



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

2026-09 P0069

Research on the use of new technologies of warfare by armed groups and de facto and/or provisional authorities (AGDAs)

1. RFP Objective

Geneva Call is issuing this RFP to commission a foundational and formative research on the use of new technologies of warfare by armed groups and de facto and/or provisional authorities (AGDAs) and to analyze the protection of civilian concerns flowing from this use. The research responds to the growing and increasingly documented use of new technologies of warfare such as drones, autonomous weapons systems, digital warfare, and artificial intelligence by AGDAs. Raising new questions and challenges for the protection of civilians and compliance with humanitarian norms. The objective of the foundational and formative research is to provide Geneva Call with a solid, evidence-based assessment to inform strategic decision-making, policy positioning, and future programming in this area.

2. RFP Calendar

The timeline for the RFP process is **below**. While we do not anticipate any changes to this timeline, Geneva Call reserves the right to adjust the timeline as needed.

Action A	Date
RFP Issue Date	18 September 2026
Deadline for Receipt of Proposals	9 October 2026
Vendor Selection Anticipated Date	30 October 2026
Start date of operational services:	Beginning of November 2026

3. Proposal Submission Address

Please divide the offer into two separate proposals, being the financial proposal and the technical proposal to the address below no later than 9, October, 2026

Geneva Call

47 chemin de la Chevillarde, CH-1224 Chêne-Bougeries Geneva – Switzerland
And/or to the following email address



The financial proposal can be sent to: rpfinance@genevacall.org.

The technical proposal can be sent to: rfp@genevacall.org.

4. Bid Validity

Proposals are expected to be binding for a period of ninety (90) days from the published response date. Please see RFP attached for more details.

5. RFP Terms & Conditions

- a. The Request for Proposals is not and shall not be considered an offer by Geneva Call.
- b. All responses must be received on or before the date and time indicated on the RFP.
- c. All proposals will be considered binding offers. Prices proposed must be valid for entire period provided by the respondent.
- d. All awards will be subject to Geneva Call's contractual terms and conditions and contingent on the availability of donor funding.
- e. Geneva Call reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal or cancel the solicitation process at any time and shall have no liability to the proposing organizations submitting proposals for such rejection or cancellation of the request for proposals.
- f. Geneva Call reserves the right to accept all or part of the proposal when an award is provided.
- g. All information provided by Geneva Call in this RFP is offered in good faith. Individual items are subject to change at any time, and all bidders will be provided with notification of any changes. Geneva Call is not responsible or liable for any use of the information submitted by bidders or for any claims asserted therefrom.
- h. Geneva Call reserves the right to require any bidder to enter into a non-disclosure agreement.
- i. The bidders are solely obligated to pay any costs, of any kind whatsoever, which may be incurred by bidder or any third parties, in connection with the Response. All responses and supporting documentation shall become the property of Geneva Call, subject to claims of confidentiality in respect of the response and supporting documentation, which have been clearly marked confidential by the bidder.

6. Attachments

- Annex I Request for Proposal minimum requirements

ANNEX I

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1. Background and Scope of Work

Geneva Call is a neutral, impartial, independent humanitarian organization dedicated to promoting respect by Armed Groups and De Facto and/or Provisional Authorities (AGDAs) for international humanitarian norms to improve the protection of civilians through long lasting behaviour change. The research commissioned by the RFP is to respond to the growing and increasingly documented use of new technologies of warfare, such as drones, autonomous weapons systems, digital warfare, and artificial intelligence by AGDAs as well as protection of civilian concerns associated with such use.

