1. The COMESA, ECOWAS and EAC have received a grant from the Africa Development Fund towards the financing of the 50 Million African Women Speak Networking Platform project.

2. The objective of the project is to contribute to the economic empowerment of women through the provision of a networking platform to access information on financial and non-financial services. Specifically, the objective of the project is to establish a platform to improve the ability of women entrepreneurs to network and share information and to access financial services. The project is expected to create a dynamic and networking platform among women entrepreneurs, connecting them with one another in ways that will foster peer-to-peer learning, mentoring and the sharing of information and knowledge within communities, and access to trade finance and market opportunities between urban and rural areas, and across borders and between countries.

3. The project has the following components:

i. **Support for ICT equipment and application**
   This consists of the provisioning and development, staging and production hosting server infrastructure; interfacing with existing systems and networks as well as hosting infrastructure monitoring and support services. Infrastructure R&D services and continuous optimisation of infrastructure components including platform bandwidth consumption and data base infrastructure.

ii. **Support for platform, related statistical database, content development, and targeted services for women entrepreneurs.**

   This consists of application and content development of the platform using open source technologies and development of a mobile platform as the SME-user interface. Development of donor / funder / investor user interface and supporting statistical databases and analytics components as well as development of a content platform, for hosting, managing and provision of educational, financial-inclusion and other SME-specific business content targeting women entrepreneurs including content syndication, curation, translation and original content development. Development of the statistical “web data base”.

iii. **Support for back office/in-country resources**

   Back office/in-country resources and centralized back office, including business administration and management functions; centralized project office for co-ordination of in-country projects
and team, public relations, marketing and outreach functions to women entrepreneurs as well as content and service providers; Interfacing with local systems and transaction advisory services.

iv. **Project Management**
Provide the necessary resources to strengthen the operational and technical capacity of the implementing agencies.

4. Procurement of goods and services will be in accordance with the *Bank’s Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations October 2015 Edition*, using the Bank’s Standard Solicitation Documents (SSDs). Solicitation documents are expected to be available by November 2016 and February 2017.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information, and should confirm their interest, by contacting:

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