

## **UN ENVIRONMENT JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST**

### **General Information**

Post Title	JPO – UN Climate, Peace and Security Hub Horn of Africa
Office/division/MEA	Ecosystems/Disasters & Conflicts
Unit	Environmental Security Unit
Location	Nairobi
Duration	2 or 3 years

### **Background information on UN Environment and the requesting Unit**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the sustainable development agenda within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. UN Environment implements legislative mandates of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF), ensuring coherent delivery of its programme of work. Its mandate is to, among others, coordinate the development of environmental policy consensus by keeping the global environment under review and bringing emerging issues to the attention of the governments and the international community for action.

The UNEP Environmental Security Unit sits within the Ecosystems Division, Disasters and Conflict Branch. It was established in 2017. The Unit has team members sitting in UNEP headquarters in Nairobi in Geneva and in New York Offices and also embedded within UN political and integrated offices. The Unit leads UNEP's role within the Climate Security Mechanism of the UN, which was created in 2018 and is a joint initiative of the Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP to strengthen the capacity of the UN system to analyse and address the adverse impacts of climate change on peace and security.

The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Horn of Africa (OSES-G-Horn) was established in 2018 and is a Special Political Mission mandated to support the region in preventing conflict and sustaining peace. OSES-G-Horn coordinates the United Nations Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy, the UN's support framework for the Horn of Africa. The Strategy employs a regional approach to prevention, considers the regional strategies of Member States, the Intergovernmental Authority for Development in the Horn of Africa (IGAD) and the African Union, and promotes coordination and joint implementation by UN agencies, funds and programmes.

Recognising the risks that climate change poses to peace in the region, in February 2022 UNEP seconded a Climate Security Advisor to OSE. This Advisor acts as lead and rapporteur for the UN Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy pillar on Climate

Resilience and Sustainable Natural Resource Management. UN entities including UNEP, UNDP, WFP, FAO, WHO, IOM, UN-HABITAT and OCHA are active members of this pillar group and are making steps towards joint risk assessment and programming at the regional level. The Advisor maintains close collaboration with IGAD and African Union on the issue of climate security.

As the Horn of Africa faces complex risks related to conflict, political instability, COVID-19 pandemic, locust outbreak, drought of unprecedented duration and severity, environmental degradation, climate change and soaring food and fuel prices due in part to the Ukraine crisis, the prevention agenda of the UN Secretary-General is more important than ever.

### **Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?**

Demand for UN's climate, peace and security advice is growing as awareness has increased. In November 2022, Member States in the Horn of Africa directed IGAD to establish a Regional Climate Security Coordination Mechanism, in collaboration with OSESG-Horn. On its' part, the UN has committed to establishing a UN Climate, Peace and Security Hub for the Horn of Africa, based in Nairobi and housed within OSESG-Horn. With climate, peace and security advisors in the UN Assistance Mission to Somalia (UNSOM) and UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and others coming potentially to the UN Assistance Office to the African Union (UNOAU), there is a growing network at national and regional levels that needs to be coordinated. Also, in February 2023 the Secretary General instructed OSESG-Horn to coordinate the review of the UN Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy for the next 5 years, after which the UN will enter into a new phase of implementation in the Horn.

The Junior Professional Officer is needed to assist in the operationalisation of the UN Climate, Peace and Security Hub, the coordination of UN agencies, funds and programmes under the UN Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy as it is reviewed, establishing a network with the Climate Security Advisors in the UN missions to UNSOM, UNMISS and UNOAU, as well as other focal points in the region and in partnering with IGAD and African Union in the establishment of the Regional Climate Security Coordination Mechanism for the Horn of Africa.

The opportunity to bring this type of technical expertise into a political mission is rare in the UN system and has the potential to bring tangible results in terms of conflict prevention and climate security in the region over a two- to three-year timeframe.

