



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS TO ESTABLISH, INAUGURATE AND FACILITATE PREVENT COUNCILS IN ABIA, EDO AND ONDO STATES

1. BACKGROUND

The Niger Delta peace and conflict landscape is very dynamic both in terms of conflict issues and stakeholders and infrastructure that could be leverage to address the numerous conflict issues in the region. Conflict risk and insecurity are driven by a variety of interrelated and often overlapping conflict risk factors including historical tensions and a proliferation of armed groups (militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian). Conflict issues include communal tensions, political competition, organized criminality, and resource-based conflicts. Incidents include cultism, election violence, militancy, piracy, communal violence, land disputes, armed robbery, kidnapping, human trafficking, illicit drug trafficking/abuse, and mob violence. According to data on the P4P Peace Map, criminal violence, communal conflict over land and boundary disputes, clashes between cult gangs, and political violence are major drivers of lethal violence and insecurity in the region.

To reduce conflict over the long term, PIND launched the Partners for Peace (P4P) Network in 2013, with the intention of engaging and empowering local actors in peacebuilding and conflict mitigation. The P4P was designed to build capacity, social capital, and local ownership among key stakeholder groups in the Niger Delta through the facilitation of a platform by which men, women, and youth can work together to promote peace in their communities. In 2015, PIND established the Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) to implement peacebuilding programs to provide operational level support to the P4P and other organizations through: research, capacity building and applied learning aimed at early targeting and mitigation of potential drivers of conflict and instability. The IPDU was designed specifically to promote collaboration and synergy among the existing local, regional, and national efforts of peace actors in both public and private sectors to address conflict early warning and response.

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2. CONTEXT

Over the years, PIND, through the IPDU and the P4P have amplified the efforts of local peace agents by facilitating locally owned interventions and peacebuilding networks, filling knowledge gaps that hitherto held back local peace agents from taking their efforts to scale, and by providing skills, information, platforms and resources for advocacy, conflict analysis and mitigation. This has also resulted in enhancing the capacity of peace actors in the public and private sectors to respond in a more coordinated and targeted manner to the rapidly changing conflict dynamics in the region. The IPDU has strengthened the capacities of peace actors, and as well as provided information for early warning and response through the IPDU SMS-based early warning platform and the Peace Map. Through the Peace Map, PIND has collected and collated data from multiple sources on emerging and prevailing conflict risk factors in the Niger Delta. Furthermore, PIND through the IPDU research and analytical products has influenced civil society organizations (CSOs) and other peace actors and security stakeholders towards addressing the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the region.

Since 2015, PIND through the IPDU has implemented a number of peacebuilding and conflict mitigation interventions, leveraging its conflict early warning infrastructure and its vast network of peace actors including community-based organizations (CBOs) in the Niger Delta. Interestingly, some of these peace actors are traditional rulers who apply their wealth of traditional institutional experiences in managing some of the communal and local conflicts. However, in spite of their best efforts in promoting peacebuilding and conflict mitigation, the risk of violent conflict arising from the interaction of various forces and actors in the region remains. This enduring risk may be indicative of deeper conflict drivers, including historical tensions and grievances, which could be addressed through strategic engagement of traditional institutions at the local and State levels.

Between 2022 and 2023, PIND established PREVENT Councils in Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Delta to experiment how local institutions and stakeholders including traditional rulers and community leaders can be leveraged for peacebuilding and conflict mitigation at the community, local and state levels in the Niger Delta. A key learning from the PREVENT Council is that traditional leaders have more incentives to drive peace and security management at the grassroots level as part of the cultural heritage of the people. Engagement with traditional leaders help to coordinate communication among stakeholders and improve targeted responses to mitigate and prevent violent conflict. Drawing on the lessons learned from these past interventions, and considering current trends of conflict and insecurity, PIND now wants to establish PREVENT Councils in three (3) states - Edo, Ondo and Abia States (as new pilot schemes)

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Rationale for the Prevent Councils

