

## UN VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

### PANR000233--Specialist on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers. In most cultures volunteerism is deeply embedded in long-established, ancient traditions of sharing and support within the communities. In this context, UN Volunteers take part in various forms of volunteerism and play a role in development and peace together with co-workers, host agencies and local communities. In all assignments, UN Volunteers promote volunteerism through their action and conduct. Engaging in volunteer activity can effectively and positively enrich their understanding of local and social realities, as well as create a bridge between themselves and the people in their host community. This will make the time they spend as UN Volunteers even more rewarding and productive.

## General Information

<b>Country of Assignment</b>	Panama
<b>Host Institute</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>Volunteer Category</b>	International Specialist
<b>Number of Volunteer</b>	1
<b>Duration</b>	24 months
<b>Expected Starting Date</b>	01-10-2021
<b>Duty Station</b>	Panama City [PAN]
<b>Assignment Place</b>	Family Duty Station
<b>Assignment Place Remark</b>	

### Living Conditions

Panama is located in the middle of the Occidental Hemisphere, the Caribbean Sea lies to the North and the Pacific Ocean to the South, it borders Colombia on the East and Costa Rica on the West. The country has a population of 3.0 million persons with a diverse ethnical composition.

Panama has two seasons, which are the dry and rainy seasons. The first one occurs between December and May; the rest of the year is very rainy. Temperature presents many variations from the mountains to sea level, where the average is around 27° C.

While the official currency is the Balboa, the US Dollar is the currency of legal circulation in Panama. The banking system in Panama is among the most advanced in Latin America. Credit cards specially Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted.

The country is considered a middle-income developing country, though its income distribution varies greatly. Panama City offers good living conditions with all the comforts and infrastructure of a modern and industrialized city, while the interior is

characterized by poor and underdeveloped areas.

Spanish is the official language, although English is widely used in the capital city.

# Assignment Details

## Assignment Title

Specialist on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

## Organizational Context & Project Description

Panama's National Energy Plan 2015-2050 suggests that 70% of the country's energy supply could be renewable. Panama depends heavily on fossil fuels, which have historically accounted for roughly two-thirds of total primary energy supply. The country's transport sector has until recently relied almost entirely on oil and oil products.

At the same time, electricity demand in the country has continued to increase, reaching a peak demand of over 1 600 megawatts (MW) in 2015. To meet this growth, Panama introduced wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) energy in 2013, which reached 270 MW and 90 MW of installed capacity by 2016, respectively. However, fossil-fuelled generation from coal, oil and oil products still accounted for nearly one-third of power production in 2016, and plans are in place to bring natural gas-fired capacity on line in the years ahead.

These developments make Panama's transition to a sustainable energy future uncertain. However, in March 2016, the Government of Panama approved the National Energy Plan 2015-2050 (PEN 2015-2050) to serve as a long-term roadmap for diversifying the energy sector and advancing energy access, energy efficiency, energy security and the overall decarbonisation of the energy system. The plan compares a "business-as-usual" reference-case scenario with an alternative, ambitious scenario, and finds that under the reference-case scenario, Panama's demand growth trajectory would lead to a higher share of coal in the power mix by 2050. The ambitious scenario, in contrast, suggests that renewable energy could reach 70% of the power supply in the next 35 years, while at the same time meeting growth in demand. Furthermore, under the ambitious scenario, a solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind energy scale-up, combined with hydropower, would account for 77% of installed power capacity by 2050.

The Panamanian government recognizes that climate change is a major global threat from an environmental perspective that affects the country's population, its ecosystems and all productive sectors of the economy. It also recognizes its shared yet differentiated responsibility in participating in stabilizing concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the global climate system."

Historically, the country's contribution to greenhouse gases global emissions represented 0.02%. Likewise, per capita GHG emissions show that the country does not contribute significantly to climate change.

However, it is extremely vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Therefore, it aims at undertaking concrete actions to address this global threat, considering the challenges it poses, not only for the country but for the world.

Panama ratified the Kyoto Protocol in June 1998, and recently reaffirmed its commitment to adopt the Doha amendment through Law 38 of June 3, 2015. Law 8 of March 25, 2015, which creates the Ministry of the Environment added Title XI which contains two chapters that refer to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, where the state assumes a national strategy and initiatives in collaboration with other institutions to increase the country's resilience to the adverse effects of climate change and to promote the country's transition to a low-carbon economic development.

Currently, about 60% of the installed capacity of the national electrical grid is composed by renewable sources. Of this percentage, 52% comes from water sources, 7% from wind and 1% from solar power (National Energy Plan 2015-2050).

National efforts reflected in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to mitigate climate change in the Republic of Panama in the energy sector will increase the installed capacity from non-conventional renewable sources such as wind and solar and LULUCF in 30% by 2050, with the assistance of the Green Climate Fund through a performance-based payment scheme and other financial mechanisms. This will allow an increase in carbon absorption capacity by 10% with respect to the baseline by 2050. If the country receives international support in means of implementation, the absorption capacity may be increased up to 80% compared to the baseline by 2050.

