

TERMS OF REFERENCE - CALL FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE GROUP 2023-2025

CIVIL SOCIETY ADVISORY GROUP OF UN WOMEN REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN - (GASC-LAC)

1. Nature and Background

The Civil Society Advisory Groups (CSAG) constitute an institutional mechanism for regular dialogue between UN Women and a small but relevant group of civil society representatives on crucial gender equality and women's empowerment priorities and issues. By establishing the CSAG, UN Women formally recognizes achieving objectives and their critical role in advancing women's rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment. This instance does not replace the participation of civil society organizations in other broad consultation processes that UN Women may develop.

The Civil Society Advisory Groups (CSAG) are advisory bodies established at global, regional, and national levels to facilitate effective, continuous, and structured consultations between civil society and UN Women.

Currently, there are different CSAGs in UN Women, such as the Global Advisory Group formed in 2012 or the CSAGs established in various countries such as Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico.

This call for applications is for the partial renewal of its Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) for Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. General Objectives of CSAG

- ✓ Provide information and guidance on the evolution and political, economic, social, and cultural trends and their impact on gender equality and women's human rights.
- ✓ Provide guidance and contributions to the development and implementation of UN Women's programmes and policies of UN Women through their capacities, experience, and knowledge.
- ✓ Promote and strengthen partnerships between UN Women and feminist and women's civil society organizations to advance gender equality, women's rights, and women's empowerment.

3. Objectives of the Civil Society Advisory Group of UN Women Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean

- ✓ Advise and support the Regional Office in implementing its work plan, contributing from their experience and knowledge in UN Women's programmatic areas.

- ✓ Participate and influence intergovernmental processes, facilitating dialogue between relevant actors for gender equality and women's empowerment, promoting sustainable partnerships between UN Women and feminist and women's organizations in the region.
- ✓ Contribute to the effective implementation, follow-up, and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, mainly through the Commission on the Status of Women sessions, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Regional Gender Agenda.

4. Role of the CSAG in the Regional Office

The CSAGs have a dual and complementary role - as an advisory body of UN Women and as a platform for advocacy for advancing the gender equality agenda.

- ✓ Provide information, guidance, and analysis on the evolution and political, economic, social, and cultural trends and their impact on gender equality and women's human rights as a critical contribution to UN Women programmes at the regional level. programming of UN Women at the regional level.
- ✓ Provide strategic advice to UN Women, individually or collectively - and in other instances when appropriate - in their thematic and political priorities, including the implementation of the agreements adopted in the Regional Conference on Women
- ✓ Be a dynamic source of innovative ideas, strategies, and policy perspectives relevant to UN Women.
- ✓ Participate, where relevant, in intergovernmental (such as CSW or the Regional Conference on Women, among others) and inter-sectoral spaces (such as UNPFII, for example) and in spaces for dialogue with other advisory groups and critical actors to advance the gender equality agenda.
- ✓ Promote a solidarity network of civil society organizations to coordinate efforts with UN Women to accelerate action and advocacy for gender equality.
- ✓ Contribute to effectively implementing the different instruments and normative frameworks, such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

5. Composition and Operating Framework

The regular functioning of the CSAG will be carried out virtually, with meetings scheduled every three months. UN Women will be responsible for organizing the meetings, preparing the agenda with the topics to be discussed during each session, and providing the virtual platform for the discussion in coordination with the UN Women Regional Bureau and the Regional Office team. Attendance at these meetings, which will have English-Spanish interpretation, will be a requirement to maintain membership in the CSAG.

Conditions permitting, the CSAG will meet in person once a year, preferably before another regional or global meeting.

It is important to note that the CSAG is advisory, and the proposals and suggestions of its members are not binding to UN Women.

The UN Women Regional Office will provide, subject to budgetary availability, an Advisory Group facilitator, who will oversee coordinating the virtual and face-to-face meetings, guide and organize the discussions and processes of the Group, and serve as a regular liaison between the Group and the Regional Office on specific topics.

6. Expected Results

Some of the expected products are:

- a. Sharing relevant information on current events in the region and their impact on gender equality and women's empowerment.
- b. Review the Regional Office's Work Plan and identify initiatives CSAG members are committed to collaborating with.
- c. Meeting notes and agreements.
- d. Provide advice for knowledge products.

