**Contracting Authority**: *[enter name]*

*[Title of the Programme]*

Guidelines  
for grant applicants

*[Budget line(s) [numbers]*

Reference: *[insert call for proposals number]*

Deadline for submission of *[concept note] [full application]:* *[insert date]*

NOTICE

*{EXPLANATORY NOTE: How to adapt these standard guidelines for grant applicants:*

*Where you see […] enter the information relevant to the call for proposals in question.*

*The phrases in {…} should only be included if appropriate while the paragraphs shaded in grey should only be amended in exceptional cases, dictated by the requirements of a specific call for proposals.*

*Any other part of these standard instructions should not be modified unless derogation by the relevant authority has been granted.*

*These paragraphs and any explanatory note should be deleted}*

Notice

*If this is a restricted call for proposals*: {This is a restricted call for proposals. In the first instance, only concept notes (Part A of the grant application form) must be submitted for evaluation. Thereafter, lead applicants who have been pre-selected will be invited to submit a full application. After the evaluation of the full applications, an eligibility check will be performed for those which have been provisionally selected. Eligibility will be checked on the basis of the supporting documents requested by the contracting authority and the signed ‘declaration by the lead applicant’ sent together with the full application.}

*If this is an open call for proposals:* {This is an open call for proposals, where all documents are submitted together (concept note and full application). In the first instance, only the concept notes will be evaluated. Thereafter, for the lead applicants who have been pre-selected, the full applications will be evaluated. After the evaluation of the full applications, an eligibility check will be performed for those which have been provisionally selected. Eligibility will be checked on the basis of the supporting documents requested by the Contracting Authority and the signed ‘declaration by the lead applicant’ sent together with the full application.}

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1. *[ENTER The TITLE OF THE programme]*
   1. Background

*[Enter description of the historical background of the programme. Maximum length: ½ page.]*

* 1. Objectives of the programme and priority issues

*[Enter description of the objectives and priorities of the programme covered by this call for proposals]*. ***EXPLANATORY NOTE: the number of priorities should be small (no more than four); objectives and priorities should give an indication as to which kind of activities one would have to propose in order to be eligible.*** ]

The **global objective** of this call for proposals is: *[insert]*

The **specific objective(s)** of this call for proposals is/are: *[insert]*

* 1. Financial allocation provided by the contracting authority

The overall indicative amount made available under this call for proposals is USD *[insert amount]*. The Contracting Authority reserves the right not to award all available funds.

In the case of lots: {Indicative allocation of funds by lot/geographical distribution:

If the allocation indicated for a specific lot cannot be used due to insufficient quality or number of proposals received, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to reallocate the remaining funds to (an)other lot(s).}

Size of grants

Any grant requested under this call for proposals must fall between the following [minimum and maximum amounts]:

* minimum amount: *[insert amount]* USD
* maximum amount: *[insert amount]* USD

Any grant requested under this call for proposals must fall between the following *[insert minimum and maximum]* percentages of total eligible costs of the action:

* Minimum percentage: *[insert percentage % of the total eligible costs of the action.]*
* Maximum percentage: *[insert percentage of the total eligible costs of the action]* (see also section 2.1.5).

To be added in case of in kind contributions:

* {Any grant requested under this call for proposals which includes in the proposed budget in-kind contributions or in-kind contributions exceeding 7% must further be limited to *[insert percentage to ensure the co-financing, note that this percentage must be lower than the one fixed referring to total eligible costs ]* % of the estimated total accepted costs[[1]](#footnote-1). In case during the implementation of the action progress and final reports show that the total accepted costs are equal to the total eligible costs, the percentage applicable to the total accepted costs applies to the total eligible costs to ensure the required co-financing.

Wherever in the call for proposals a reference to the percentage of eligible costs is made, the further limitation to the percentage applicable to the total accepted costs will apply. As a reminder, before sending your application please check that the requested contribution is equal to or less than the maximum percentage of the estimated total accepted costs allowed.}

The balance (i.e. the difference between the total cost of the action and the amount requested from the Contracting Authority) must be financed from sources other than the SADC Secretariat Budget.

If applicable: {The grant may cover the entire eligible costs of the action if this is deemed essential to carry it out. If that is the case, the lead applicant must justify full financing in section 2.1 of Part B of the grant application form. The validity of the justification provided will be examined during the evaluation procedure. The absence of any justification may lead to the rejection of the application.}

1. Rules FOR thIS call for proposalS

These guidelines set out the rules for the submission, selection and implementation of the actions financed under this call, in conformity with the SADC Procurement and Grants Policy of 2019 and SADC Procurement and Grants Guidelines of August 2021, which is applicable to the present call (available on the Internet at this address https://www.sadc.int/procurement-document/sadc-procurement-and-grants-guidelines-approved-august-2021

Any economic operator, bidder or applicant that claims to have suffered, or that may suffer, loss or injury due to a breach of a duty imposed on the Contracting Authority by the SADC Procurement and Grants Policy and these Guidelines, may appeal decision in accordance with the procedures hereby stipulated in Article 6. Grants sub section 7. Appeal of a decision regarding procurement and call for proposals in the above mentioned SADC Procurement and Grants Guidelines of August 2021.

* 1. Eligibility criteria

There are three sets of eligibility criteria, relating to:

1. the actors:

* The '**lead applicant'**, i.e. the entity submitting the application form (2.1.1),
* if any, its **co-applicant(s)** (**where it is not specified otherwise the lead applicant and its co-applicant(s) are hereinafter jointly referred as "*applicant(s)***") (2.1.1),
* and, if any, **affiliated entity(ies)** to the lead applicant and/or to a co-applicant(s). (2.1.2);

1. the actions:

Actions for which a grant may be awarded (2.1.4);

1. the costs:

* types of cost that may be taken into account in setting the amount of the grant (2.1.5).
  + 1. Eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s))

**Lead applicant**

(1) In order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must:

***EXPLANATORY NOTE: Indicate the relevant criteria with due regard for the objectives and priorities of this call for proposals, complying with the principles of transparency and non-discrimination.***

* {be a legal person or a natural person} **and**
* {be non-profit-making **and**}
* be established in a [one or more than one] SADC Member State

{be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation, public sector operator, local authority}

* be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary [**and]**
* *{[insert other eligibility criteria as appropriate (these criteria should be criteria that can be measured)]}.*

(2) Potential applicants may not participate in calls for proposals or be awarded grants if they are in any of the situations listed in section 2.5.2 of the SADC Guidelines for Procurement and Grants;

In {*restricted*: Part A, section 3} {*open*: Part B section 8} of the grant application form (‘declaration by the lead applicant’), the lead applicant must declare that the lead applicant himself, the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies) are not in any of these situations.