According to data, violent conflict in the Niger Delta is mainly driven by a variety of interrelated and often overlapping factors, including historical tensions and grievances, and a proliferation of armed groups. If these tensions and grievances are not addressed appropriately, they could escalate into violent conflict that could derail the broader peacebuilding objectives of PIND and other stakeholders in the region. Therefore, the need for the strategic engagement of notable traditional institutions to advice on what actions to take and with whom to engage to prevent escalation of violence. The role of traditional rulers as the custodian of culture which peace is an integral component cannot be overemphasized. The institution of traditional leadership plays critical and proactive roles in promoting and sustaining social cohesion, peace and order as well as peaceful coexistence in societies. In this regard, traditional rulers play a vital role in peacebuilding at the grassroots level as part of the cultural heritage of the people. Although modern private and public entities recognize the role of traditional institutions in maintaining peace and security, the challenge has been in the process of engagement.

There is a general believe in the tendency of the traditional rulers being too powerful at the expense of the state authority due to the seeming support they receive from their people. However, appropriate engagement between government and traditional rulers outlaying responsibilities among the two based on an understanding that synergy is indispensable for both to govern effectively could allay the fear of traditional rulers being too powerful to the detriment of state governments. Thus, the need for the establishment of the Prevent Council made of traditional rulers to play active roles in peace and security management within their communities to the benefit of the state governments. Based on the foregoing, PIND intends to establish additional three (3) **'Prevent Councils'** in **Edo, Ondo and Abia** States as pilot schemes. This comes after the successful inauguration of Prevent Councils in **Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Delta** States in 2022.

The Prevent Council will be constituted of at least fifteen (15) members (depending on the number of communities considered). This will be comprised of prominent traditional rulers from communities and LGAs identified as hotspots of communal land and boundary disputes (see Table 1), including the chairman of the Council of Chiefs in each of the target states. Other members of the Prevent Council will include; religious leaders, recognized woman leaders, representatives of the relevant security agencies (Police and NSCDC), retired senior security officers, leaders of major vigilante groups, the chairman of the State Youth Council, and a representative of the State Boundary Commission. Members will work as positive influencers and conflict mediators within their respective states and communities, with a focus on communal land and boundary disputes, and respond to other identified potential precursors to violence and instability in collaboration with the existing P4P Prevent Committee and PIND conflict early warning response mechanisms in each of the state.

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Looking at past conflict mitigation efforts in the Niger Delta, the strategic engagement of traditional institutions has the potential to change the propensity for violence in the region. The intervention of traditional rulers could force violent groups to stand down. Also, traditional institutions can be used to transform proponents of localized violence into agents of peace. In addition, by linking grassroots community efforts with government security forces through the engagement of traditional notable institutions, it is possible to enhance the accountability of security forces, as well as improve the coordination and communication that is typically lacking, thereby increasing the level of targeted response that makes a critical difference in preventing violence from occurring. Therefore, PIND will be filling a major gap in peacebuilding and conflict mitigation, through the strategic engagement of traditional institutions as a credible entry point for mediation support to enhance peace and security in the Niger Delta.

Broad Objectives of the Prevent Councils

The broad objective of establishing the Prevent Councils is to engage traditional institutions as positive influencers and conflict mediators in their respective state and communities, and proactively respond to identified potential precursors of violence and instability in collaboration with other stakeholders at the state, local and community levels.

Specifically, the Prevent Councils will function as part of the response components of PIND's integrated early warning and early response system in the Niger Delta as follows:

- I. The Councils will be engaged by peace and security actors at the strategic level to serve as credible entry point for conflict mediation support;
- II. They will be engaged to change the propensity for violence by working as positive influencers of conflict actors;
- III. The Councils will be leveraged to build social capital and link grassroots community peacebuilding efforts with government security forces through strategic engagement;
- IV. To comprehend what the residents of the targeted communities consider as security, peace and safety;
- V. The Councils will be consulted by peace actors to provide advice and guidance on the possible course of action based on institutional knowledge;
- VI. The Council will provide strategic advice on what action to take and with whom to engage to prevent the escalation of violence at the community, local, and state levels.

