



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Consultancy for the Development and Delivery of Masterclass Papers on Emerging Technologies under the META Project

TERMS OF REFERENCE

A. Background

The ***Mapping Emerging Technologies to Advance Inclusive Sustainable Development in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (META)*** project, implemented by the **African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS)** in partnership with institutions in **Latin America and Southeast Asia**, seeks to generate evidence and stimulate policy dialogue on the role of emerging technologies (**EXCLUDING Artificial Intelligence**) in advancing inclusive and sustainable development.

The project recognizes that emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and related technologies are transforming economies and societies globally. However, countries in the Global South face structural, institutional, and capacity constraints that limit their ability to fully harness these technologies for development outcomes.

Under **Work Package Two**, the META project will organize a series of discussion papers and quarterly webinars aimed at:

- Deepening knowledge and critical analysis of emerging technology trends
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue
- Informing policy and strategic decision-making across regions

To support this, ATPS and its partners seek to engage qualified consultants to develop masterclass discussion papers and present them in scheduled webinars.

B. Objective of the Assignment

The overall objective of this consultancy is to:

Develop high-quality masterclass discussion papers and deliver expert presentations during META project webinars on key emerging technology themes relevant to inclusive and sustainable development in the Global South.

C. Thematic Topics

Consultants will be engaged under the following seven (7) thematic areas. Each consultant will select one topic and undertake comparative, cross-regional analysis covering Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Latin America, and Southeast Asia. The prioritized topics and their detailed descriptions are provided below:

- 1. Beyond the Leapfrogging Paradox: Practical Strategies for IoT, Blockchain, and Decentralized Infrastructure in SSA, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.** In Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, the promise of technological leapfrogging through IoT, blockchain, and decentralized infrastructure is compelling yet fraught with risks. While these technologies offer pathways to bypass traditional infrastructure bottlenecks and accelerate inclusive development, many initiatives have resulted in new dependencies, high maintenance failures, elite capture, and limited benefits for women and rural communities. This session examines real-world experiences from Kenya, Nigeria, Indonesia, Brazil, and beyond. It equips policymakers with practical strategies to design smarter industrial policies, strengthen public procurement, and implement complementary investments that turn leapfrogging into genuine, equitable, and sustainable transformation.

Guiding Questions:

- i). What adjustments to national industrial policy, digital economy strategies, and infrastructure investment plans are needed to make leapfrogging with IoT, blockchain, and decentralized infrastructure more effective and less risky?
- ii). How can governments combine IoT, blockchain, and decentralized infrastructure models to deliver last-mile services in agriculture, energy, and finance while avoiding new forms of dependency, elite capture, or high maintenance failures?
- iii). How should public procurement rules and investment criteria be redesigned to support community-owned or hybrid decentralized infrastructure instead of purely centralized solutions?
- iv). What policy tools and metrics can ensure that the benefits of IoT and blockchain deployments reach women, youth, informal economies, and rural communities rather than reinforcing urban-elite advantages?
- v). Drawing from real experiences in Kenya, Nigeria, India, Indonesia, Brazil, and Colombia — when has leapfrogging succeeded, and what complementary investments in energy, skills, and local governance are essential to prevent ‘leapfrogging into thin air’?
- vi). What concrete regulatory, financing, and partnership models should policymakers adopt today to scale sustainable, decentralized infrastructure while addressing energy costs, data sovereignty, and long-term maintenance challenges?

Core Framing Question: How can policymakers in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia move beyond the leapfrogging narrative to design smarter industrial policies and infrastructure strategies that harness IoT, blockchain, and decentralized systems for genuine, equitable economic transformation?