The lead applicant {may act individually or with co-applicant(s)} or, ***if co-applicants are obligatory under the action***: {must act with co-applicant(s) as specified hereafter}.

If awarded the grant contract, the lead applicant will become the beneficiary identified as such in the grant contract. The lead applicant is the main interlocutor of the Contracting Authority. It represents and acts on behalf of any other co-beneficiary (if any) and coordinate the design and implementation of the action.

**{Co-applicant(s)**

***EXPLANATORY NOTE: Where co-applicants are obligatory, specify any minimum requirements for the type and/or the minimum/ maximum recommended number of co-applicants to be involved in the action}***

Co-applicants participate in designing and implementing the action, and the costs they incur are eligible in the same way as those incurred by the lead applicant.

Co-applicants must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the lead applicant himself.

{In addition to the categories referred to in section 2.1.1, the following are however also eligible: *[insert]*.}

Co-applicants must sign the mandate in Part B section 4 of the grant application form.

If awarded the grant contract, the co-applicant(s) (if any) will become beneficiary(ies) in the action (together with the lead applicant)

* + 1. Affiliated entities

{Affiliated entity(ies)

The lead applicant and its co-applicant(s) may act with affiliated entity(ies).

**Only the following entities may be considered as affiliated entities to the lead applicant and/or to co-applicant(s):**

Only entities having a structural link with the applicants (i.e. the lead applicant or a co-applicant), in particular a legal or capital link.

This structural link encompasses mainly two notions:

(i) Control on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings:

Entities affiliated to an applicant may hence be:

* Entities directly or indirectly controlled by the applicant (daughter companies or first-tier subsidiaries). They may also be entities controlled by an entity controlled by the applicant (granddaughter companies or second-tier subsidiaries) and the same applies to further tiers of control;
* Entities directly or indirectly controlling the applicant (parent companies). Likewise, they may be entities controlling an entity controlling the applicant;
* Entities under the same direct or indirect control as the applicant (sister companies).

(ii) Membership, i.e. the applicant is legally defined as a e.g. network, federation, association in which the proposed affiliated entities also participate or the applicant participates in the same entity (e.g. network, federation, association) as the proposed affiliated entities.

The structural link shall as a general rule be neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation. This means that the link would exist independently of the award of the grant; it should exist before the call for proposals and remain valid after the end of the action.

By way of exception, an entity may be considered as affiliated to an applicant even if it has a structural link specifically established for the sole purpose of the implementation of the action in the case of so-called “sole applicants” or “sole beneficiaries”. A sole applicant or a sole beneficiary is a legal entity formed by several entities (a group of entities) which together comply with the criteria for being awarded the grant. For example, an association is formed by its members.

##### What is not an affiliated entity?

The following are not considered entities affiliated to an applicant:

* Entities that have entered into a (procurement) contract or subcontract with an applicant, act as concessionaires or delegates for public services for an applicant,
* Entities that receive financial support from the applicant,
* Entities that cooperate on a regular basis with an applicant on the basis of a memorandum of understanding or share some assets,
* Entities that have signed a consortium agreement under the grant contract (unless this consortium agreement leads to the creation of a "sole applicant" as described above).

How to verify the existence of the required link with an applicant?

The affiliation resulting from control may in particular be proved on the basis of the consolidated accounts of the group of entities the applicant and its proposed affiliates belong to.

The affiliation resulting from membership may in particular be proved on the basis of the statutes or equivalent act establishing the entity (network, federation, association) which the applicant constitutes or in which the applicant participates.

If the applicants are awarded a grant contract, their affiliated entity(ies) will not become beneficiary(ies) of the action and signatory(ies) of the grant contract. However, they will participate in the design and in the implementation of the action and the costs they incur (including those incurred for implementation contracts and financial support to third parties) may be accepted as eligible costs, provided they comply with all the relevant rules already applicable to the beneficiary(ies) under the grant contract.

Affiliated entity(ies) must satisfy the same eligibility criteria as the lead applicant and the co-applicant(s). They must sign the affiliated entity(ies) statement in Part B section 5 of the grant application form.]

{In addition to the categories referred to in section 2.1.1, the following are however also eligible: *[insert*].}

* + 1. Associates and Contractors

The following entities are not applicants nor affiliated entities and do not have to sign the "mandate for co-applicant(s)" or "affiliated entities' statement":

* Associates

Other organisations or individuals may be involved in the action. Such associates play a real role in the action but may not receive funding from the grant, with the exception of per diem or travel costs. Associates do not have to meet the eligibility criteria referred to in section 2.1.1. Associates must be mentioned in Part B section 6 — ‘Associates participating in the action’ — of the grant application form.

* Contractors

The beneficiaries and their affiliated entities are permitted to award contracts. Associates or affiliated entity(ies) cannot be also contractors in the project. Contractors are subject to the procurement rules set out in the {SADC Guidelines for procurement and grants}{national procurement rules of the applicant} or *{[insert specify the rules*]}.

* + 1. Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made

Definition:

An action is composed of a set of activities.

Duration

The initial planned duration of an action may not *{be lower than [insert] months no*r} exceed *[insert*] months.

Sectors or themes

[Specific sectors or themes to which the actions must relate]

Location

Actions must take place in *[one or more of]* the following *[country(ies)] [region(s)]:* *[insert*].

Types of action

***EXPLANATORY NOTE: insert Types of actions which may be financed under this call.***

The following types of action are ineligible:

* actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses;
* actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
* *[insert/list/specify any others]****.***

Types of activity

***EXPLANATORY NOTE: list types of activity which may be financed under this call***

Financial support to third parties[[2]](#footnote-2)

Applicants {may} {may not} propose financial support to third parties.

***[if financial support to third parties is allowed]:***

Applicants may propose financial support to third parties in order to help achieving the objectives of the action.

The maximum amount of financial support per third party is USD: *[insert]*

Under this call, financial support to third parties {may} {may not} be the main purpose of the action.

In compliance with the present guidelines and notably of any conditions or restrictions in this section, the lead applicant should define mandatorily in section 2.1.1 of the grant application form:

1. the objectives and results to be obtained with the financial support
2. the different types of activities eligible for financial support, on the basis of a fixed list
3. the types of persons or categories of persons which may receive financial support

(iv) the criteria for selecting these entities and giving the financial support

1. the criteria for determining the exact amount of financial support for each third entity, and
2. the maximum amount which may be given.