7. Composition and Selection Criteria

For the selection of its members, UN Women will prioritize individuals with a recognized track record in areas related to gender equality, women's empowerment, and the realization of women's human rights. Priority will be given to candidates from regional gender equality networks, women's, and feminist organizations, as well as other non-governmental organizations and academia.

Important: Membership in the CSAG is a non-remunerated *ad honorem* engagement.

The geographical balance will be ensured by the presence of all sub-regions:

- Anglophone and/or Francophone Caribbean
- Mexico, Central America, and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean
- Brazil and Southern Cone
- Andean countries

The representation of organizations and referents that represent the intersectional perspective of UN Women's mandate will be considered:

- Feminist and women's NGOs
- Afro-descendant women, indigenous, rural, refugee, or migrant women's rights defenders
- Women environmental and land defenders
- Women with disabilities
- Diversity and dissidence
- Youth
- Academia

- Trade union organizations and private sector

In all cases, members must have recognition and capacities to defend gender equality and the human rights of women and girls in all their diversity.

The integration of the groups will be selected based on the experience in the impact areas and priorities of UN Women:

- ✓ Democracy, governance, and political participation
- ✓ economic empowerment of women
- ✓ prevention and elimination of violence against women
- ✓ Women, peace and security, humanitarian action, and reduction of Risk disasters
- ✓ Environment and climate change
- ✓ Elimination of gender stereotypes and changes in social norms.

The Group should be generationally, racially, and ethnically diverse. It will include individuals with demonstrated credibility and authority. It should be part of broad civil society organizations, have recognition and skills in activism: strong connections to women's networks and organizations at national, regional, or global levels, analytical skills, a command of new technologies, a professional background and knowledge of women's needs and interests in all their diversity racially, and ethnically diverse. It will include individuals with demonstrated credibility and authority and should be part of broad civil society organizations, have recognition and skills in activism: strong connections to women's networks and organizations at national, regional, or global levels, analytical skills, a command of new technologies, a professional background and knowledge of women's needs and interests in all their diversity.

CSAG members must commit to UN Women's mandate and the UN Charter to carry out this work.

Selection criteria:

- ☐ At least five years of proven experience working to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all its diversity.
- ☐ Work experience and strong relationships with relevant social movements, networks, and organizations.
- ☐ Membership in a civil society organization (in a broad sense: NGOs, networks, universities or research centers, foundations, trade union organizations, and chambers) relevant to UN Women's mandate (forms of membership can be diverse, from associate, partner, employee or volunteer, member of boards or commissions).
- ☐ Thematic experience in UN Women's priority areas.
- ☐ Experience working with public policy, legislation, and/or human rights frameworks and

experience in applying an intersectional and systemic analysis of social justice and gender equality agenda issues will be valued.

- ❑ Interest in collaboration and ability to work in a team, as well as the availability of time to participate actively and substantively as a member of the CSAG (approximately 5% of work per month).

Desirable criteria:

Experience in collaboration with UN and other intergovernmental actors at the regional level.

Experience in developing and facilitating virtual discussions, policy debates, etc.

Disqualifying criteria:

- To ensure neutrality and per UN ethical standards, members shall not serve on lists or run for election, public office (any type of office or representation), or political party positions. Should they be elected to public office or assume any public function after their selection as a CSAG member, they must resign from the Group in writing, or their term of office will be terminated upon their appointment.
- Those who, at the time of nomination, are still serving on or are members of UN Women's national or global advisory groups are ineligible to apply.
- In their capacity, they may not have an employment or contractual relationship with UN Women.

8. Call for Applications and Selection Committee

UN Women invites through its digital communication channels (email and social media) members of civil society organizations, representatives of academia, trade union organizations, and private sector to submit nominations for the Civil Society Advisory Group of the Regional Office, as well as to disseminate this information as widely as possible.

The selection of the members of the UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group will be carried out by the UN Women team.

9. Application Requirements

Interested persons should fill in the [following form](#) and attach the following documentation:

- Curriculum Vitae (max. three pages).
- Two letters of support from feminist, women's, and/or civil society organizations, signed by the competent authority.

10. Duration of the Call and Results:

The call will be open until 10 June 2023 at 23:59 hours Panama time.

Any queries will be dealt with exclusively by email: gasc.rolac@unwomen.org

Applications can be submitted in Spanish and English, CSAG's working languages.

All applications received after the deadline including those without complete documentation will not be considered for evaluation. Applications will be submitted via the application form only. No email applications will be accepted.

The results of the call will be informed via email and on UN Women's Regional Office social media channels.