Possible Subtopics (with practical, region-specific angles):

- **Learning from Leapfrogging History (Decision Tools for Today):** Review successes (M-Pesa’s financial inclusion in SSA; off-grid solar markets) versus failures or limitations (e.g., “leapfrogging into thin air” where maintenance ecosystems collapsed or benefits concentrated in urban elites). Provide a simple decision framework for donors and governments: When does leapfrogging make sense? What complementary investments in energy, skills, and local governance are non-negotiable? Realities from SSA youth workforce growth, LAC extractive/mining transitions, and Asian platform economies.
- **IoT for Last-Mile Service Delivery — Design and Sustainability Lessons:** Practical applications in agriculture (sensor-based irrigation/water management), healthcare logistics, and climate monitoring. Address real costs: unreliable electricity (affecting ~60% of SSA populations), high data/maintenance burdens, and design mismatches for women/smallholder farmers. Highlight successful hybrid models (e.g., community-managed solar-powered IoT in East Africa and

Southeast Asia) and policy recommendations for public-private partnerships that include training and local repair ecosystems.

- **Blockchain Beyond Hype — Viable Use Cases and Risk Mitigation:** Grounded examples in land registries (reducing disputes in LAC and SSA), supply chain transparency for agricultural exports, and financial inclusion for informal workers. Discuss energy/regulatory trade-offs and “solutionism” pitfalls. Offer practical guidance: regulatory sandboxes, interoperability standards, and hybrid on/off-chain approaches suited to low-connectivity contexts, with equity safeguards to prevent elite or corporate capture.
- **Decentralized Infrastructure Models — From Pilot to Scale:** Community-owned mesh networks, edge computing, and local data centers as alternatives to centralized cloud dependency. Case insights from Southeast Asian digital villages, African FabLabs, and Latin American indigenous tech initiatives. Focus on governance models that empower local actors, reduce foreign data sovereignty risks, and integrate with existing informal economies.
- **Equity Metrics and Value Capture:** Who actually benefits? Tools for measuring gender-disaggregated outcomes, inclusion of informal sectors, and avoidance of urban/rural divides. Link to report findings: address the \$42 billion women’s financing gap, data voids, and need for gender impact assessments at early Technology Readiness Levels (TRL).

2. **The Future of Work in the Global South: Digital Platforms, Feminized Labor, and Agritech Transitions-** As digital labour platforms expand and agricultural technology automates traditional farming across developing economies, what are the structural implications for gendered gig work, rural employment transitions, and the broader architecture of labour markets outside advanced industrial economies? **Core Framing:** Mapping how emerging technologies are reshaping labour markets, with particular attention to gendered patterns of inclusion and exclusion.

Possible Subtopics:

- **Platform Labor Architecture** — The mechanics of gig work platforms (ride-hailing, delivery, micro-tasking): algorithmic management, wage structures, and the erosion of traditional labour protections.
- **Feminized Digital Labor** — Women's concentration in specific platform niches (data annotation, content moderation, domestic services apps); pay gaps, safety concerns, and the invisibility of this work in policy frameworks.
- **Agritech and Rural Employment** — Precision farming, drone surveillance, AI-driven crop management: displacement of smallholder labour versus new skill requirements and who controls the data generated.
- **Informal Economy Intersections** — How digital platforms interact with existing informal labour structures rather than replacing them; the “formalization trap.”
- **Social Protection Gaps** — The mismatch between national labour codes and platform employment models; portable benefits, collective bargaining in algorithmic workplaces.

3. **Strengthening Industrial Policy and Public Procurement through Gender-Inclusive Technology Governance: Embedding Equity from Day One.** Gender inequality remains a fundamental barrier to equitable technology adoption in the Global South. To prevent biases from becoming embedded in emerging technologies, equity must be addressed at the earliest stages of innovation rather than as an afterthought. This session demonstrates how industrial policy and public procurement can serve as powerful levers for change.

Key guiding questions

- i). How can national industrial and STI strategies (e.g., AI, 4IR, or digital economy policies) incorporate mandatory gender equity and epistemic justice requirements at the prototyping and Technology Readiness Level (TRL) stages?