In all events, the mandatory conditions set above for giving financial support (points (i) to (vi)) have to be strictly defined in the grant contract as to avoid any exercise of discretion.]

***{if financial support to third parties is allowed and specific conditions or restrictions apply to this call for proposals:***

***[insert/specify the definition of the persons or categories of persons eligible for financial support]***

***[specify the types of activity eligible for financial support]***

***[…]}***

Visibility

The applicants must take all necessary steps to publicise the fact that the SADC Secretariat has financed or co-financed the action. As far as possible, actions that are wholly or partially funded by the SADC Secretariat must incorporate information and communication activities designed to raise the awareness of specific or general audiences of the reasons for the action and the SADC support for the action in the country or region concerned, as well as the results and the impact of this support.

Number of applications and grants per applicants / affiliated entities

The lead applicant {may} {may not} submit more than *[insert]* application(s) {per lot} under this call for proposals.

The lead applicant {may} {may not} be awarded more than *[insert]* grant(s) {per lot} under this call for proposals.

The lead applicant {may} {may not} be a co-applicant or an affiliated entity in another application {of the same lot} at the same time.

A co-applicant/affiliated entity {may} {may not} be the co-applicant or affiliated entity in more than *[insert]* application(s) {per lot} under this call for proposals.

A co-applicant/affiliated entity {may} {may not} be awarded more than *[insert]* grant(s) {per lot}under this call for proposals.

* + 1. Eligibility of costs: costs that can be included

Only ‘eligible costs’ can be covered by a grant. The categories of costs that are eligible and non-eligible are indicated below. The budget is both a cost estimate and an overall ceiling for ‘eligible costs’.

The reimbursement of eligible costs may be based on any or a combination of the following forms:

* actual costs incurred by the beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies)
* one or more simplified cost options.

Simplified cost options may take the form of:

* **unit costs:** covering all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by reference to an amount per unit.
* **lump sums:** covering in global terms all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance.
* **flat-rate financing:** covering specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by applying a percentage fixed ex ante.

The amounts or rates have to be based on estimates using objective data such as statistical data or any other objective means or with reference to certified or auditable historical data of the applicants or the affiliated entity(ies). The methods used to determine the amounts or rates of unit costs, lump sums or flat-rates must comply with the criteria established in Annex E, and especially ensure that the costs correspond fairly to the actual costs incurred by the beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies), are in line with their accounting practices, no profit is made and the costs are not already covered by other sources of funding (no double funding). Refer to Annex E for directions and a checklist of controls to assess the minimum necessary conditions that provide reasonable assurance for the acceptance of the proposed amounts.

Applicants proposing this form of reimbursement, must clearly indicate in worksheet no.1 of Annex B, each heading/item of eligible costs concerned by this type of financing, i.e. add the reference in capital letters to "UNIT COST" (per month/flight etc), "LUMPSUM", "FLAT RATE" in the Unit column. (see example in Annex E)

Additionally in Annex B, in the second column of worksheet no.2, "Justification of the estimated costs" per each of the corresponding budget item or heading applicants must:

* describe the information and methods used to establish the amounts of unit costs, lump sums and/or flat-rates, to which costs they refer, etc.
* clearly explain the formulas for calculation of the final eligible amount[[3]](#footnote-3)
* identify the beneficiary who will use the simplified cost option (in case of affiliated entity, specify first the beneficiary), in order to verify the maximum amount per each beneficiary (which includes if applicable simplified cost options of its affiliated entity(ies))

At contracting phase, the Contracting Authority decides whether to accept the proposed amounts or rates on the basis of the provisional budget submitted by the applicants, by analysing factual data of grants carried out by the applicants or of similar actions and by performing checks established by Annex E.

The total amount of financing on the basis of simplified cost options that can be authorised by the Contracting Authority for any of the applicants individually (including simplified cost options proposed by their own affiliated entities) cannot exceed USD 60 000 (the indirect costs are not taken into account).

Recommendations to award a grant are always subject to the condition that the checks preceding the signing of the grant contract do not reveal problems requiring changes to the budget (such as arithmetical errors, inaccuracies, unrealistic costs and ineligible costs). The checks may give rise to requests for clarification and may lead the Contracting Authority to impose modifications or reductions to address such mistakes or inaccuracies. It is not possible to increase the grant or the percentage of SADC Secretariat co-financing as a result of these corrections.

It is therefore in the applicants' interest to provide a **realistic and cost-effective budget**.

The simplified cost option may also take the form of an apportionment of Field Office's costs.

Field Office means a local infrastructure set up in one of the countries where the action is implemented or a nearby country. (Where the action is implemented in several third countries there can be more than one Field Office). That may consist of costs for local office as well as human resources.

A Field Office may be exclusively dedicated to the action financed (or co-financed) or may be used for other projects implemented in the partner country. When the Field Office is used for other projects, only the portion of capitalised and operating costs which corresponds to the duration of the action and the rate of actual use of the field office for the purpose of the action may be declared as eligible direct costs.

The portion of costs attributable to the action can be declared as actual costs or determined by the beneficiary(ies) on the basis of a simplified allocation method (apportionment).

The method of allocation has to be:

1. Compliant with the beneficiary's usual accounting and management practices and applied in a consistent manner regardless of the source of funding and

2. Based on an objective, fair and reliable allocation keys. (Please refer to Annex F to have examples of acceptable allocation keys).

A description prepared by the entity of the allocation method used to determine Field Office's costs in accordance with the entity's usual cost accounting and management practices and explaining how the method satisfy condition 1 and 2 indicated above, has to be presented in a separate sheet and annexed to the Budget.

The method will be assessed and accepted by the evaluation committee and the Contracting Authority at contracting phase.

At the time of carrying out the expenditure verifications, the auditors may check if the costs reported are compliant with the method described by the beneficiary(ies) and accepted by the Contracting Authority.

Adequate record and documentation must be kept by the beneficiary(ies) to prove the compliance of the simplified allocation method used with the conditions set out above. Upon request of the beneficiary(ies), this compliance can be assessed and approved ex-ante by an independent external auditor. In such a case, the simplified allocation method will be automatically accepted by the evaluation committee and it will not be challenged ex post.

When costs are declared on the basis of such allocation method the amount charged to the action is to be indicated in the column "TOTAL COSTS" and the mention "APPORTIONMENT" is to be indicated in the column "units" (under budget heading 1 (Human resources) and 4 (Local Office) of the Budget).

Eligible direct costs

To be eligible under this call for proposals, costs must comply with the provisions of Article 14 of the General Conditions to the standard grant contract (see Annex F of the guidelines).

