

In the days leading up to the deadline for the submission of Qualification Bids for the PPP project of Biometric Passport and ID Card issuance services on April 11, 2024, the Evaluation Commission has received requests from Potential Candidates to postpone the submission deadline. Having considered such requests, the Evaluation Commission has decided **not to postpone the submission deadline**. Such a decision requires changes to the Government decision, which could not be achieved before the submission deadline. The decision has also been taken considering that the submission deadline was already postponed once and the Potential Candidates in total have been given a reasonable amount of time to obtain the necessary documentation. Given the strategic importance of the initiative and time pressure associated, Government of Armenia wishes to avoid any further delays in the evaluation of Qualification Bids.

Please note that according to the Clause 6.5.1 of the Request for Qualification:

*“The Evaluation Commission **may invoke the rectification procedure** established in paragraphs 97-98 of the PPP Procedure to address non-conformities in the Qualification Bids at the stages of opening or evaluation of Qualification Bids, as may be required. The Evaluation Commission shall send the relevant notification to this effect to a Candidate in the manner set out in items (a)-(b) of Clause 5.1.1, but in any event prior to approval of the list of qualified Candidates in accordance with Clause 6.7.”*

As stated above, the rectification procedure may be invoked by the Evaluation Commission in accordance with paragraphs 97-98 of the PPP procedure, which establish that:

*“97. If discrepancies with the requirements of the Request for Qualifications are registered in the qualification bid of the bidder at the Evaluation Commission session, the **Evaluation Commission shall have the authority to suspend the session** for a period from five to ten days, while the Secretary notifies the bidder about the suspension of the session on the same day, recommending correction of the discrepancy prior to the end of the suspension period. The discovered discrepancies shall be described in detail in the notice sent to the bidder.*

98. In case the bidder corrects the discovered discrepancy within the period stipulated in Paragraph 97 of this Procedure, its qualification bid shall be evaluated based on the corrections made.”

In response to concerns relating to requirements for electronic versions of Qualification Bids, raised by Potential Candidates, the Evaluation Commission notes that according to the Annex 6 of the Request for Qualification:

“Unless this Annex 6 (Content of Qualification Bid) stipulates otherwise, the Qualification Bids shall be prepared and formalized in accordance with the following requirements: <...>

*(c) Electronic versions of the Qualification Bid (whether submitted as part of the paper-based Qualification Bid or as part of the Qualification Bid intended for submission through the ARMEPS) **may have the scanned copies** of the written signatures of the Authorized Persons on them and/or the qualified digital signatures of a Candidate corresponding to the requirements of the Applicable Law.”*

Should you experience any technical difficulties submitting qualification bids through the ARMEPS portal, please contact the GoA team to arrange for prompt assistance: mcs@gov.am; lilit.avagyan@isaa.am.

The Evaluation Commission thanks you for your interest in the PPP project of Biometric Passport and ID Card issuance services and wishes you the best of luck whilst submitting the Qualification Bids.