- ii). How can governments leverage public procurement budgets to mandate gender-responsive audits, diverse design teams, and inclusive standards when purchasing or funding emerging technologies such as AI, IoT, blockchain, and AgriTech solutions?
- iii). What concrete policy tools, tender requirements, and evaluation criteria should policymakers adopt to ensure emerging technologies reflect local knowledge systems and meet the needs of women, rural communities, and informal economies rather than amplifying existing biases?
- iv). How can industrial policy and procurement rules prevent ‘baked-in’ gender and epistemic biases in technology development, while ensuring that benefits from tech investments reach informal sectors and support inclusive economic transformation in SSA, Latin America, and Southeast Asia?
- v). What real-world lessons from countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America demonstrate successful integration of gender-inclusive governance into industrial policy and public procurement — and where have gaps led to costly failures?
- vi). How can gender-inclusive technology governance in industrial policy and procurement help close the gender digital divide, address data sovereignty issues, and accelerate progress toward SDGs 5, 8, 9, and 10?
- vii). What immediate steps can policymakers and procurement agencies take — such as updating funding guidelines, introducing equity metrics, or piloting participatory design mechanisms — to make gender equity a core feature of national technology development strategies?

Core Framing Question: How can your country’s industrial policy and public procurement systems be strengthened by embedding gender-inclusive technology governance from the earliest stages of innovation?

4. Gender-Inclusive Technology Governance: Strengthening Industrial Policy and Public Procurement for Equitable Innovation- This topic examines how governments can embed gender inclusion into industrial policy, public procurement, innovation funding, and technology governance from the outset. It will identify practical approaches to ensure that women’s needs, knowledge, participation, and enterprises shape emerging technology development, deployment, and investment decisions. **Core Framing:** Questioning whose knowledge and priorities shape technology development, and how governance can intervene before inequities become baked into systems.

Possible Subtopics:

- **Epistemic Injustice in Innovation** — How the demographics of technology design teams (predominantly male, Western-educated, urban) produce blind spots that become systemic failures for other users.
- **Technology Readiness Level (TRL) Critique** — The standard TRL framework as a technical-progress narrative that ignores distributional questions; how to embed equity assessments at each readiness stage.
- **Participatory Design Mechanisms** — Structured methods for including marginalized voices in early-stage technology development: citizen juries, feminist hackathons, community review boards.
- **Gender-Responsive Standards and Procurement** — How public sector technology purchasing power can mandate equity audits; the role of international standards bodies.
- **Case Studies of Intervention** — Instances where early-stage equity embedding succeeded or failed; lessons from health technology, financial services, or urban planning tools. Provide real-world examples, stories, and lessons learned.
- **Ethical issues** - Fairness and ethical responsibility in how we generate, share, and validate knowledge

5. Decolonizing Educational Technologies: Bridging Structural Divides and Cultivating Locally Grounded Human Capital- How can digital education systems in post-colonial and developing contexts avoid replicating dependency on externally designed platforms, and instead bridge infrastructure gaps while developing locally relevant skills and knowledge ecosystems?

Core Framing: Examining how educational technology can avoid reproducing colonial knowledge hierarchies while genuinely expanding access and relevance.

Possible Subtopics:

- **The Coloniality of EdTech** — How dominant platforms embed Western pedagogical assumptions, language hierarchies, and cultural norms; the "content dump" model of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and global platforms.
- **Infrastructure and Access Realities** — Connectivity gaps, device affordability, and electricity reliability as structural constraints that shape what "digital education" can mean in practice.
- **Localization Beyond Translation** — Adapting curricula to local epistemologies, indigenous knowledge systems, and community learning structures rather than merely translating foreign content.
- **Teacher Roles and Digital Displacement** — The risk of deprofessionalizing educators versus models that position technology as augmenting local teaching expertise.
- **Skills for Autonomous Innovation** — Moving beyond "digital literacy" to cultivate local capacity for technology creation, not just consumption; maker spaces, local language programming ecosystems.