LINKAGE WITH PIND'S EARLY WARNING AND EARLY RESPONSE SYSTEM

The Prevent Councils would form an integral part of the response mechanisms of PIND's Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system which is designed to link known responders – from the community, state and national level – to relevant early warning and data analysis. The EWER system

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comprises five integrated mechanisms as follows: Peace Map; SMS-based Incident Reporting Platform; Field Monitors, Prevent Committees; and Research/Analysis. The Field Monitors constitute the early warning component of the system. Field Monitors are trained to use information networks at the grassroots level to identify early warning signs of conflict and report incidents to the IPDU SMS platform.

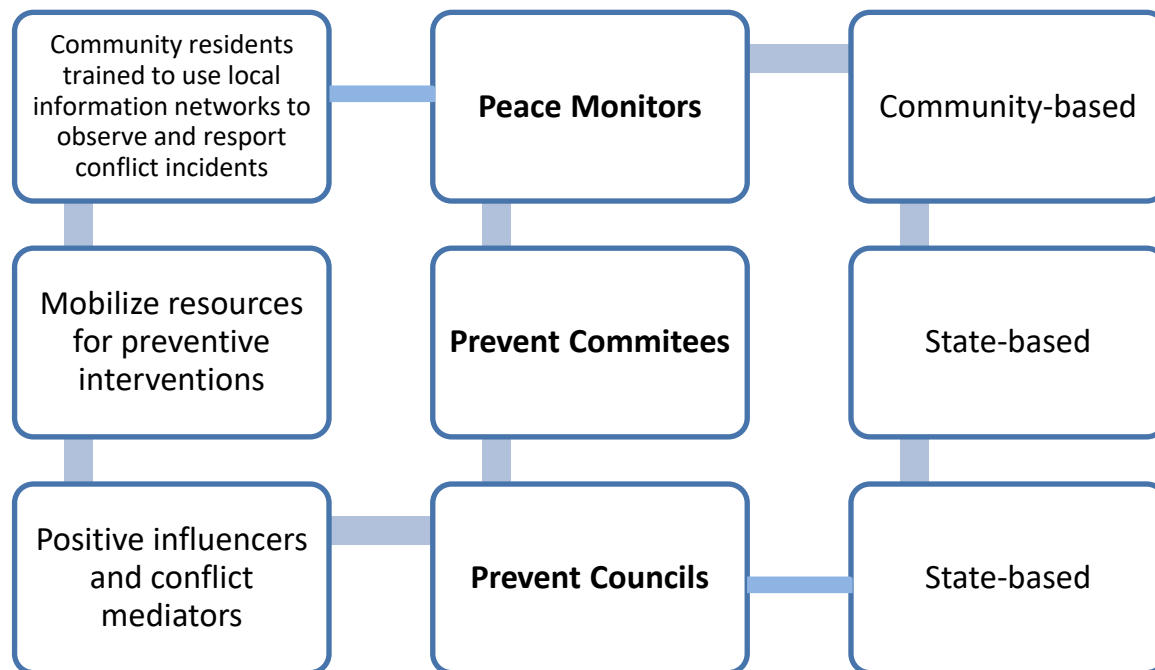


Figure 1: Schema of the Components of PIND's Early Warning and Early Response System

The Prevent Committees are the response mechanisms of the EWER system. Members are drawn from religious associations, traditional councils, women groups, youth groups, and business men and women who are currently members of the P4P network. Representatives of security agencies are also part of the Prevent Committee although their active participation is limited.

The Prevent Councils would form an important component of the response mechanisms of PIND's EWER system. The roles of the Prevent Councils fit well within the goals of PIND's peacebuilding program and it would draw heavily on PIND's existing capacity building program for best practices, lessons learned, and programmatic support. Also, the P4P Network will be leveraged as stakeholders and beneficiaries by members of the Prevent Councils both in terms of early warning and response, and provisions of advice and possible course of action based on information.

4. Approach

Three approaches will be adopted for the execution of the tasks in collaboration with seasoned consultants. The approaches are as follows:

Identification and Engagement with Traditional Rulers: This entails mapping, identifying and engaging potential traditional rulers in each of the target states that will be part of the Prevent Council at the state level.