The selected provider will be responsible for the full design, implementation, analysis, and reporting of the research. The research is expected to include:

1. A comprehensive desk research with:

- A review of existing documented cases of the use of new technologies of warfare by AGDAs with a particular focus on Geneva Call's contexts of operations
- Review of relevant academic, policy, and practitioner literature on the use of new technologies of warfare as described above and their implications for the protection of civilians

2. Consultations

- Consultations with Geneva Call field missions to gather first-hand information and operational insights on AGDA's use of new technologies of warfare
- Consultations with relevant external stakeholders to enrich the evidence base and ensure a diversity of perspectives

The focus of the research is expected to be an examination of the use of new technologies of warfare by AGDAs, the protection of civilian concerns associated with such use. The research should also identify whether there are any specificities in AGDA for use of these technologies compared to state armed forces that raise distinct protection concerns or normative challenges.

2. Key Deliverables

The key deliverables are:

1. Inception report outlining the proposed methodology, research questions, initial desk research, workplan and timeline. Within the inception report, develop a consultation questionnaire and discussion guide for interviews. (Remote consultations (Field) and in-person (HQ)).
2. Validation meeting with relevant Geneva Call stakeholders to present the preliminary findings of the inception report and validate the questionnaire, discussion guide and direction of the research prior to finalization.
3. Final report presenting comprehensively the findings of the full desk research and consultations, analysis of the protection of civilian concerns, AGDA specific considerations as well as recommendations including Practical recommendations for integrating digital warfare into Geneva Call's engagement, dialogue and training with AGDAs, and preliminary pilot options for Phase 2, including priority countries, institutional entry points and indicative resource implications.

3. Proposal Guideline

Geneva Call welcomes proposals from both:

- Individual consultants with demonstrated expertise relevant to the assignment; and
- Legally registered consulting firms, research institutions, universities, or other organisations with relevant expertise.

Individual consultants must submit an up-to-date CV and, if selected, may be required to provide proof of legal ability to contract and receive payments in their country of residence.

Organisations must provide proof of legal registration and any other documentation required under applicable laws and regulations.

Joint proposals or consortium arrangements are also acceptable, provided a lead consultant or organisation is clearly identified.

The proposal should include two components, the technical proposal and the financial proposal.

The **technical proposal** should include at a minimum

- Understanding of the assignment and proposed approach, demonstrating a clear grasp of the objectives, scope, and context
- Detailed methodology outlining the proposed approach to the desk research, consultations and analysis
- Workplan
- Proposed team composition and CVs of key personnel who will work on the assignment, including their relevant qualifications, expertise, and role in the project. CVs should be annexed
- Data protection considerations to ensure confidentiality and secure handling of sensitive information gathered during consultations
- Examples of similar assignments demonstrating prior experience conducting similar research, particularly in relation to new technologies of warfare, AGDAs, protection of civilians or compliance with IHL
- Quality assurance mechanisms to ensure the rigor and reliability of research findings

The **financial proposal** should include at a minimum

- Detailed Cost breakdown by key phase or deliverable
- Professional fees, clearly indicating the daily rate and number of days allocated per team member
- Reporting costs
- Applicable taxes in line with relevant legal and fiscal requirements.
- For registered companies or organisations: proof of legal registration.
- For individual consultants: a copy of a government-issued identification document and any documentation required to demonstrate legal capacity to enter into a contract and receive payments.

4. Evaluation and Selection Process

The evaluation criteria shall be applied equally to proposals submitted by individuals and organisations. Assessment will focus on demonstrated expertise, proposed methodology, relevant experience, team composition (where applicable), and value for money.



The proposal will be evaluated based on the two components, the technical proposal and the financial proposal.

The technical proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated understanding of the objectives, scope and context of the assignment
2. Soundness, clarity, and feasibility of the proposed research methodology
3. Relevant expertise, qualification and experience of proposed team members, including expertise in IHL, AGDAs, and new technologies of warfare
4. Relevant prior experience in conducting similar research
5. Feasibility, clarity and coherence of proposed work plan and timeline
6. Adequacy of proposed measures to ensure confidentiality and secure handling of sensitive information
7. Robustness of internal review and quality control processes

5. Confidentiality:

All information, data, and documentation shared by Geneva Call with the selected provider including but not limited to consultation records, as well as the key deliverables, shall be treated as strictly confidential.