Background:
West Africa Region can, very roughly, be divided into three (03) sub-regions which are the Gulf of Guinea (GoG), Mano River Union (MRU) and West Africa Sahel Region (WASR). In addition to challenges cutting across the whole region, each one of these sub-regions faces its own specific problems with varying degrees of destabilizing implications for West Africa. Since its establishment in 2000, OSIWA has supported initiatives dealing with some of the major challenges confronting the GoG and MRU States. And despite the reduction of its geographic reach starting from 2009, the Foundation still covers fairly well States in these two sub-regions.

The WASR, in addition to its well-known and age old vulnerabilities – e.g. severe drought, climate variability, lack of essential services, citizenship issues, ethnic religious cleavages, drug trafficking and other types of trafficking – , has experienced a deterioration of its situation these last years. This – i.e. the worsening of the situation in the WASR – can be explained by several factors including the crisis in Libya and its side effects in Mali and beyond, the security problem with Boko Haram in Nigeria, and more generally incompetence, widespread corruption and bad governance in the WASR core States (Mali, Niger, Burkina-Faso).

As a result of the above mentioned situation, the WASR states are facing challenges such as increased internally displaced staffs, political instability, increased insecurity, increase of security budget (and its consequences on the delivery on other basic needs), increased piracy and illegal trafficking, economic difficulties (reducing of number ships docking in some Ports), etc. The scope of the situation has direct impacts on peace, security and stability in the countries covered by OSIWA (e.g. Niger, Nigeria, Mali) and indirect impacts for others (e.g. Cote d’Ivoire, Benin, etc.). It also has impacts on the Foundation’s thematic priorities in the region, including Governance, Law Justice Human Rights, Counter-terrorism, International Justice, Climate Change, and Drug trafficking.

On the last issue, i.e. growing drug trafficking, which has been primarily facilitated by the governance deficits in the sub-region, its consequences in the region are diverse. Drugs not only damage human capital base, aggravate corruption and money laundering in the region but also severely impact its socio-economic development and the quality of its governance. Unfortunately, West African government’s response to this specific problem so far has mainly been limited to toughening punitive measures including strengthening legislations against drug trafficking and use and establishing drug law enforcement agencies. Like we see in other places around the World confronted with the same problems, these unidimensional approach has not produced any tangible and effective results.

OSIWA believes that there is interrelatedness in all the above-mentioned manifestations and threat to stability and progress in the region. What is the state of main challenges confronting the WASR states? How has the quality of Governance, Democracy and Rule of Law in the WASR countries contributed (or has failed to contribute) to resolving above-mentioned challenges in the WASR? What implications do this hold for democracy, good governance and rule of law in West Africa as a whole? What interventions – at both national and regional levels – can address both the manifestations and causes of these challenges? What, more specifically, can be done in WASR OSIWA focus countries and on issues such as drug trafficking, religious militancy, terrorism in order to contribute to resolving these challenges?

OSIWA’s Objective
OSIWA wishes to facilitate proper understanding of and contribute to addressing issues and challenges affecting security, democracy, good governance and stability in the WASR sub-region and in WA as a whole. This with a view of improving OSIWA’s institutional understanding of these issues, contributing to informing the Foundation’s interventions in the sub-region and providing comprehensive analysis to stakeholders (including production of policy briefs and advocacy materials).
OSIWA believes that the WASR challenges can be addressed by both adapted country level interventions and region focused approach that draw informed understanding of the nexus between security (e.g. terrorism, religious militancy, drug trafficking, food security, climate change), democracy and peace and stability. OSIWA wishes to hire a Sahel short term consultant to provide greater insight into challenges confronting the WASR and their implications for the whole sub-region in order to better inform its interventions, including advocacy towards key stakeholders. This Consultant will be, within PGP Unit and in collaboration with other thematic units, in charge of the management of programmatic aspect of the Foundation work in the WASR countries.

**General objective**

OSIWA is hiring the short term Sahel Consultant in order to increase the relevance of its intervention in the WASR and in the sub-region. The Sahel Consultant work within the Political Governance Program of OSIWA and report to the Unit Manager.