***In case the Contracting Authority has its own audit and verification system, as for instance one specific audit firm (or one out of a pool) that has been previously selected in respect of the applicable procurement rules:***

{The applicants (and where applicable their affiliated entities) agree that the expenditure verification(s) referred to in Article 15.7 of the General Conditions to the standard grant contract (see Annex G of the guidelines) will be carried out by {the Contracting Authority or any external body authorised by ***the SADC Secretariat***  *name, address, telephone and fax numbers}.*

***Insert if necessary for the implementation of actions under this call for proposals (and add respective provision to the Special Conditions)*** {Salary costs of the personnel of national administrations may be eligible to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities which the relevant public authority would not carry out if the action were not undertaken.}

***EXPLANATORY NOTE: If the relevant financing decision foresees the possibility to reimburse costs incurred even before the submission of grant applications add here the relevant eligibility date.]***

Contingency reserve

The budget may include a contingency reserve not exceeding 5 % of the estimated direct eligible costs. It can only be used with the **prior written** **authorisation** of the Contracting Authority.

Eligible indirect costs

The indirect costs incurred in carrying out the action may be eligible for flat-rate funding, but the total must not exceed 7 % of the estimated total eligible direct costs. Indirect costs are eligible provided that they do not include costs assigned to another budget heading in the standard grant contract. The lead applicant may be asked to justify the percentage requested before the grant contract is signed. However, once the flat rate has been fixed in the Special Conditions of the grant contract, no supporting documents need to be provided.

If any of the applicants or affiliated entity(ies) is in receipt of an operating grant financed by the SADC Secretariat, it may not claim indirect costs on its incurred costs within the proposed budget for the action.

Contributions in kind

Contributions in kind mean the provision of goods or services to beneficiaries or affiliated entities free of charge by a third party. As contributions in kind do not involve any expenditure for beneficiaries or affiliated entities, they are not eligible costs.

***Alternative 1 (if contributions in kind are not allowed*):** {Contributions in kind may not be treated as co-financing}

However, if the description of the action as proposed includes contributions in kind, the contributions have to be made.}

***Alternative 2 (if contributions in kind are allowed):*** [The Contracting Authority may accept co-financing in kind, if considered necessary or appropriate. In such cases, the value of such contributions must not exceed:

1. either the costs actually borne and duly supported by accounting documents;
2. or the costs generally accepted on the concerned market of reference.

Contributions involving real estate must be excluded from the calculation of the amount of co-financing. In kind contributions must comply with national tax and social security rules.

If co-financing in kind is proposed, it must be included in Annex B (Worksheet 3) to the guidelines for applicants on the expected sources of funding for the action. The same amount must be indicated in the budget (worksheet 1).]

***NB. Given the difficulty of evaluating contributions in kind if accepted as co-financing, the Contracting Authority should only accept contributions in kind as co-financing in exceptional cases, subject to possible evaluation of such contributions.***

Ineligible costs

The following costs are not eligible:

* debts and debt service charges (interest);
* provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
* costs declared by the beneficiary(ies) and financed by another action or work programme receiving a SADC Secretariat grant;
* purchases of land or buildings, except where necessary for the direct implementation of the action, in which case ownership must be transferred in accordance with Article 7.5 of the General Conditions of the standard grant contract, at the latest at the end of the action;
* currency exchange losses;
* {credit to third parties.} ***delete if eligible under this call for proposals***
* {salary costs of the personnel of national administrations} ***delete if eligible under this call for proposals***

**Ethics clauses and Code of Conduct**

a) Absence of conflict of interest

The applicant must not be affected by any conflict of interest and must have no equivalent relation in that respect with other applicants or parties involved in the actions. Any attempt by an applicant to obtain confidential information, enter into unlawful agreements with competitors or influence the evaluation committee or the contracting authority during the process of examining, clarifying, evaluating and comparing applications will lead to the rejection of its application.

b) Respect for human rights as well as environmental legislation and core labour standards

The applicant and its staff must comply with human rights. In particular and in accordance with the applicable act, applicants who have been awarded contracts must comply with the environmental legislation including multilateral environmental agreements, and with the core labour standards as applicable and as defined in the relevant International Labour Organisation conventions (such as the conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining; elimination of forced and compulsory labour; abolition of child labour).

**Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and sexual abuse:**

SADC applies a policy of 'zero tolerance' in relation to all wrongful conduct which has an impact on the professional credibility of the applicant.

Physical abuse or punishment, or threats of physical abuse, sexual abuse or exploitation, harassment and verbal abuse, as well as other forms of intimidation shall be prohibited.

c) Anti-corruption and anti-bribery

The applicant shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations and codes relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption. SADC reserves the right to suspend or cancel project financing if corrupt practices of any kind are discovered at any stage of the award process or during the execution of a contract and if the contracting authority fails to take all appropriate measures to remedy the situation. For the purposes of this provision, ‘corrupt practices’ are the offer of a bribe, gift, gratuity or commission to any person as an inducement or reward for performing or refraining from any act relating to the award of a contract or execution of a contract already concluded with the contracting authority.

d) Unusual commercial expenses

Applications will be rejected or contracts terminated if it emerges that the award or execution of a contract has given rise to unusual commercial expenses. Such unusual commercial expenses are commissions not mentioned in the main contract or not stemming from a properly concluded contract referring to the main contract, commissions not paid in return for any actual and legitimate service, commissions remitted to a tax haven, commissions paid to a payee who is not clearly identified or commissions paid to a company which has every appearance of being a front company.

Grant beneficiaries found to have paid unusual commercial expenses on projects funded by SADC/ European Union are liable, depending on the seriousness of the facts observed, to have their contracts terminated or to be permanently excluded from receiving further funds.

e) Breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud

The contracting authority reserves the right to suspend or cancel the procedure, where the award procedure proves to have been subject to breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud. If breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud are discovered after the award of the contract, the contracting authority may refrain from concluding the contract.

* 1. How to apply and the procedures to follow

***{Restricted call for proposals***

* + 1. Concept note content

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the concept note instructions in the grant application form annexed to these guidelines (Annex A).