Introduction to the PIND's Peacebuilding Framework: This involves the introduction of the identified traditional rulers to the PIND Peacebuilding framework which comprises the Peace Map, Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system, the Partner for Peace (P4P) Prevent Committee, and the Peacebuilding research and data analysis products - Weekly conflict update, quarterly tracker and thematic briefs. The linkage between the Prevent Councils and the entire PIND's peacebuilding architecture will be expounded.

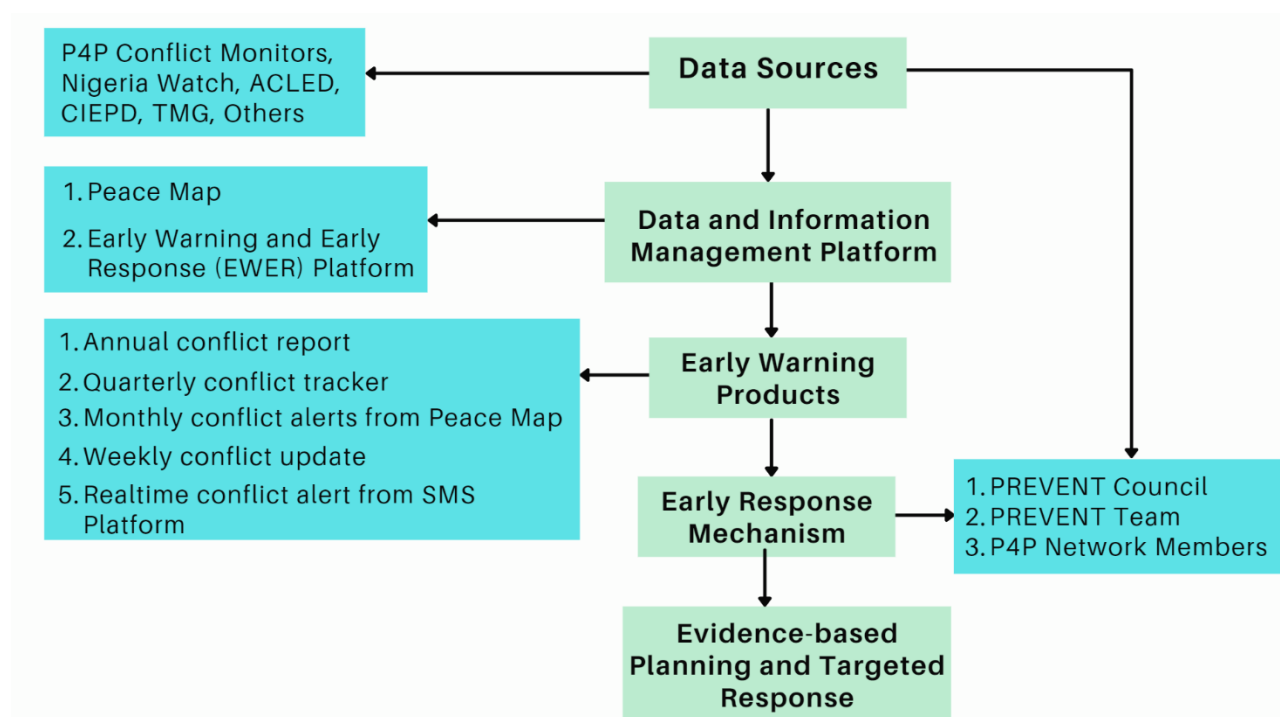


Figure 2: Schematic outline of PIND's Integrated Early Warning and Early Response System

Capacity Strengthening of Traditional Institutions: To aid their effective performance, Prevent Council member's capacity will be strengthened through various capacity building enhancement activities. These will comprise of both traditional and modern conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution capacity building programs with experts based on context and culture for maximum impacts. Modules will consist of conflict management and analysis, stakeholders mapping, mediation, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, conflict sensitivity, land dispute

management, role of traditional rulers in peacebuilding, stakeholder mapping and relationship management (government and traditional institutions relations, traditional institutions relations with security agencies, traditional institutions relations with private sectors - national and multinational, traditional institutions relations with faith-based organizations, and traditional institutions relations with vigilante groups)

For systematic operations and effective performance, they will be introduced to the P4P Prevent Committee processes and the early warning and early response (EWER) platform. Also, they will be trained in contemporary conflict issues which some traditional rulers probably are not familiar with such as conflicts and insecurity links to cybercrimes. In other words, they will be exposed to a combination of traditional and modern conflict and security issues, and sought their support for joint-problem solving approaches.