### **Supervision**

UNEP/OSESG-Horn Climate, Peace and Security Advisor, also based in Nairobi, will be the Junior Professional Officer's supervisor and work in daily collaboration. An annual workplan will be established together and the UNEP staff E-Performance system used for appraising performance.

### **Content and methodology of the supervision**

The Junior Professional Officer will receive an introduction to UN Environment, the Climate Security Mechanism of the UN, the OSESG-Horn and the key regional partners both within and outside the UN system, as well as orientation on the overall work, deliverables and future plans of the UN Climate, Peace and Security Hub for the Horn of Africa.

The Junior Professional Officer will carry out regular discussion and evaluation with the supervisor in light of a previously established workplan. This will include the frequency and nature of assessments of accomplishments, review of problems, discussions on job-satisfaction; discussion of development plan and learning objectives, guidance to be provided in development of the workplan and project implementation.

Guidance will be provided through interaction with the supervisor on a regular basis, through the work with other senior staff in the office and through regular engagement with the colleagues in UNEP and OSESG-Horn. The overall context of management and guidance includes discussion of general objectives, desired results and anticipated challenges. Regular feedback on the progress of activities is obtained by the supervisor through review of work in process. The incumbent is expected to carry out the duties under general supervision and to consult with the supervisor on issues of policy or other sensitive matters. Final results of each set of activities will be reviewed for attainment of objectives and quality of work. In addition, guidance will be provided to the Junior Professional Officer through a supporting team structure.

First appraising officer: Dr. Elizabeth Carabine

Title first appraising officer: Climate, Peace and Security Advisor, OSESG-Horn

Unit first appraising officer: Environmental Security Unit/Disaster and Conflicts

Location first appraising officer: Nairobi

Second appraising officer: Ms. Sagal Abshir

Title second appraising officer: Head of Environmental Security Unit

Unit second appraising officer: Environmental Security Unit/Disaster and Conflicts

Location second appraising officer: Nairobi

### **Duties, responsibilities and output expectations**

Terms of reference

The UNEP Junior Professional Officer will support the operationalization of the UN Climate, Peace and Security Hub for the Horn of Africa, in particular:

- Support coordination of the UN Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy for the Horn of Africa pillar on Climate, Peace and Security.
- Collaborate with UN agencies, funds and programmes in the region to jointly assess environmental and climate security risks and identify opportunities for joint programming and activities to address them.
- Collaborate with colleagues in the Climate Security Mechanism of the UN based in New York on reporting and coordination of relevant activities outside Horn.

- Liaise with technical officers at IGAD and the African Union, supporting in the establishment and implementation of the Regional Climate Security Coordination Mechanism.
- Strengthen UN communication and advocacy efforts in the region by assisting with drafting speeches, talking points, notes, background papers and other documents related to environmental and climate, peace security.
- Participate in regular OSE briefings to the Special Envoy and to the political officers in New York on issues including climate-related risks to peace and security in the region.
- Prepare policy briefing documents on linkages between climate change and peace and security and sustainable development related to relevant intergovernmental and interagency processes, as appropriate.

#### Output expectations

Tailored UNEP backstopping planned and supported in consultation with New York based stakeholders.

Climate, Peace and Security training delivered to UN field missions, RC Offices and other practitioners.

Evidence base consolidated and applied to context specific support.

#### **Travel**

*Travel will be based on requirements/needs that will arise and availability of funds.*

#### **Training and Learning Elements**

##### Training

On the job training: The Junior Professional Officer will receive unique experience and training within both the headquarters of a UN organization and within a special political mission, including the functioning of intergovernmental engagements and inter-agency coordination mechanisms. The successful candidate will receive an overview of the range of environmental sustainability issues within UN Environment's work programme, the role of UN Environment in setting the global environmental agenda and its coordination role within the UN system. The Junior Professional Officer will receive exposure to the functioning of intergovernmental bodies and will obtain an in-depth understanding of the UN system organisations working on sustainable development and on peace and security.