6. A) Securing Decentralized IoT in the Global South – Cybersecurity Challenges and Strategies for LMICs—The rapid rollout of decentralized IoT systems for agriculture, energy, and service delivery in the Global South creates unique cybersecurity challenges shaped by infrastructure deficits, limited resources, and governance constraints. ***Some Supporting Key Framing Questions:***

- i). How does the rapid expansion of decentralized industrial and consumer IoT in LMICs create distinct attack surfaces and vulnerabilities compared to well-resourced Northern contexts?
- ii). What practical, low-resource security architectures and governance models are best suited for IoT deployments in environments with unreliable electricity, limited bandwidth, and weak enforcement capacity?
- iii). How can countries in SSA, Latin America, and Southeast Asia bridge the gap between IT and Operational Technology (OT) security in industrial and agricultural IoT applications?
- iv). What policy, regulatory, and capacity-building approaches can LMICs adopt to reduce over-reliance on foreign cybersecurity solutions while protecting local data sovereignty and critical infrastructure?
- v). What lessons can be drawn from real-world IoT deployments (and breaches) in African mobile/IoT networks, Latin American smart cities, and Southeast Asian agricultural sensor systems?

Core Framing Question: How can policymakers and technology leaders in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia build resilient cybersecurity frameworks for decentralized IoT systems that address the unique infrastructure, resource, and governance constraints of low- and middle-income countries?

Possible Subtopics:

- **IoT Expansion and Infrastructure Vulnerabilities in Resource-Constrained Settings** — How decentralized IoT for agriculture, energy access, and last-mile service delivery (key META sectors) creates expanded attack surfaces in contexts of unreliable electricity and limited connectivity across SSA and rural Asia.
- **Bridging the Digital Divide in IoT Security** — Addressing how infrastructure deficits and human capital shortages (highlighted in 56% and 44% of META literature) limit effective cybersecurity, with a focus on gender-differentiated risks for women farmers and smallholders using IoT tools.
- **OT vs IT Security in Emerging Technology Applications** — Practical challenges of securing industrial IoT and AgriTech systems in Global South industrial policy and leapfrogging strategies, where safety and continuity matter more than corporate data protection.
- **Data Sovereignty and Local Governance of IoT Systems** — How LMICs can assert control over data generated by decentralized IoT networks to prevent epistemic injustice and support locally relevant innovation, aligning with META's emphasis on inclusive technology governance.

- **Capacity Building and South-South Learning for IoT Cybersecurity** — Policy and investment recommendations for building local skills and regional frameworks to secure IoT deployments, supporting META's call for strengthened human capital and responsible innovation.
- **Equity and Inclusion in Secure IoT Design** — Embedding gender-responsive and community-centered security measures at early TRL to ensure decentralized IoT advances inclusive sustainable development rather than reinforcing existing disparities.

6 B) Securing Critical Mineral Value Chains in the Global South – Cybersecurity, Geopolitics, and Strategic Autonomy- Critical minerals are vital for the global green transition, yet their digital integration in mining regions introduces significant cybersecurity and geopolitical risks for resource-rich Global South countries. Discussions will cover industrial policy tools, procurement requirements, regional cooperation, community and gender dimensions, and early-stage risk mitigation to align with META priorities on deep tech, energy transitions, and equitable sustainable development.

Key Framing Questions:

- i). What new cybersecurity vulnerabilities emerge when extraction, processing, and tracking of lithium, cobalt, copper, and rare earths become digitally integrated in Global South mining regions?
- ii). How can industrial policy and investment frameworks in mineral-rich LMICs embed cybersecurity and resilience requirements into critical mineral value chains from the outset?
- iii). In what ways do geopolitical competition and asymmetric power dynamics in global supply chains amplify cyber risks for LMIC mineral exporters?
- iv). What localized governance, standards, and regional cooperation models can help African, Latin American, and Asian countries protect strategic mineral infrastructure while maximizing economic benefits?
- v). How can public procurement, regulatory oversight, and South-South partnerships be used to strengthen cybersecurity in mineral supply chains rather than leaving them dependent on external technologies?

Core Framing Question: As critical minerals become central to the global green transition, how can countries in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia secure their digitalized mineral supply chains against cyber threats while advancing local value capture and strategic autonomy?