Applicants must apply in *[English, French and/or Portuguese]*

Please note that:

1. In the concept note, lead applicants must only provide an estimate of the requested SADC Secretariat contribution as well as an indicative percentage of that contribution in relation to the eligible costs of the action. A detailed budget is to be submitted only by the lead applicants invited to submit a full application in the second phase.
2. The elements outlined in the concept note may not be modified in the full application. The SADC contribution may not vary from the initial estimate by more than 20 %. Lead applicants are free to adapt the percentage of co-financing required within the minimum and maximum amount and percentages of co-financing, as laid down in these guidelines in section 1.3. The lead applicant may replace a co-applicant or an affiliated entity only in duly justified cases (e.g. bankruptcy of initial co-applicant or affiliated entity). In this case the new co-applicant/affiliated entity must be of a similar nature as the initial one. The lead applicant may adjust the duration of the action if unforeseen circumstances outside the scope of the applicants have taken place following the submission of the concept note and require such adaptation (risk of action not being carried out). In such cases the duration must remain within the limits imposed by the guidelines for applicants. An explanation/justification of the relevant replacement/adjustment shall be included in an accompanying letter or email.

Own contributions by the applicants can be replaced by other donors' contributions at any time.

1. Only the concept note form will be evaluated. It is therefore of utmost importance that this document contains ALL relevant information concerning the action. No additional annexes should be sent.

Any error or major discrepancy related to the concept note instructions may lead to the rejection of the concept note.

Clarifications will only be requested when information provided is not sufficient to conduct an objective assessment.

Hand-written concept notes will not be accepted.

* + 1. Where and how to send concept notes

The concept note together with its relating checklist[[4]](#footnote-4) and declaration by the lead applicant (to be found in **Part A** **sections 2 and 3** of the grant application form) must be submitted in one original and *[insert number of copies required] (in view of environmental considerations, request as few copies as possible)]* copies.

An electronic version of the concept note must also be submitted. A CD-Rom [*insert other if the case* [[5]](#footnote-5)] with the concept note in electronic format will be included, along with the paper version, in a sealed envelope as described below. The electronic file must contain **exactly the same** application as the paper version enclosed.

Where lead applicants send several different concept notes (if allowed to do so by the guidelines of the call), each one must be sent separately.

The envelope must bear the **reference number and the title of the call for proposals**, together with [the lot number and title] the full name and address of the lead applicant, and the words ‘Not to be opened before the opening session’ in the language of the call.

Concept notes must be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery (a signed and dated certificate of receipt will be given to the deliverer) to the address below:

Postal address

*[Insert address of the Contracting Authority]*

Address for hand delivery or by private courier service

*[Insert address of the Contracting Authority]*

Concept notes sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by e-mail) or delivered to other addresses will be rejected.

**Lead applicants must verify that their concept note is complete using the checklist for concept note (Part A section 2 of the grant application form). Incomplete concept notes may be rejected.**

* + 1. Deadline for submission of concept notes

The deadline for the submission of concept notes is *[insert date*] as evidenced by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip. In the case of hand-deliveries, the deadline for receipt is at *[insert X hours local time*] as evidenced by the signed and dated receipt. Any concept note submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

However, for reasons of administrative efficiency, the Contracting Authority may reject any concept note sent in due time but received after the effective date of approval of the concept note evaluation (see indicative calendar under section 2.5.2)

* + 1. Further information about concept notes

{An information session on this call for proposals will be held on *[insert date]* at *[insert hour]* [add place if necessary].}

Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 21 days before the deadline for the submission of concept notes to the address(es) below, indicating clearly the reference of the call for proposals:

E-mail address: *[insert]*

The Contracting Authority has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date.

Replies will be published no later than 11 days before the deadline for submission of concept notes.

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.

No individual replies will be given to questions. All questions and answers as well as other important notices to applicants during the course of the evaluation procedure will be published on the SADC website [and *[insert other websites*]}, as the need arises. It is therefore advisable to consult the abovementioned website regularly in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

* + 1. Full applications

Lead applicants invited to submit a full application following pre-selection of their concept note must do so using Part B of the grant application form annexed to these guidelines (Annex A). Lead applicants should then keep strictly to the format of the grant application form and fill in the paragraphs and pages in order.

The elements outlined in the concept note cannot be modified by the lead applicant in the full application.The SADC contribution may not vary from the initial estimate by more than 20 %, although lead applicants are free to adapt the percentage of co-financing required within the minimum and maximum amount and percentages of co-financing, as laid down in these guidelines under section 1.3. The lead applicant may replace a co-applicant or an affiliated entity only in duly justified cases (e.g. bankruptcy of initial co-applicant or affiliated entity). In this case the new co-applicant/affiliated entity must be of a similar nature as the initial one. The lead applicant may adjust the duration of the action if unforeseen circumstances outside the scope of the applicants have taken place following the submission of the concept note and require such adaptation (risk of action not being carried out). In such cases the duration must remain within the limits imposed by the guidelines for applicants. An explanation/justification of the relevant replacement/adjustment shall be included in an accompanying letter or email.

Lead applicants must submit their full applications in the same language as their concept notes.

Please complete the full application form carefully and as clearly as possible so that it can be assessed properly.

Any error related to the points listed in the checklist (Part B, section 7 of the grant application form) or any major inconsistency in the full application (e.g. if the amounts in the budget worksheets are inconsistent) may lead to the rejection of the application.

Clarifications will only be requested when information provided is unclear and thus prevents the Contracting Authority from conducting an objective assessment.

Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Please note that only the full application form and the published annexes which have to be filled in (budget, logical framework) will be transmitted to the evaluators (and assessors, if used). It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain ALL the relevant information concerning the action. **No additional annexes should be sent.**

* + 1. Where and how to send full applications

Full applications (i.e. the full application form, the budget, the logical framework and the declaration by the lead applicant) must be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery (a signed and dated certificate of receipt will be given to the deliverer) to the address below:

Postal address

*[Insert address of the Contracting Authority]*

Address for hand delivery and by private courier service

*[Insert address of the Contracting Authority]*

Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by e-mail) or delivered to other addresses will be rejected.

Applications must be submitted in one original and *[insert number of copies required (in view of environmental considerations, as few copies as possible should be requested)]* copies in A4 size, each bound. The full application form, budget and logical framework must also be supplied in electronic format (CD-Rom *[insert others if required [[6]](#footnote-6)]*) in a separate and single file (i.e. the full application must not be split into several different files). The electronic file must contain **exactly the same** application as the paper version.

The checklist (section 7 of Part B of the grant application form) and the declaration by the lead applicant (section 8 of Part B of the grant application form) must be stapled separately and enclosed in the envelope

Where lead applicants send several different applications (if allowed to do so by the guidelines of the call), each one must be sent separately.

The envelope must bear the **reference number and the title of the call for proposals**, together with the number and title of the lot, the full name and address of the lead applicant, and the words ‘Not to be opened before the opening session’ on the language of the call.