The NDC of Panama will encourage GHG reduction by the public and private sector and will provide flexibility and incentives

to promote the transition to a low-carbon economy. Notwithstanding the country's efforts in climate-smart investments, financial support will be required to help the country to develop with resilience to climate change and low emissions.

## Sustainable Development Goals

### 7. Affordable and Clean Energy

#### Task description

Under the direct supervision of the National Programme Officer / Manager CC, Energy, Environment & Sustainable Development, the UN Volunteer Specialist on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, will be responsible to support, advise, develop, and implement sustainable energy programs and/or projects, with focus on the renewable energy, energy efficiency and its relationship with climate change.

Secure business opportunities for UNDP Panama and supporting resource mobilization;

Analyze developments in the energy sector in Panama and in the region as major share of electricity comes in the form of exports/imports from neighboring countries;

Collect data on energy use in various sectors of the economy and generation from various sources, including expected growth scenarios for GDP and various economic & end-use sectors;

Identify and analyze emerging developments and innovations in the energy sector globally (Renewables, Batteries and Green Hydrogen, etc.) and providing recommendations on potential adaptive strategies and UNDP in clean energy space;

Liaise with local stakeholders to identify opportunities and where UNDP can add value;

Propose recommendations for course of action with emphasis on activities with highest value added in terms of systemic change and/or quick wins to the context of power shortages and shelving peak power demand;

Support proposal preparation (concept notes and full proposals) for resource mobilization; i) Include approaches in project concepts to encourage innovation by local stakeholders, including processes of incubation and scaling up of successful business models; j) Identify measures in the energy sector which can reduce GHG emission reductions (including demand and supply side energy efficiency and demand response measures) as well as support grid stability

Support drafting policies and sub-decrees:

Design a conceptual framework, how the policy, sub-decree, ministerial regulation will work and who are the key stakeholders involved in the implementation of such;

Design data collection - interviews, focus group discussions, secondary data from peer reviewed articles including information from relevant institutions, ministries, departments, private sector, development partners and UN agencies relevant to energy policy in Panama;

Carry out discussions, meetings, and interview with key stakeholders/individuals particularly Energy National Secretary, Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), Ministry of Environment (MiAMBIENTE), National Secretary for Science Technology and Innovation (SENACYT), others;

Draft policies, sub-decree and Ministerial Order/Regulations in close coordination with key stakeholders including mechanism for its implementation based on the key stakeholders' recommendations from the validation workshops and submit to concerned department for approval of such documents.

Other Special Projects:

Perform other special projects and assignments as required by the CO and also beneficial for the development of the experience of the UNV Specialist

Furthermore, UN Volunteers are required to:- Strengthen their knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism by reading relevant UNV and external publications and take active part in UNV activities (for instance in events that mark International Volunteer Day)- Be acquainted with and build on traditional and/or local forms of volunteerism in the host country- Provide annual and end of assignment reports on UN Volunteer actions, results and opportunities using UNV's Volunteer Reporting Application- Contribute articles/write-ups on field experiences and submit them for UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.- Assist with the UNV Buddy Programme for newly-arrived UN Volunteers- Promote or advise local groups in the use of online volunteering, or encourage relevant local individuals and organizations to use the UNV Online Volunteering service whenever technically possible.

#### Results/Expected Outputs

A sustainable energy subprogram within the environment, climate change and sustainable development cluster, developed and implemented.

Provided support on overall management of the project activities.

Provided support/advice on Knowledge pieces formulation and replication.

Developed policy, regulatory and technical tools to promote energy management systems and facilitate the transformation of markets for industrial energy equipment and provision of products and services.

• The development of capacity through coaching, mentoring and formal on-the-job training, when working with (including supervising) national staff or (non-) governmental counter-parts, including Implementing Partners (IPs); • Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) perspective is systematically applied, integrated and documented in all activities throughout the assignment • A final statement of achievements towards volunteerism for peace and development during the assignment, such as reporting on the number of volunteers mobilized, activities participated in and capacities developed

## Qualifications/Requirements

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**Required Degree Level** Master degree or equivalent

### Education - Additional Comments

Master's degree, or equivalent, in engineering, energy, resource management, economics, finance, international affairs, or other energy-related field.

**Required experience** 36 months

### Experience Remark

A minimum of 3 years of relevant working experience in energy audits, energy policy drafting, business models for deployment of energy projects will be an added advantage.

Experience in liaising with stakeholders, in particular private sector parties and government.

Experience at the international level, highly desirable.

### Language

- English (Mandatory) , Level - Fluent
- AND - Spanish (Mandatory) , Level - Working Knowledge

### Area of Expertise

- Energy sector Mandatory

### Area of Expertise Requirement

**Need Driving Licence** No

### Competencies & Values

- Accountability
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Commitment and Motivation
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Respect for Diversity
- Vision
- Working in Teams

# Conditions of Service and other information

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**Condition of Service**

[Click here to view Conditions of Service](#)

## **Conditions of Service for International Specialist:**

Note on novel coronavirus – COVID-19.