Possible Subtopics:

- **Digital Integration Risks in Critical Mineral Extraction** — Cybersecurity vulnerabilities in AI, IoT, and blockchain-enabled mining and tracking of lithium, cobalt, copper, and rare earths, particularly in biodiverse and mineral-rich regions of Latin America and Africa (META's focus on deep tech and energy transitions).
- **Industrial Policy for Secure and Sustainable Mineral Value Chains** — How LMICs can use industrial policy and public procurement to embed cybersecurity requirements into critical mineral strategies, moving beyond extractivist models toward greater local value addition and economic sovereignty.
- **Geopolitical and Supply Chain Resilience** — Navigating cyber threats and great-power competition in global mineral supply chains while protecting strategic assets and advancing META-aligned goals of climate action (SDG 13) and inclusive growth (SDG 8, 9).
- **Gender and Community Dimensions in Mineral Tech Governance** — Ensuring that digital technologies in mining address gender equity, indigenous knowledge systems, and community rights — addressing META's critique of insufficient gender integration in technology governance.
- **Regulatory Harmonization and Regional Cooperation** — Developing LMIC-led standards and South-South collaboration on cybersecurity for mineral supply chains to reduce fragmentation and dependency on Northern frameworks.
- **Early-Stage Risk Mitigation in Emerging Mineral Technologies** — Applying META's recommendations on embedding equity and security considerations at the prototyping/TRL stages of digital tools used in mining and green energy transitions.

7. Data Sovereignty and Distributed Infrastructure – Building Local Control for Inclusive Innovation in the Global South-As nations across Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia seek to harness emerging technologies for inclusive sustainable development, a critical challenge remains: how to exercise meaningful control over data and digital infrastructure amid persistent infrastructure deficits, foreign platform dominance, and epistemic dependencies. This session explores how policymakers can design and implement data sovereignty and distributed infrastructure strategies that reduce technological dependency, protect local knowledge systems, and foster autonomous innovation capacity.

Guiding questions:

- i). What practical national and regional data sovereignty frameworks (e.g., data localization laws or regional cloud initiatives) can LMICs adopt to address infrastructure deficits while supporting innovation in agriculture, health, and energy sectors?
- ii). How can governments use public procurement and industrial policy to promote distributed infrastructure models such as edge computing, community mesh networks, and local data centers?
- iii). In what ways can data sovereignty policies help reduce epistemic dependency and algorithmic bias while ensuring gender-disaggregated data and local knowledge systems are protected and valued?
- iv). What are the real-world trade-offs between data sovereignty and global digital integration, and how can hybrid models enable LMICs to participate in international markets without compromising strategic autonomy?
- v). How can data sovereignty and distributed infrastructure strategies be designed to benefit women, rural communities, and informal economies rather than reinforcing urban-elite or foreign dominance?
- vi). What policy and capacity-building measures are needed to translate data sovereignty commitments into actual local innovation ecosystems and reduced technological dependency?

Core Framing Question: How can policymakers in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia design data sovereignty and distributed infrastructure policies that reduce technological dependency, protect local knowledge systems, and enable autonomous, inclusive innovation?

Possible Subtopics:

- **Data Sovereignty in Resource-Constrained Contexts** — Practical national and regional approaches to data localization and governance that address META-highlighted infrastructure deficits and data voids while supporting local innovation in agriculture, health, and energy sectors.
- **Distributed Infrastructure Models for LMICs** — Viability of edge computing, community mesh networks, and local data centers as alternatives to centralized foreign cloud systems, with lessons from SSA leapfrogging experiences and Asian digital platform strategies.
- **Reducing Epistemic Dependency Through Policy** — How data sovereignty frameworks can counter algorithmic bias and foreign-dominated knowledge production, aligning with META's emphasis on epistemic justice and gender-inclusive technology design.
- **Industrial Policy and Public Procurement Levers** — Using procurement rules and national strategies to prioritize local data control and distributed infrastructure, supporting META recommendations for early-stage equity and South-South collaboration.
- **Balancing Sovereignty and Global Integration** — Real-world trade-offs and hybrid models that allow LMICs to participate in global digital economies without compromising strategic autonomy or informal economy inclusion.
- **Equity and Gender Dimensions** — Ensuring data sovereignty policies address gender-disaggregated data gaps and empower women, rural communities, and indigenous groups in line with META's core gender equity findings.

