

United Nations JPO Programme



TERMS OF REFERENCE 20P285

Junior Professional Officer (JPO)

I. General Information

Title:

JPO in Climate, Prevention and Sustaining Peace

Sector of Assignment:

Climate Security Mechanism

Organization/Office:

United Nations / Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) / Climate Security Mechanism (CSM)

Duty Station:

New York, USA

[Non-Family Duty Station: yes / no

Duration:

1 year (with possible extension for another year)

[Extension of appointment is subject to yearly review concerning priorities, availability of funds, and satisfactory performance]

II. Supervision

Title of Supervisor:

Political Affairs Officer, DPPA/Climate Security Mechanism

Content and methodology of supervision:

Establishment of a Work Plan: During the first month of the assignment, the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) will work jointly with his/her direct supervisor to finalize an agreed upon work plan. The final work plan will be discussed and mutually agreed to by the JPO and his/her supervisor.

Evaluation: The United Nations Performance Evaluation System (e-performance) will serve as a primary platform to evaluate of the JPO's performance.

The Junior Professional Officer will receive an introduction to the work of DPPA and the Climate Security Mechanism as well as an orientation on the overall work, deliverables and future plans of DPPA and the Climate Security Mechanism.

The Junior Professional Officer will regularly discuss and evaluate her/his performance with the supervisor in light of a previously established e-performance. This will include an assessment of accomplishments, review of problems, discussion of job-satisfaction, establishment of a development plan and learning objectives, and guidance on the development of the workplan and project implementation.

Guidance and feedback will be provided by the supervisor on a regular basis, through the work with other staff in DPPA and through regular engagement with the colleagues in the Climate Security Mechanism. 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.

III. Duties, Responsibilities and Output Expectations

Under the overall guidance of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Climate Security Mechanism, the Junior Professional Officer will:

- i. Assist special political missions and other field actors in the systematic analysis of climate-related security risks and the development of effective risk prevention and management strategies;
- ii. Support roll-out of the CSM toolbox and conceptual approach in priority field location and collect feedback to refine the materials as relevant;
- iii. Collaborate with practitioners and researchers around the world to support development of a global evidence base of good practices regarding risk prevention and management strategies;
- iv. Conduct research on the linkages between climate change and security and strengthen relationships with the broader research community in this area;
- v. Prepare policy notes and other briefing documents on linkages between climate change, peace and security and sustainable development related to relevant intergovernmental and interagency processes, as appropriate;
- vi. Strengthen UN communication and advocacy efforts by giving presentations, drafting speeches, talking points, notes, background papers and other documents related to climate security, and by exploring innovative communication approaches and tools;
- vii. Support organization and delivery of training and sensitization events of UN staff and other partners around climate security.

Output expectations

- i. High quality and well drafted reports and communications materials on assigned topics.
- ii. Analysis of the relevant intergovernmental and interagency processes well researched and synergies and complementarities among them identified.
- iii. Meeting with internal staff and with external counterparts organised efficiently and according to protocol: accurate, succinct and timely, and reports prepared.
- iv. Effective support to DPPA and the Climate Security Mechanism on related work streams as required.

IV. Qualifications and Experience

Education:

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in a field related to international relations, political science or a related field. 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 climate change issues in particular, and a personal commitment to the ideals of the UN Charter.

Work experience:

A minimum of 2 years at the international level (or at least 4 years at the national level) in peace and security or related fields is required. Prior experience at the international level and familiarity with development and/or



environmental programming is an advantage.

Languages:

English and French are the working languages of the UN Secretariat. For this position, fluency in oral and written English and French is required. Knowledge of another UN official language is an advantage.

UN 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. Shows pride in work and in achievements; Demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; Is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; Is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; Shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; Remains calm in stressful situations

COMMUNICATION: Ability to draft clear and effectively policy and technical reports, correspondence, studies and other communications to various counterparts and to articulate ideas in a clear and concise manner. Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; Listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; Asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; Tailors language, tone, style and format to match the audience; Demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed

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. Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; Solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; Places team agenda before personal agenda; Supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; Shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings

PLANNING & ORGANIZING: Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; Identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; Allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; Foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; Monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; Uses time efficiently

Workforce Diversity

The United Nations believes that an inclusive culture attracts the best talent and encourages all qualified applicants, regardless of gender, disability, sexual orientation, cultural or religious backgrounds, to apply.

V. Learning Elements

On completion of the assignment, the JPO will be able to...

- Understand relevant approaches to an integrated analysis of climate-related security risks and their implications for the work of DPPA and the broader UN system.
- Provide technical support to field missions, Peace and Development Advisers and other field actors in the development and implementation of risk prevention and management strategies.
- Draft reports, briefing documents and correspondence according to standards required by DPPA and consistent with UN style format and protocol.

VI. Background Information

For DPPA, the lead entity supporting United Nations efforts to prevent and resolve conflict, the growing linkages between climate change, prevention and sustaining peace have become a critical consideration. This is reflected in the Department's strategic plan 2020-22 and in growing efforts to support special political missions, Peace and Development Advisers and other field actors in this area.

In late 2018, DPPA formed the "Climate Security Mechanism" (CSM) jointly with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The Mechanism currently consists of one professional staff each in DPPA, UNDP and UNEP, a small secretariat, and a select number of JPOs, all based at NY Headquarters.

DPPA and the CSM seek to strengthen UN capacity to address the linkages between climate change, peace and security through better risk assessments, the development of risk prevention and management strategies, and targeted advocacy. In practice, this contains a range of activities at the policy and operational levels, carried out in collaboration and coordination with experts from across and beyond the UN system. This includes support to relevant Secretariat entities to ensure the inclusion of information on the impact of climate change on security in Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council in cases where this has been requested by the Council. Also, a toolbox and conceptual approach for climate-related security risk assessments have been developed and are being rolled out for field implementation in select regions and countries.

The Climate Security Mechanism builds on the expertise of DPPA, UNDP and UNEP but also seeks to enhance coordination across the UN system more broadly as the issue cuts across many institutional mandates. Partnerships with researchers and practitioners outside the UN are critical to further strengthen the collective understanding of the risks and responses. Internal and external communication and sensitization around the climate-related security risks is also an ongoing task.

The future outlook is to continue support to different regions/countries to analyse, articulate and respond to climate-related security risks. This will also provide an opportunity to collect evidence and build up a knowledge base for policy options for climate-related security risk prevention and management strategies.

This position is located in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), at UN Headquarters. The associated Junior Professional Officer is expected to join DPPA in September 2021.