**Applicants must verify that their application is complete using the checklist (section 7 of Part B of the grant application form). Incomplete applications may be rejected.**

* + 1. Deadline for submission of full applications

{The deadline for the submission of full applications will be indicated in the letter sent to the lead applicants whose application has been pre-selected.}

* + 1. Further information about full applications

Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 21 days before the deadline for the submission of full applications to the addresses listed below, indicating clearly the reference of the call for proposals:

E-mail address: *[insert]*

The Contracting Authority has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date.

Replies will be given no later than 11 days before the deadline for the submission of full applications.

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), or an action.

No individual replies will be given to questions. All questions and answers as well as other important notices to applicants during the course of the evaluation procedure, will be published on the SADC Secretariat website *[and insert other websites if required]*, as the need arises. It is therefore advisable to consult the abovementioned website regularly in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

[Open call for proposals

* + 1. Application forms

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the instructions on the concept note and the full applications in the grant application form annexed to these guidelines (Annex A).

Applicants must apply in *[English, French, and/or Portuguese]*

Any error or major discrepancy related to the points listed in the instructions on the concept note or any major inconsistency in the application e.g. if the amounts in the budget worksheets are inconsistent) may lead to the rejection of the application.

Clarifications will only be requested when the information provided is unclear and thus prevents the Contracting Authority from conducting an objective assessment.

Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Please note that only the grant application form and the published annexes which have to be filled in (budget, logical framework) will be evaluated. It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain ALL the relevant information concerning the action.No additional annexes should be sent.

* + 1. Where and how to send applications

Applications must be submitted in one original and *[insert number of copies required (in view of environmental considerations, as few copies as possible should be requested)]* copies. The complete application form (Part A: concept note and Part B: full application form), budget and logical framework must also be supplied in electronic format (CD-ROM *[insert others if required [[7]](#footnote-7)])* in a separate and single file (i.e. the application must not be split into several different files). The electronic file must contain **exactly the same** application as the paper version enclosed.

The checklist (section 7 of Part B of the grant application form) and the declaration by the lead applicant (section 8 of Part B of the grant application form) must be stapled separately and enclosed in the envelope.

Where a lead applicant sends several different applications (if allowed to do so by the guidelines of the call), each one has to be sent separately.

The outer envelope must bear the **reference number and the title of the call for proposals**, together with [the title and number of the lot,] the full name and address of the lead applicant, and the words ‘Not to be opened before the opening session’ in the language of the call.

Applications must be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery (a signed and dated certificate of receipt will be given to the deliverer) at the address below:

Postal address

*[Insert address of the Contracting Authority]*

Address for hand delivery or by private courier service

*[Insert address of the Contracting Authority]*

Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by e-mail) or delivered to other addresses will be rejected.

**Lead applicants must verify that their application is complete using the checklist (section 7 of Part B of the grant application form). Incomplete applications may be rejected.**

* + 1. Deadline for submission of applications

{The deadline for the submission of applications is *[insert date]* as evidenced by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip. In the case of hand-deliveries, the deadline for receipt is at *[insert hours local time]* as evidenced by the signed and dated receipt. Any application submitted after the deadline will automatically be rejected.}

* + 1. Further information about applications

{An information session on this call for proposals will be held on *[insert date]* at *[insert hours add place if necessary]*.}

Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 21 days before the deadline for the submission of applications to the below address(es), indicating clearly the reference of the call for proposals:

E-mail address: *[insert]*

The Contracting Authority has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date.

Replies will be given no later than 11 days before the deadline for the submission of applications.

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.

Questions that may be relevant to other applicants, together with the answers, will be published on the SADC Secretariat website and *[insert other website(s) if required],* as the need arises. It is therefore advisable to consult the abovementioned website regularly in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

* 1. Evaluation and selection of applications

Applications will be examined and evaluated by the Contracting Authority. All applications will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria.

If the examination of the application reveals that the proposed action does not meet the eligibility criteria stated in section 2.1, the application will be rejected on this sole basis.

1. **STEP 1: OPENING & ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKS AND CONCEPT NOTE EVALUATION**

During the opening and administrative check the following will be assessed:

* + - If the deadline has been met. Otherwise, the application will be automatically rejected.
* If the {***restricted***: concept note} {***open*:** application]}satisfies all the criteria specified in the checklist in {***restricted*** section 2 of Part A} {***open*:** section 7 of Part B} of the grant application form. This includes also an assessment of the eligibility of the action. If any of the requested information is missing or is incorrect, the application may be rejected on that **sole** basis and the application will not be evaluated further.

The concept notes that pass this check will be evaluated on the relevance and design of the proposed action.

The concept notes will receive an overall score out of 50 using the breakdown in the evaluation grid below. The evaluation will also check on compliance with the instructions on how to complete the concept note, which can be found in Part A of the grant application form.

The evaluation criteria are divided into headings and subheadings. Each subheading will be given a score between 1 and 5 as follows: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Scores** | |
| **1. Relevance of the action** | Sub-score | **30** |
| 1.1 How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals?\* | 5x2\*\* |  |
| 1.2 How relevant to the particular needs and constraintsof the target country(ies) or region(s) is the proposal (including synergy with other initiatives and avoidance of duplication)? | 5x2\*\* |  |
| 1.3 How clearly defined and strategically chosen are those involved (final beneficiaries, target groups)? Have their needs been clearly defined and does the proposal address them appropriately? | 5 |  |
| 1.4 Does the proposal contain specific added-value elements, such as environmental issues, promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities, needs of disabled people, rights of minorities and rights of indigenous peoples, or innovation and best practices *{and the other additional elements indicated under 1.2. of the guidelines for applicants}*? | 5 |  |
| **2. Design of the action** | Sub-score | **20** |
| 2.1 How coherent is the overall design of the action?  In particular, does it reflect the analysis of the problems involved, take into account external factors and relevant stakeholders? | 5x2\*\* |  |
| 2.2 Is the action feasible and consistent in relation to the objectives and expected results? | 5x2\*\* |
| **TOTAL SCORE** |  | **50** |

***To be included where a minimum number of priorities has been established***: {\* Note: A score of 5 (very good) will only be allocated if the proposal specifically addresses more than the required minimum number of priorities as indicated in Section 1.2 (objectives of the programme) of these guidelines.}

\*\*these scores are multiplied by 2 because of their importance

Once all concept notes have been assessed, a list will be drawn up with the proposed actions ranked according to their total score.

Firstly, only the concept notes with a score of at least 30 will be considered for pre-selection.

Secondly, the number of concept notes will be reduced, taking account of the ranking, to the number of concept notes whose total aggregate amount of requested contributions is equal to *[insert percentage, recommended at least 200%]* of the available budget for this call for proposals. The amount of requested contributions of each concept note will be based on the indicative financial envelopes for each lot, where relevant.