UN training courses: The Junior Professional Officer will be required to take several training courses that are mandatory for UN staff. He/she will also be invited to take other training courses developed by the UN system or by UN Environment to enhance his/her performance.

Learning elements:

After one year the Junior Professional Officer is able to: Draft reports and briefing documents according to standards required by UNEP and the OSESG-Horn and consistent with UN style format and protocol. Prepare high-quality correspondence consistent with UN style and format and protocol. Have a clear understanding of climate-related risks to peace and security and how the UN system can analyse such risks or design policy or programming options for addressing them.

After two years the Junior Professional Officer is able to: Coordinate across horizontal and vertical structures within the UN system, including Missions, Headquarters and agencies, funds and programmes. Work effectively with national and regional counterparts in IGAD, African Union and Horn of Africa Member States. Prepare Terms of References for individual consultants and supervise their work. Have an understanding of the Horn of Africa region as well as the political, peacekeeping, development and humanitarian sides of UN's work in the region.

After three years (if applicable) the Junior Professional Officer is able to: Design climate, peace and security interventions in the context of the Horn, share best practices and learnings from the innovative activities of the first regional UN Climate, Peace and Security Hub, identify opportunities for resourcing such activities within the donor landscape and devise strategies for informing and influencing the policies and investments of development partners in the Horn.

### ***Qualifications and experience***

#### ***Qualifications***

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in a field related to the environment, climate adaptation, sustainable development, economics, law, international relations, or political science.

A first-level university degree in combination with additional qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

A keen interest in the work of the United Nations in general and of UN Environment in particular, and a personal commitment to UN Environment's mission and to the ideals of the UN Charter.

#### ***Skills***

Languages: English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the position advertised, fluency in English (oral and written) is required. Demonstrable quantitative and qualitative data analysis skills.

#### ***Working experience***

At least 2 years of relevant work experience in climate adaptation or development and implementation of environmental related programmes, projects and activities is required. Prior experience at the international level is advantageous and a development-oriented

employment history or previous experience in development is desirable. Prior experience working in one or more countries of the Horn of Africa region is an advantage.

### ***Competencies***

**Professionalism:** Knowledge of policies/procedures in the area of climate change, risk assessment and sustainable development; good research, analytical and problem-solving skills, including the ability to identify and contribute to the solution of problems/issues; familiarity with and in the use of various research methodologies and sources; and sound judgement.

**Planning and organising:** Strong organisational skills, including proven ability to effectively plan and coordinate own work as well as that of others; allocating appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work.

**Teamwork:** Good interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain effective partnership and working relations in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity and gender in organisation and management of meetings and in project implementation.

### ***Living conditions at duty station***

Nairobi is a modern metropolitan city where most basic goods and services are available locally at reasonable cost. The city is high altitude, with sunny days and cooler nights. There is a short rainy season before Christmas, and longer rain falls from March to May. November to February is generally warm. There are several transportation options in Nairobi, including taxis, buses, mini-buses and mobile applications for transport. Public healthcare in Nairobi is generally subpar, but there are private healthcare options that are of good quality. The city is widely connected through Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and smaller Wilson Airport.

The city is home to some 3,000 UN personnel mainly attributed to the fact that it serves as the headquarters for both UNEP and UN-HABITAT, and the UN Regional Hub for East and the Horn of Africa Region. Security is an issue in Nairobi, with incidents of car-jacking and theft not uncommon. Safety and security in Nairobi varies depending on different neighbourhoods, and it is important to become familiarised with safety recommendations for the city. Telecommunication systems and internet access is generally reliable. There are fairly frequent power cuts, however most shared compounds have generators. Water supply can also be an issue as Kenya often experiences drought. In these situations, expats may need to supplement their water supply by buying in water tankers. Kenyans are very friendly and English is the first language spoken, although most Kenyans are trilingual, using local languages and Kiswahili.