8. Anticipatory Governance – Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Equity into National Technology Strategies in the Global South- As countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia navigate rapid technological change, reactive policy-making is no longer sufficient.

Anticipatory governance offers a proactive approach to integrating indigenous knowledge systems, addressing uneven technology readiness, and embedding equity considerations into national strategies before technologies are widely deployed.

Guiding Questions:

- i). What practical anticipatory governance tools — such as horizon scanning, scenario planning, and technology assessment — are most effective for LMIC contexts facing infrastructure gaps and demographic pressures?
- ii). How can national industrial and STI strategies formally integrate indigenous and traditional knowledge systems (e.g., agroecology) as legitimate inputs into emerging technology development?
- iii). What policy mechanisms can governments use to address uneven TRL across regions, genders, and communities to prevent innovation concentration in urban elites?
- iv). How should equity and distributional impact assessments be embedded into early-stage technology readiness processes and public procurement decisions?
- v). What institutional arrangements (cross-ministry coordination, advisory bodies, South-South platforms) are required to turn foresight into concrete, actionable national technology policies?
- vi). How can anticipatory governance approaches help countries anticipate and mitigate risks related to gender equity, epistemic justice, and inclusive sustainable development as outlined in the META project?

Core Framing Question: How can policymakers in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia strengthen anticipatory governance to proactively integrate indigenous innovations, ensure equitable technology readiness, and embed inclusion into national industrial and innovation strategies?

Possible Subtopics (tied to META):

- **Anticipatory Governance for LMIC Realities** — Practical tools (horizon scanning, scenario planning, technology assessment) tailored to infrastructure gaps, demographic dividends, and climate challenges identified in the META synthesis.
- **Embedding Indigenous and Local Innovations** — Policy approaches to recognize traditional knowledge (e.g., agroecology in LAC and SSA) as legitimate inputs into emerging technology strategies, countering META-noted epistemic injustices.
- **Technology Readiness Equity Across Regions and Groups** — Addressing uneven TRL distribution and preventing elite/urban concentration by using industrial policy to spread innovation capacity, with focus on gender and rural inclusion.
- **Foresight in Industrial Policy and Procurement** — Integrating equity and distributional impact assessments into national STI strategies, public procurement, and funding decisions at early TRL stages (META recommendation).
- **Institutional Mechanisms for Effective Anticipation** — Building cross-ministry coordination, independent advisory bodies, and South-South learning platforms to translate foresight into actionable policy for sustainable development.
- **Gender and Inclusivity in Forward-Looking Governance** — Ensuring anticipatory processes prioritize gender-responsive design and marginalized voices, directly responding to META's findings on the low integration of gender-equity policies.

D. Scope of Work

Each selected consultant will be responsible for **one (1) thematic area** and will undertake the following tasks:

a). Development of a Masterclass Discussion Paper

Prepare a comprehensive discussion paper (8,000–10,000 words) aligned with the META annotated outline.

Core Requirement:

Each consultant must undertake a comparative cross-regional analysis, drawing evidence and insights from:

- Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)
- Latin America
- Southeast Asia

The analysis should:

- Identify key similarities and differences across regions
- Highlight context-specific challenges and opportunities
- Generate transferable lessons and policy-relevant insights

The paper should include:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction (context, objectives, methodology, scope)
- Problem statement
- Literature and policy review (global and regional perspectives)
- Comparative regional analysis (SSA, Latin America, Southeast Asia)
- Stakeholder analysis
- Thematic analysis (drivers, risks, opportunities, trade-offs)
- Policy and strategic options
- Key questions for stakeholder dialogue
- Conclusion and references

Minimum Analytical Expectations Across All Topics

Consultants are expected to:

- Integrate Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) considerations
- Include case studies from each of the three regions
- Analyse institutional, policy, and capacity dimensions
- Identify barriers to adoption and scaling of technologies
- Highlight practical implications for policymakers and stakeholders

b). Webinar Presentation (Masterclass Delivery)