After the evaluation of concept notes, the Contracting Authority will send letters to all lead applicants, indicating whether their application was submitted by the deadline, informing them of the reference number they have been allocated, whether the concept note was evaluated and the results of that evaluation.

***To be included in the case of restricted calls***: {The pre-selected lead applicants will subsequently be invited to submit full applications.}

***To be included in the case of open calls***: {The evaluation committee will then proceed with the lead applicants whose proposals have been pre-selected.}

1. **STEP 2: EVALUATION OF THE FULL APPLICATION**

Firstly, the following will be assessed:

**{Restricted call for proposals**

* If the submission deadline has been met. Otherwise, the application will automatically be rejected.}
* If the full application satisfies all the criteria specified in the checklist (section 7 of Part B of the grant application form). This includes also an assessment of the eligibility of the action. If any of the requested information is missing or is incorrect, the application may be rejected on that **sole** basis and the application will not be evaluated further.

The full applications that pass this check will be further evaluated on their quality, including the proposed budget and capacity of the applicants and affiliated entity(ies). They will be evaluated using the evaluation criteria in the evaluation grid below. There are two types of evaluation criteria: selection and award criteria.

**The selection criteria** help to evaluate the applicant(s)'s and affiliated entity(ies)'s operational capacity and the lead applicant's financial capacity and are used to verify that they:

* have stable and sufficient sources of finance to maintain their activity throughout the proposed action and, where appropriate, to participate in its funding (this only applies to lead applicants);
* have the management capacity, professional competencies and qualifications required to successfully complete the proposed action. This applies to applicants and any affiliated entity(ies).

**The award criteria** help to evaluate the quality of the applications in relation to the objectives and priorities set forth in the guidelines, and to award grants to projects which maximise the overall effectiveness of the call for proposals. They help to select applications which the Contracting Authority can be confident will comply with its objectives and priorities. They cover the relevance of the action, its consistency with the objectives of the call for proposals, quality, expected impact, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

*Scoring:*

The evaluation grid is divided into sections and subsections. Each subsection will be given a score between 1 and 5 as follows: 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

**Evaluation Grid**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section** | **Maximum Score** |
| **1. Financial and operational capacity** | **20** |
| 1.1 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient experience of projectmanagement? | 5 |
| 1.2 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient technical expertise? (especially knowledge of the issues to be addressed) | 5 |
| 1.3 Do the applicants and, if applicable, their affiliated entity(ies) have sufficient management capacity?  (Including staff, equipment and ability to handle the budget for the action)? | 5 |
| 1.4 Does the lead applicant have stable and sufficient sources of finance? | 5 |
| **2. Relevance of the action** | **30** |
| *Score transferred from the Concept Note evaluation* |  |
| **3. Effectiveness and feasibility of the action** | **20** |
| 3.1 Are the activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the objectives and expected results? | 5 |
| 3.2 Is the action plan clear and feasible? | 5 |
| 3.3 Does the proposal contain objectively verifiable indicators for the outcome of the action? Is any evaluation planned? | 5 |
| 3.4 Is the co-applicant(s)'s and affiliated entity(ies)'s level of involvement and participation in the action satisfactory? | 5 |
| **4. Sustainability of the action** | **15** |
| 4.1 Is the action likely to have a tangible impact on its target groups? | 5 |
| 4.2 Is the proposal likely to have multiplier effects? (Including scope for replication, extension and information sharing.) | 5 |
| 4.3 Are the expected results of the proposed action sustainable?:  - financially *(how will the activities be financed after the funding ends?)*  - institutionally *(will structures allowing the activities to continue be in place at the end of the action? Will there be local ‘ownership’ of the results of the action?)*  - at policy level (where applicable) *(what will be the structural impact of the action — e.g. will it lead to improved legislation, codes of conduct, methods, etc?)*  - environmentally (if applicable) *(will the action have a negative/positive environmental impact?)* | 5 |
| **5. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the action** | **15** |
| 5.1 Are the activities appropriately reflected in the budget? | / 5 |
| 5.2 Is the ratio between the estimated costs and the expected results satisfactory? | / 10 |
| **Maximum total score** | **100** |

If the total score for section 1 (financial and operational capacity) is less than 12 points, the application will be rejected. If the score for at least one of the subsections under section 1 is 1, the application will also be rejected.

If the lead applicant applies without co-applicants or affiliated entities the score for point 3.4 shall be 5 unless the involvement of co-applicants or affiliated entities is mandatory according to these guidelines for applicants.

*Provisional selection*

After the evaluation, a table will be drawn up listing the applications ranked according to their score. The highest scoring applications will be provisionally selected until the available budget for this call for proposals is reached. In addition, a reserve list will be drawn up following the same criteria. This list will be used if more funds become available during the validity period of the reserve list.

1. **STEP 3: VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF THE APPLICANTS AND AFFILIATED ENTITY(IES)**

The eligibility verification will be performed on the basis of the supporting documents requested by the Contracting Authority (see section 2.4). It will only be performed for the applications that have been provisionally selected according to their score and within the available budget for this call for proposals.

* The declaration by the lead applicant (section 8 of Part B of the grant application form) will be cross-checked with the supporting documents provided by the lead applicant. Any missing supporting document or any incoherence between the declaration by the lead applicant and the supporting documents may lead to the rejection of the application on that sole basis.
* The eligibility of applicants and the affiliated entity(ies) will be verified according to the criteria set out in sections 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3.

Any rejected application will be replaced by the next best placed application on the reserve list that falls within the available budget for this call for proposals.

* 1. Submission of supporting documents for provisionally selected applications

A lead applicant whose application has been provisionally selected or placed on the reserve list will be informed in writing by the Contracting Authority. It will be requested to supply the following documents in order to allow the Contracting Authority to verify the eligibility of the lead applicant, (if any) of the co-applicant(s) and (if any) of their affiliated entity(ies)[[8]](#footnote-8):

The statutes or articles of association of the lead applicant, (if any) of each co-applicant and (if any) of each affiliated entity[[9]](#footnote-9). Where the Contracting Authority has recognised the lead applicant’s, or the co-applicant(s)’s, or their affiliated entity(ies)’s eligibility for another call for proposals under the same budget line within 2 years before the deadline for receipt of applications, it should be submitted, instead of the statutes or articles of association, a copy of the document proving their eligibility in a former call (e.g. a copy of the Special Conditions of a grant contract received during the reference period), unless a change in legal status has occurred in the meantime[[10]](#footnote-10). This obligation does not apply to Member States which have signed a framework agreement with the SADC Secretariat.