PIND now seeks to engage three (3) respective consultants to establish, inaugurate and strengthen the capacity of Prevent Councils in Edo, Ondo and Abia states.

Objectives and Scope of the Assignment

The consultants/ grantees are expected to deliver on the following tasks:

- i. To map and identify reputable traditional rulers and stakeholders, get their buy-in as Prevent Council members in Edo, Ondo and Abia states.
- ii. Inaugurate Prevent Council in respective states
- iii. Build the capacities of Prevent Council members on peacebuilding processes in respective states
- iv. Facilitate community-level interventions that will consolidate the Prevent Council and ensure inclusion of a wide range of community leaders and members.

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Table 1: The target states and LGAs identified as hotspots of communal land and boundary disputes are as follows;

S/n	State	LGAs
1	Abia	Ukwa West, Ikwuano, Arochukwu, Isuikwuato
2	Edo	Ovia North East, Owan West, Uhumwonde, Ikpoba Okha
3	Ondo	Odigbo, Akoko North East, Ese Odo, Akure North

ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINES

The following tables present the summary of key tasks (T) and deliverables (D) as well as the timelines for the establishment of Prevent Councils:

Table 2: Tasks and number of days attached per task

S/N	Description of Tasks	No of days
T1.	Inception meeting/stakeholders mapping. (identify potential members of Prevent Councils in the target states in the Niger Delta)	5
T2.	Preliminary engagement with stakeholders. (Contact and get buy-in of identified Prevent Council members)	8
T3	Training Needs Assessment (Training needs assessment and production of report)	2
T4	Training modules (Develop and submit training modules and training assessment questionnaire - Pre and Post)	3
T5	State level Prevent Council constitution and inauguration (Constitute and inaugurate Prevent Council in each state)	5
T6	Train Prevent Council members (Conduct peacebuilding, mediation and conflict mitigation training for all Prevent Council members, and submit progress report – including training report).	5
T7	Facilitate Prevent Councils’ community-level engagement and interventions	8
T8	Production of comprehensive report of the Prevent Council project by consultant in respective states (including financial report)	4
	Total Number of days	40

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DELIVERABLES

Deliverables stated in the table below are directly linked to specific tasks in previous section. Due dates are tentative and dependent upon contract signing date.

Table 3: Deliverables and due dates

Item	Deliverables	Indicative Due Dates (2024)
D1.	Inception meeting/stakeholders mapping. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List of identified members of Prevent Councils in each of the three target states. - Inception report submitted by consultant in respective states. 	September 30
D2.	Preliminary engagement with stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community entry and advocacy visits to communities, and buy-in of communities/ proposed Prevent Council members secured. - Brief report (feedback) from the engagements with identified traditional rulers with their contacts submitted by consultant in respective states. 	October 04
D3.	Training Needs Assessment and training modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of training needs assessment produced and submitted by consultant in respective states - Developed training modules and training assessment tools (Pre and Post) submitted by consultant in respective state of interest applied. 	October 07
D4.	State level Prevent Council constitution and inauguration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constitution and inauguration of Prevent Council in each state by the consultant in respective states 	October 15
D5.	Train Prevent Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of 2 days training for Prevent Council members on conflict management and analysis, stakeholders mapping, mediation, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, conflict sensitivity, land dispute management, role of traditional rulers in peacebuilding, stakeholder mapping and relationship management, and PIND's conflict EWER system. - Submission of progress report (including training reports) and peacebuilding actions (20 actions) based on templates provided by PIND by consultant in respective state 	October 22
D6.	Community-level engagement and interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate peacebuilding and conflict mitigation activities at community-level to reach a specified number of participants at respective states - Prepare report of community-level activities 	November 11
D7.	Comprehensive reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submission of comprehensive reports for the Prevent Council 	

	project in respective states. - Submission of peacebuilding actions (75 actions) based on templates provided by PIND, as well as submission of financial reports (hard and soft copies)	November 29
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DURATION