- Prepare a 20–25 slide presentation reflecting cross-regional insights
- Deliver a 60–90 minute webinar
- Present comparative findings across SSA, Latin America, and Southeast Asia
- Engage in moderated discussion and Q&A
- Capture key feedback for incorporation into the final paper

c). Revision and Finalization

- Revise the discussion paper based on:
 - Webinar discussions
 - Feedback from ATPS and partners
- Strengthen comparative and policy-relevant insights
- Submit a final publication-ready version

E. Deliverables

Each consultant is expected to deliver:

Deliverables	Description
Inception Note	Brief outline, methodology, and work plan
Draft Discussion Paper	Full draft (8,000–10,000 words)
Webinar Presentation	Slide deck and delivery of masterclass

Final Discussion Paper	Revised and publication-ready version
Webinar Summary Inputs	Key highlights and reflections

F. Duration of Assignment

- Estimated duration: 4–6 weeks per consultant
- Timeline aligned with the META quarterly webinar schedule

G. Payment

Each consultant will receive a total remuneration of **US\$ 1,000 per thematic area**, which will cover the research and development of the discussion paper, the preparation and delivery of the webinar masterclass, and the revisions and submission of the final paper.

The payment will be disbursed in two installments: **60%** upon submission of the draft discussion paper, and the remaining **40%** upon submission of the final paper and successful completion of the webinar presentation.

H. Required Qualifications and Experience

Consultants should meet the following criteria:

a) Education

- Advanced degree (PhD preferred, Master's degree minimum) in:
 - Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)
 - Development Studies
 - ICT, Engineering, Economics, Public Policy, or related fields

b) Experience

- Proven expertise in at least one thematic area
- Strong publication record (peer-reviewed or policy-oriented)
- Experience working in Global South contexts (SSA, Latin America, Southeast Asia)
- Demonstrated experience in policy analysis and stakeholder engagement
- Experience in facilitating or presenting in high-level webinars or trainings

c) Competencies

- Excellent analytical and writing skills
- Ability to translate technical issues into policy-relevant insights
- Strong communication and presentation skills
- Understanding of gender and social inclusion in technology discourse

I. Reporting and Coordination

- Consultants will report to the META Project Team.
- Work will be coordinated with:
 - ATPS Secretariat
 - Regional partners in Latin America and Southeast Asia
- Regular check-ins will be conducted to ensure quality and alignment

J. Application Requirements

Interested consultants should submit:

- Technical proposal (max 5 pages) including:
 - Understanding of the assignment
 - Approach and methodology
 - Relevant experience
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- Two sample publications or reports
- Indication of preferred thematic area

K. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Technical understanding and approach
- Relevant experience and expertise
- Quality of previous work
- Regional experience and perspective
- Value addition to the META project objectives

Scoring Criteria	Weight (%)	Maximum Score
Thematic Expertise & Relevant Experience	30%	30
Evidence of Past Similar Assignments	25%	25
Cross-Regional Experience (SSA, Latin America, Southeast Asia)	20%	20
Writing and Analytical Capacity	15%	15
Presentation & Facilitation Capacity	10%	10
Total	100%	100

L. Ethical Considerations

Consultants are expected to:

- Adhere to ATPS policies on gender equality, safeguarding, and research ethics
- Ensure originality and proper citation of sources
- Respect confidentiality and intellectual property rights

M. Ownership of Outputs

All outputs produced under this consultancy will remain the intellectual property of ATPS and its partners, with appropriate acknowledgment of the consultant's contribution.

N. Expected Outcomes of the Assignment

The consultancy is expected to contribute to:

- High-quality discussion papers and knowledge products
- Strengthened global South perspectives on emerging technologies
- Enhanced policy dialogue and stakeholder engagement
- Evidence-based inputs into technology governance and development strategies

O. How to apply

Submit your Expression of Interest (application) as provided in the ToRs to procurement@atpsnet.org with a copy to executivedirector@atpsnet.org by **1159 hrs (EAT) on 30th September, 2026**.