The rapidly changing nature of novel coronavirus COVID-19 has placed significant and increasing restrictions on the freedom of movement of people across the globe, within countries and across borders. Such restrictions make it very difficult for international UN Volunteers to begin their assignments at their assigned duty station and UNV cannot guarantee assignments will proceed as normal.

Candidates for international UN Volunteer assignments during this period may be exceptionally granted alternative working arrangements to work from their place of recruitment until restrictions are lifted. This is at the discretion of the host entity. Candidates proceeding to interview are recommended to discuss the likelihood of travel and possible alternative arrangements with the host entity. If selected, candidates should carefully consider the circumstances before accepting UNV's offer.

In cases where the UN Host Entity partner has requested the UN Volunteer to perform their assignment remotely, the Post Adjustment Multiplier (PAM) and related entitlements to be paid may be adjusted to the temporary duty station from where the UN Volunteer has been requested to work if requested by the UN Host Entity.

The contract lasts for the period indicated above with possibility of extensions subject to availability of funding, operational necessity and satisfactory performance. However, there is no expectation of renewal of the assignment.

A UN Volunteer receives a Volunteer Living Allowance (VLA) which is composed of the Monthly Living Allowance (MLA) and a Family Allowance (FA) for those with dependents (maximum three).

The Volunteer Living Allowance (VLA) is paid at the end of each month to cover housing, utilities, transportation, communications and other basic needs. The VLA can be computed by applying the Post-Adjustment Multiplier (PAM) to the VLA base rate of US\$ 1,682. The VLA base rate is a global rate across the world, while the PAM is duty station/country-specific and fluctuates on a monthly basis according to the cost of living. This method ensures that international UN Volunteers have comparable purchasing power at all duty stations irrespective of varying costs of living. The PAM is established by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and is published at the beginning of

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The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

every month on the ICSC website <http://icsc.un.org>.

For UN Volunteer entitlements, kindly refer to the link <https://vmam.unv.org/calculator/entitlements>

In non-family duty stations that belong to hardship categories D or E, as classified by the ICSC, international UN Volunteers receive a Well-Being Differential (WBD) on a monthly basis.

Furthermore, UN Volunteers are provided a settling-in-grant (SIG) at the start of the assignment (if the volunteer did not reside in the duty station for at least 6 months prior to taking up the assignment) and in the event of a permanent reassignment to another duty station.

UNV provides life, health, permanent disability insurances as well as assignment travel, annual leave, full integration in the UN security framework (including residential security reimbursements).

UN Volunteers are paid Daily Subsistence Allowance at the UN rate for official travels, flight tickets for periodic home visit and for the final repatriation travel (if applicable). Resettlement allowance is paid for satisfactory service at the end of the assignment.

UNV will provide, together with the offer of assignment, a copy of the Conditions of Service, including Code of conduct, to the successful candidate.

### **Supervision, induction and duty of care of UN Volunteers (Roles and Responsibilities of Host Entities)**

UN Volunteers should be provided equal duty of care as extended to all host entity personnel. Host entity support to the UN Volunteer includes, but is not limited to:

- Introductory briefings about the organisation and office-related context including security, emergency procedures, good cultural practice and orientation to the local environment;
- Support with arrival administration including setting-up of bank accounts, residence permit applications and completion of other official processes as required by the host government or host entity;
- Structured guidance, mentoring and coaching by a supervisor including a clear workplan and performance appraisal;
- Access to office space, equipment, IT support and any other systems and tools required to complete the objectives of the assignment including a host entity email address;
- Access to shared host entity corporate knowledge, training and learning;
- Inclusion of the volunteer in emergency procedures such as evacuations;
- Leave management;
- DSA for official travel, when applicable;
- All changes in the Description of Assignment occurring between recruitment and arrival or during the assignment need to be formalized with the United Nations Volunteer Programme;
- Investigate misconduct: sharing reports with the UNV;
- Provide emergency assistance, e.g. the death of volunteer or medical evacuation, in collaboration with UNV. Accept letters of guarantees or potential liabilities for covering medical costs not claimable under medical insurance in extraordinary situations (e.g. isolation facilities` services during pandemics).

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**Application Code**

PANR000233-9534

### **Application procedure**

#### **Prerequisites**

This assignment is funded by JICA, therefore only former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA-JOCV) who could get recommendation by JICA-JOCV Secretariat are eligible to apply. Please check your application eligibility here: [JICA website](#).

This is a UN Volunteer assignment and eligible candidates must be 25 years of age or older.

#### **Selection process**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The selection will be done by the UN Host Entity at the level of the country of assignment, via competency-based interviews held via skype or telephone.

#### **How to apply**

Please apply via the link below. You can then either log in if you already have an account or register via '[Candidate Signup](#)'.

You may apply to a maximum of three assignments per advertisement and indicate your order of preference in the 'Additional Remarks' section of your profile.

**Application deadline:** 20 June 2021

**doa.apply\_url**

<https://vmam.unv.org/candidate/show-doa/UEFOUjAwMDIzMw==>

#### **Disclaimer**

*United Nations Volunteers is an equal opportunity programme which welcomes applications from qualified professionals. We are committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture.*