The project duration amounts to a total of two (2) months. During this period, each of the three Consultants will be engaged for a total of 40 days from September to November 2024. This is laid out in Table 2 and 3, however, the number of days per activity is not cast in stone, and can be utilized across the key activities in as much as the total number of days for the entire assignment does not exceed 40 days.

COST

The estimated number of days for the assignment is capped at 40 days spread over two months for each consultant.

PIND will cover the logistics and associated costs (travel cost reimbursements, venue, refreshments, accommodation, per-diem, communications, etc.) for the preliminary engagement with stakeholders (community entry and advocacy visits to communities), inauguration and capacity building activities, and community-level engagements and interventions for both the consultants and participants, upon approval of expenses.

The consultancy sum will be paid in two tranches- the first tranche (60% of the total grant sum will be paid after delivery of D1-D4 and submission of invoice, and the final 40% after project completion D5-D7 (see Table 2 and 3 above).

The total fee shall be subject to 1% Stamp Duty deduction deductible at once upon contract execution and remittance shall be to the FIRS. The fee shall also be subject to the appropriate withholding tax deduction- 5% or as required by Nigerian Tax Law.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Consultants operating in any of the Niger Delta States are encouraged to apply, especially those with experience in implementing Peacebuilding projects. Women are also encouraged to apply. The consultant should have a minimum of four (4) years of regional/national/international professional experience in providing similar peacebuilding services to either public or private institutions. Familiar with standards and guidelines for engaging with traditional institutions, security agencies, government parastatal and youths. Ability to manage teams – especially remote management and field teams in a challenging environment. Ability to exercise sound judgment, remain flexible to a changing environment, and make decisions independently with respect to organizational and client interest. There will be additional consideration for consultants that are based in the target States (Abia, Edo and Ondo). Special attention will be given to any consultant that demonstrates an understanding of the recommended approach (see section 4) in the

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expression of ideas in his/her proposal. Special consideration will also be given to proposals that prioritize traditional rulers and stakeholders with influence and goodwill in the target LGAs and states.

Furthermore, the consultants must be ready and available to work alongside a technical team from PIND that comprises of experts in peacebuilding and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

HOW TO APPLY

Qualified and experienced consultants that meet the specifications above should forward their profile and technical proposal describing how their qualifications and experiences match PIND's expectation. The technical proposals should include a detailed work plan, monitoring and evaluation plan and budget by email to etender@pindfoundation.org with the subject heading '**Prevent Council 2024 Establishment Proposal _ State of Interest**' along with the following mandatory item/supporting documents not later than **September 23, 2024** by 5PM Nigerian time.

Proposals received in response to this call will be reviewed internally, and after due verifications, the most promising proposals are selected and recommended for approval. Due to the volume of proposals expected, only successful applicants will be contacted. We will not be able to provide feedback on unsuccessful bids.

After selection of consultants/ grantees, their contracting will be based on their approved proposal and budget.

Mandatory Required items from vendors/consultants who intends to bid any work or service in PIND

1. Means of Personal Identification
2. Resume of consultant
3. Most Recent Tax Clearance Certificate
4. Full physical contact address
5. Bank Reference Letter
6. **Stamp Duty Notification Applicability:**
All bidders are advised to take note that Stamp Duty (1%) applies to the total value specified in all contracts/grant agreements, as stipulated by the Stamp Duties Act of 2004. The deduction will be done at source (at once) and remitted to the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

Non-Discriminatory Clause:

PIND Foundation provides equal opportunity in employment and engagement for all persons, vendors, and contractors, and prohibits unlawful discrimination and harassment in all aspects of a contractual engagement or employment because of age, sex, gender, marital status, disability, nationality, race, religion or any fact.

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