**Specific objectives**

More specifically, the Sahel Consultant is expected to:

- Facilitate and improve OSIWA’s proper understanding of issues and challenges confronting the WASR states and their implications for West Africa
- Improve the quality of interventions by OSIWA and other stakeholders within the region through provision of analysis, development of interventions and policy briefs
- Manage within PGP all programmatic aspects of OSIWA’s work in the WASR

**Tasks of the short term Sahel Consultant**

The Sahel Consultant shall:

1. Strengthen OSIWA’s involvement in addressing challenges confronting WASR states (focusing primarily on OSIWA focus countries and relevant thematic for the WASR)
2. Monitor developments of situations (political, social and economic) in WASR states, more specifically Mali and Niger; assess trends which might affect democracy, governance, peace and stability of the sub-region (with specially to religious militancy, drug trafficking, terrorism issues) and recommend possible actions to OSIWA
3. Advise OSIWA on the integration of issues relating to WASR challenges into its strategy
4. Periodically update OSIWA on key developments and their implications for (its work in) the region
5. Work with OSIWA colleagues to design an intervention framework in the WASR for a more peaceful and stable West Africa
6. Manage, in collaboration with other colleagues, the programmatic work relating to OSIWA’s interventions in the WASR, especially the activities relating to campaign on drug policy reform ahead of the UNGASS 2016
7. Identify advocacy opportunities and prospects
8. Develop well researched policy documents on WASR issues and their implications for democracy and stability in West Africa
9. Develop a strong network with regional and international organizations working on the Sahel and coordinate intervention efforts in the region
10. Frequent travels within the sub-region for research and advocacy
Deliverables (see the work-plan)
- A monthly report on the progress on the activities provided for within the framework of the drug campaign project
- Represent OSIWA in trips (including experience sharing ones) necessary for the implementation of this project
- Periodic (preferably monthly) briefs and op-eds based on the findings and outputs of the implementation of the project

Monitor the situation in WASR and periodically update OSIWA on key developments and their implications for the region (both WASR and WA)

Qualification and skills

The short term consultant profile will have to meet the following criteria:
- Thorough knowledge of WASR region and its main stakeholders with at least 7 years’ experience on these issues.
- West African Experience, and knowledge of main challenges confronting WASR, especially of issues relating to drug trafficking and their implications for the whole region;
- Proven research and writing abilities;
- Experience in project management and proposal writing;
- NGO or foundation experience preferred. Familiarity with OSIWA work and West Africa context are essential.
- Excellent understanding of security governance issues especially as it affects governance an stability within the sub-region
- Excellent verbal, organizational, analytical and interpersonal skills;
- Excellent written and oral English and French, exceptional analytic capacity and skills;
- Knowledge of local West African languages desirable
- Excellent listening and communication skills with sensitivity to cultural communication differences;
- Flexibility and willingness to work as a team member and independently, with a high level of self-motivation;
- Ability to effectively manage multiple projects simultaneously in a fast-paced working environment;
- Ability to maintain strict confidentiality and Shows discretion and ability to handle confidential issues;
- Attentiveness to detail and ability to work well under pressure;
- Willingness and ability to travel internationally, frequently if necessary;
- Excellent and extensive computer skills and high comfort level with computer research, database management, proficient in Microsoft Office, experience with database management preferred;
- Excellent coordination, networking and facilitation skills;
- High level of self-motivation and ability to work both independently and with others when necessary;
- Ability to operate in challenging working environments;
- Calm and works well under pressure, attentive to detail and prioritizes effectively;
- Pleasant, diplomatic manner and disposition in interacting with senior management, co-workers and the general public

The short term appointment is expected to span for 12 months starting from March 2015. Remuneration shall be commensurate with experience.

To Apply: send resume (in English), cover letter, detailed CV including 3 references, writing sample, list of publications and salary expectations by cob January 15, 2015 to: osiwarecruitment@osiwa.org

No phone calls, please. OSIWA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.