent are consistent with UNFCCC established views. In particular, the incumbent

1. Provides legal advice and opinions on the legal instruments relating to the Kyoto Mechanisms including relevant articles of the Kyoto Protocol, decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, privileges and immunities of Constituted Bodies, Modalities and Procedures of the CDM Executive Board and Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee;

2. Provides legal and procedural opinions and advice to PBM on institutional and substantive issues relating to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI);

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3. Provides legal and procedural advice, opinion and support to the work of the Executive Board of the CDM, the JI Supervisory Committee and other relevant bodies established under the Kyoto Protocol;

4. Undertakes legal assessments of existing and emerging complex legal issues relating to the Kyoto Mechanisms and bodies established under the Kyoto Protocol with a view to providing solutions to them, including through monitoring and coordination of the work of external legal consultants;

5. Conducts extensive legal research and provides legal advice and opinions on a variety of issues within the scope of the activities and functions of the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms and related bodies, including risk assessments for the various actors involved;

6. Coordinates, when applicable, the work of legal consultants and junior officers in order to provide legal and procedural support to Parties and to the secretariat during meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, subsidiary and constituted bodies;

7. Drafts and reviews legal documents, agreements, memoranda of understanding, draft decisions and conclusions, reports and background documents as may be assigned by the Coordinator of PBM and the Senior Legal Adviser.

**Requirements**

- Advanced university degree in international and/or commercial law. License to practice law. Excellent legal qualifications and thorough knowledge of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, of the Kyoto Protocol, and of the project-based mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol (CDM, JI).
- At least seven years of professional experience, preferably in a law firm or as legal adviser in a private sector entity, with a strong commercial background in fields such as contracts, license agreements, intellectual property, emissions trading, or environmental law. Experience in public international law and administration will be an asset.
- Fluency in written and spoken English. Working knowledge of a second official language of the UN would be an asset.

**Evaluation Criteria**

**Professionalism**: Familiarity with and experience in the use of various research methodologies and sources. Ability to plan, develop, implement, monitor and evaluate major projects. Capacity to demonstrate success in analysing complex professional issues and developing well-reasoned, innovative solutions to associated challenges. Ability to provide sound technical advice to managers.

**Commitment to Continuous Learning**: Willingness to keep abreast of and promote new developments in the appropriate professional field.

**Communication**: Ability to act as an effective spokesperson internally and externally. Capacity to draft clear concise high quality reports or documents relating to area of professional expertise.

**Technological Awareness**: Good conceptual understanding of technology in the workplace and ability to use relevant software and other applications and equipment relevant to the post.

**Teamwork**: Ability to establish good interpersonal skills and ability to maintain effective working relations in a multi-cultural organization. Ability to gain the assistance and cooperation of others through the demonstration of leadership.

**To apply**

Quoting Vacancy Announcement Number 06/E022, applicants are requested to complete and submit a United Nations Personal History form (P 11) - no signature on the form is required at this stage - to:

Chief, Human Resources Unit  
Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC)  
P.O.Box 260 124  
D-53153 Bonn, Germany  
Fax (49-228) 815-1999, email: vacancies@unfccc.int
Eligible interested United Nations staff should apply using an updated UN Personal History Form (P 11), as well as attaching a copy of their latest PAS.

Please note:
- Qualified women candidates and candidates from developing countries are particularly encouraged to apply.
- Service is limited to the UNFCCC Secretariat.
- Only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted for an interview and informed of the outcome of the selection process.