An external audit report produced by an approved auditor, certifying the lead applicant's accounts for the last financial year available where the total amount of the requested SADC contribution exceeds USD 750 000 (USD 100 000 for an operating grant). The external audit report is not required from (if any) the co-applicant(s)) or affiliated entities.

{This obligation does not apply to public bodies and international organisations provided that the international organisation in question offers the guarantees provided for in the applicable Financial Regulation, as described in chapter 6 of the Practical Guide.}

***If eligible and depending on the authorising officer’s risk assessmen***t: {This obligation does not apply to secondary and higher education establishments.}

A copy of the lead applicant’s latest accounts (the profit and loss account and the balance sheet for the last financial year for which the accounts have been closed)[[11]](#footnote-11). A copy of the latest account is neither required from (if any) the co-applicant(s) nor from (if any) affiliated entity(ies)).

{List any other supporting documents required}.

Documents must be supplied in the form of originals, photocopies or scanned versions (i.e. showing legible stamps, signatures and dates) of the said originals.

Where such documents are not in one of the official languages of the SADC Secretariat, a translation into [the language(s) of the call for proposals] of these documents proving the lead applicant's and, where applicable, co-applicants' and affiliated entity(ies)' eligibility, must be attached for the purpose of analysing the application.

If the abovementioned supporting documents are not provided before the deadline indicated in the request for supporting documents sent to the lead applicant by the Contracting Authority, the application may be rejected.

After verifying the supporting documents, the evaluation committee will make a final recommendation to the Contracting Authority, which will decide on the award of grants.

NB : In the eventuality that the Contracting Authority is not satisfied with the strength, solidity, and guarantee offered by the structural link between one of the applicants and its affiliated entity, it can require the submission of the missing documents allowing for its conversion into co-applicant. If all the missing documents for co-applicants are submitted, and provided all necessary eligibility criteria are fulfilled, the above mentioned entity becomes a co-applicant for all purposes. The lead applicant has to submit the application form revised accordingly.

* 1. Notification of the Contracting Authority’s decision
     1. Content of the decision

The lead applicants will be informed in writing of the Contracting Authority’s decision concerning their application and, if rejected, the reasons for the negative decision.

An applicant believing that it has been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may lodge a complaint.

* + 1. Indicative timetable

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **DATE** | **TIME** |
| **1. Information meeting (if any)** | *[Date] [Not applicable]* | *[Time] [Not applicable]* |
| **2. Deadline for requesting any clarifications from the Contracting Authority** | Date 21 days before the submission deadline | Time |
| **3. Last date on which clarifications are issued by the Contracting Authority** | Date 11 days before the submission deadline | - |
| **4. Deadline for submission of *{restricted procedures: concept notes} {open procedures: applications}*** | *Date* | *Time* |
| **5. Information to lead applicants on opening, administrative checks and concept note evaluation (Step 1)** | *Date* | *-* |
| **{for restricted procedures: 6. Invitations to submit full applications}** | *Date* | *-* |
| **{for restricted procedures: 6. Deadline for submission of full applications}** | Date min 45 days after invitation | - |
| **7. Information to lead applicants on the evaluation of the full applications (Step 2)** | *Date* | - |
| **8. Notification of award (after the eligibility check) (Step 3)** | *Date* | - |
| **9. Contract signature** | *Date* | - |

All times are in the time zone of the country of the Contracting Authority.

This indicative timetable refers to provisional dates (except for dates 2, 3, and 4) and may be updated by the Contracting Authority during the procedure. In such cases, the updated timetable will be published on the SADC Secretariat website.

* 1. Conditions for implementation after the Contracting Authority’s decision to award a grant

Following the decision to award a grant, the beneficiary(ies) will be offered a contract based on the standard grant contract (see Annex F of these guidelines). By signing the grant application form (Annex A of these guidelines), the applicants agree, if awarded a grant, to accept the contractual conditions of the standard grant contract.

Subcontracting/secondary procurement

Where implementation of the action requires the beneficiary(ies) and its affiliated entity(ies) (if any) to award procurement contracts, those contracts must be awarded in accordance with article 6 of the Special Conditions of contract to the standard grant contract.

1. LIST OF annexes

***Note that all annexes must be adapted as foreseen to the call and published together with the guidelines***

**Documents to be completed**

Annex A: Grant Application Form (Word format)

Annex B: Budget (Excel format)

{Annex C: Logical Framework (Excel format)}

**DOCUMENTS FOR INFORMATION[[12]](#footnote-12)**

Annex D: Daily allowance rates (Per diem), available at the following address

Annex E: Guidelines and Checklist for assessing Budget.

Annex F: Standard Grant Contract

- Annex II: general conditions

- Annex IV: standard request for payment

- Annex V: model narrative report

- Annex VI: model financial report

[-Annex VII: model report of factual findings and terms of reference for an expenditure verification ]

[-Annex VIII: model financial guarantee]

[-Annex IX: standard template for transfer of ownership of assets]

\* \* \*

1. [Estimated total accepted costs = estimated total eligible costs + in kind contributions, non-eligible taxes, etc.] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. These third parties are neither affiliated entity(ies) nor associates nor contractors. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Examples:- for staff costs: number of hours or days of work \* hourly or daily rate pre-set according to the category of personnel concerned;- for travel expenses: distance in km \* pre-set cost of transport per km; number of days \* daily allowance pre-set according to the country;- for specific costs arising from the organization of an event: number of participants at the event \* pre-set total cost per participant etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Please note that the concept note / full application should not be rejected only because the lead applicant did not submit the checklist or the information in the checklist is not correct. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. If you want to allow for other devices (e.g. USB sticks) make sure that appropriate IT security measures are in place. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. If you want to allow for other devices (e.g. USB sticks) make sure that appropriate IT security measures are in place. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. If you want to allow for other devices (e.g. USB sticks) make sure that appropriate IT security measures are in place. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. The Contracting Authority may decide not to request supporting documents for applications for a grant not exceeding USD 60 000. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Where the lead applicant and/or a co-applicant(s) and or an affiliated entity(ies) is a public body created by a law, a copy of the said law must be provided. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. To be inserted only where the eligibility conditions have not changed from one call for proposals to the other. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. This obligation does not apply to natural persons who have received a scholarship or that are in most need in receipt of direct support, nor to public bodies and to international organisations. It does not apply either when the accounts are in practice the same documents as the external audit report already provided pursuant to section 2.4.2. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. The Contracting Authority must also publish these documents. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)