GENERAL INFORMATION

**Title of consultancy:** Research consultant to produce an overview of parliamentary oversight mechanisms

**Application closing date:** 10 January 2022

**Consultancy start and end date:** 20 January 2022 - 28 February 2022

**Estimated completion time:** 15 working days

**Location:** Home based

BACKGROUND

Transparency International (TI) is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. Through more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, Germany, TI raises awareness of the damaging effects of corruption and works with partners in government, business and civil society to develop and implement effective measures to tackle it.

TI is currently implementing an EU-funded project Strengthening Accountability Networks among Civil Society (SANCUS), which aims to contribute to greater democratic accountability of public institutions globally, specifically by empowering civil society organisations to demand systemic change to address accountability and anti-corruption deficits. The project covers 21 countries in different parts of the world, with global and in-country activities aimed at enhancing accountability in public institutions. One of the activities planned at global level is the development of knowledge products to inform the push for effective accountability in multiple countries.

TI is seeking an experienced researcher to produce an overview of various oversight mechanisms (tools and processes) that legislatures can use to hold the executive to account. A non-exhaustive list of mechanisms includes, among others:

- Confirming appointments to or dismissals from key public positions
- Mechanisms that parliaments can use to gather information on the activities of the executive branch, including commissions of enquiry and summoning former and current government officials for questioning
- Investigations by parliamentary committees on specific issues of public importance
- Public hearings and civic engagement by parliament
- Lifting the immunity of elected officials suspected of wrongdoing
- Pre- and post-legislative scrutiny
- Approval and oversight of government spending
- Follow up and tracking of parliamentary committees' recommendations as well as ministerial commitments

While parliamentary oversight mechanisms may vary from countries with parliamentary systems to presidential or mixed systems, the consultant shall structure the overview of parliamentary oversight mechanisms according to:

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1 The countries included in the SANCUS project are Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, The Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Maldives, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestine, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- type of the oversight function: legislative scrutiny, financial or budgetary oversight, and political control; or
- actor involved: individual MPs, committees, plenary, or minority politicians (opposition). Any instances of legislative bodies in charge of budget analysis, post-legislation scrutiny or similar must also be included.

OBJECTIVES
The main objective of this exercise is to increase the knowledge base on the different channels through which parliaments can hold public institutions and officials to account. The overview will provide a basis for TI chapters to advocate for parliaments to meaningfully use all possible oversight mechanisms at their disposal. By pushing for parliaments to employ the full range of oversight mechanisms at their disposal, TI will support parliaments’ accountability function.

SCOPE OF THE EXERCISE
The paper should cover the following elements:

- Briefly set out the importance of parliamentary oversight in a healthy democracy, drawing on relevant academic and policy literature.
- Provide an overview of the various mechanisms available to parliaments to hold the executive branch to account (consider roles of all those working in parliaments, not just MPs), which may vary from countries with parliamentary systems to presidential or mixed systems.
- For each oversight mechanism, set out any relevant standards that TI chapters could advocate their national parliament to adopt or adhere to, for example the Venice Commission criteria for the lifting of parliamentary immunity. For each mechanism, the overview must also report if it allows for participation of the public in its initiation or implementation.
- Provide some brief case studies or best practice examples (in boxes) for how these mechanisms work in practice, preferably drawn from SANCUS countries or the Global South.

Some sources to consider include the Global Parliamentary Report 2017 on Parliamentary Oversight and GOPAC’s guidelines.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS
The researcher will collect data for this assignment through desk-review of primary and secondary sources including academic and grey literature, interviews, materials produced by bodies such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Venice Commission, as well as any other reputable sources relevant to the topic. In accordance with TI policy, all research should clearly indicate and acknowledge all sources used and the reader should be able to trace the source of information in footnotes and bibliography.

2 That is Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, The Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Maldives, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestine, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE
The selected consultant will be expected to conduct research and compile the overview with the guidance of Transparency International. The expected deliverables are:

- A detailed draft outline for comments by TI. This should include a broad range of oversight mechanisms that parliaments can use to hold the executive branch to account, as well as any relevant principles and standards for each mechanism presented.
- A full draft paper including any annexes for review and comments by TI. The full draft should be between 15-25 pages excluding annexes and bibliography.
- A final draft of the report with all comments fully addressed to the satisfaction of TI.
- The consultant should be available for calls to discuss the task.

The indicative estimated time to complete this assignment is 15 working days from 20 January to 28 February 2022. Please note that this timeline is tentative and can be slightly revised once a research consultant has been selected and a research plan has been drawn up.

The selected consultant has the sole responsibility to conduct the research and meet all deliverables in accordance with the agreed methodology and timeline. The consultant is also expected to work in close collaboration with TI experts throughout the process. TI retains the sole rights with respect to all distribution, dissemination and publication of the deliverables.

SELECTION CRITERIA
A suitable candidate should have the following qualifications:

- An advanced university degree in a relevant academic field (law, economics, political science, sociology or other related fields)
- Substantive and demonstrable expertise on the work of parliaments, which may include through publication of reports or papers relevant to the topic.
- Direct experience working with/or in a parliament or parliamentary monitoring organisation is an added advantage.
- Excellent drafting and report writing skills.
- High attention to detail.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- Value for money

REMUNERATION AND COSTS
The consultant should provide their estimated total fee as a lump sum or as standard daily or hourly rates as gross inclusive of taxes and other charges.

CONTACT INFORMATION
In order to be considered, applicants must provide the following documents in English:

- A short overview of how the assignment will be approached, including (i) a draft structure, (ii) reflections on the differences in oversight mechanisms between parliaments in different political systems (e.g., Westminster vs presidential), and (iii) an indicative literature list. This should not exceed 3 pages.
- An up-to-date CV and cover letter
- An indicative budget
- A writing sample
• Contacts of two people willing to be contacted for their reference

Please indicate “Research consultant: parliamentary oversight mechanisms” in the subject line of your email application. Applications should be sent in English by email to SANCUSconsultancy@transparency.org by 6pm (Berlin time) of 10 January 2022.

Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Transparency International Secretariat is committed to creating an inclusive work environment where diversity is valued and where there is equality of opportunity. We actively seek a diverse applicant pool and therefore welcome applications from qualified candidates of all regions, countries, cultures, and backgrounds. Selection of candidates is made on a competitive basis, and we do not discriminate based on national origin, race, colour or ethnic background, religious belief, sex, gender identity and expression or sexual orientation, marital or family status, age, or ability. We kindly ask applicants to refrain from including in their application information relating to the above as well as from attaching photos.

Data Protection

When you respond to this tender and submit your application, you provide consent that Transparency International e. V. keeps your application materials for the period of ten years according to German legal requirements. Afterwards Transparency International will delete your application and any personal data included in it. If you have any questions, please reach out to dataprotection@transparency.org