

"cost". The minimum qualifying mark shall be stated in the RFP. The award of contract shall be published as per paragraph 7 of Appendix 1.

### Selection Based on the Consultants' Qualifications (CQS)

3.7 This method may be used for small<sup>45</sup> assignments or emergency situations declared by the Borrower and recognized by the Bank for which the need for issuing an RFP, and preparing and evaluating competitive proposals is not justified. In such cases, the Borrower shall prepare the TOR and obtain expressions of interest that include information on their experience and qualifications, eventually through an REOI as may be needed, from as many firms as possible, and at least three qualified firms with relevant experience. Firms having the required experience and competence relevant to the assignment shall be assessed and compared, and the best qualified and experienced firm shall be selected. Only the selected firm shall be asked to submit a combined technical and financial proposal and, if such proposal is responsive and acceptable, be invited to negotiate a contract. Both technical and financial aspects of the proposal may be negotiated. If the negotiations fail with the selected firm, the provisions of paragraph 2.30 apply. The minutes of negotiations shall be prepared and signed by both parties. Awards of contract shall be published as per paragraph 7 of Appendix 1.

### Single-Source Selection (SSS)

3.8 Single-source selection of consultants does not provide the benefits of competition in regard to quality and cost, lacks transparency in selection, and could encourage unacceptable practices. Therefore, single-source selection shall be used only in exceptional cases. The justification for single-source selection shall be examined in the context of the overall interests of the client and the project, and the Bank's responsibility to ensure economy and efficiency and provide equal opportunity to all qualified consultants.

3.9 Single-source selection may be appropriate in the following cases, and only if it presents a clear advantage over competition: (a) for tasks that represent a natural continuation of previous work carried out by the firm (see next paragraph); (b) in exceptional cases, such as, but not limited to, in response to natural disasters and for emergency situations both declared by the Borrower and recognized by the Bank; (c) for very small<sup>46</sup> assignments; or (d) when only one firm is qualified or has experience of exceptional worth for the assignment. In all such cases, the Borrower is not required to issue an RFP and shall submit to the Bank for its review and no objection the TOR of the assignment, a sufficiently detailed justification including the rationale for single-source selection instead of a competitive selection process, and the basis for recommending a

<sup>45</sup> Dollar thresholds defining "small" shall be determined in each case, taking into account the nature and complexity of the assignment, but shall not exceed US\$300,000, other than in exceptional cases.

<sup>46</sup> Dollar thresholds defining "very small" shall be determined in each case, taking into account the nature and complexity of the assignment, but shall not exceed US\$100,000, other than in exceptional cases.