



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

## Terms of Reference

### **Call for Proposals for a Regional Civil Society Assessment on the Progress and Challenges in Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Latin America and the Caribbean**

UN Women's Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean is offering a **call for proposals from civil society organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to assess the progress, setbacks and challenges in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action** in this region, based upon the perspectives of diverse civil society actors across the region, on the occasion of the Beijing+25 assessment to take place at the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 64) in March 2020. Civil society organizations must represent national and/or local networks of women and gender advocates and have regional representation, outreach and/or presence/membership. **The main objective of the call is to support a civil society regional assessment of the progress and challenges encountered in Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.** This complements the ongoing inter-governmental review process and contributes to debates on priorities for the region to accelerate progress towards the fulfillment of the Platform and to assess how the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action contributes to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **2. Background**

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were adopted by States at the Fourth World Conference on Women which was convened by the United Nations in Beijing, China, in September 1995. The Platform for Action sets out a number of actions that should lead to fundamental changes in gender equality and women's empowerment in twelve different areas of concern. Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action is mainly a responsibility of governments, but also of institutions in the public, private and non-governmental sectors at the community, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels. The Declaration embodies the commitment of the international community to the advancement of women and to the implementation of the Platform for Action, ensuring that a gender perspective is reflected in all policies and programmes at the national, regional and international levels.



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The Platform for Action<sup>1</sup> sets out measures for national and international action for the advancement of women. If implemented, the Platform for Action will enhance the social, economic and political empowerment of women, improve their health and their access to relevant education and promote their reproductive rights. The action plan sets time-specific targets, committing nations to carry out concrete actions in such areas as poverty, the economy, health, education and training, women in power and decision-making, violence against women, women and the media, national mechanisms for the advancement of women, the human rights of women, women in armed conflicts, the environment and the girl child, with the ultimate goal of eliminating all forms of discrimination against women in both public and private life.

Every five years, the Commission on the Status of Women holds a review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. On the occasion of the first five-year review which took place in 2000 (Beijing+5), the General Assembly held the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session and highlighted further actions and initiatives to also be followed by States. Three further five-year reviews took place in 2005 (Beijing+10), in 2010 (Beijing+15) and in 2015 (Beijing+20).

The **Beijing+25 review will take place during the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 64)** at United Nations Headquarters in New York, scheduled for **March 2020**.<sup>2</sup> Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world will attend the session. The Commission will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the General Assembly, including an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a gender perspective (ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2018/8).<sup>3</sup>

The Beijing+25 review will be conducted at national, regional and global levels. As part of this process, States have been urged to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the General Assembly. Based on the national reviews, the regional commissions of

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/01/beijing-declaration>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020>

<sup>3</sup> Available at <http://undocs.org/en/E/RES/2018/8>



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the United Nations will undertake regional reviews. Both the national and regional review processes

will feed into the global review. UN Women is supporting the Beijing+25 review process at the global, regional and national levels.

As part of the Guidance provided to States in support of the preparation of the national reviews,<sup>4</sup> a series of cross-cutting arrangements have been asked to be identified such as institutional setup and communications for the national reviews, multi-stakeholder participation and contributions, timeline and sources of information. Given that Beijing+25 is the first time that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is reviewed with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development appraisal, the Guidance provides questions to orient national reviews and reporting, covering the twelve critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action which for practical reasons have been clustered into six overarching dimensions that highlight the alignment of the two frameworks as follows: Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work; poverty eradication, social protection and social services; freedom from violence and stereotypes; participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions; peaceful and inclusive societies; environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation. The Guidance also makes the link between the 2030 Agenda goal to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (SDG 5, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and the targets that resonate strongly with the Beijing Platform. It also stresses that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda is crucial. Beijing+25 hence contributes to the identification of how the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action contributes to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

**UN Women’s Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean** wishes to contribute to this process by supporting a **civil society regional assessment of the progress and challenges encountered in Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly**. The assessment is intended to contribute to the review process by **analyzing the current status of progress and challenges**. It is also intended to support **civil society advocacy and lobby** efforts in favour of implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. In particular, **recommendations** on how to improve

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<sup>4</sup> See “Guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews” to assist in and facilitate the conduct of comprehensive national-level reviews in different languages at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020/preparations#national-level-reviews>



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policy and practice to better implement the Beijing Platform for Action will be issued, in particular, in connection with the **emerging challenges and opportunities** for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This civil society regional assessment is expected to be presented and discussed at a regional consultation meeting in 2019 and at CSW 64 in 2020.

This assessment contributes to **UN Women's Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean's Annual Workplan 2019, Development Result Framework Impact 6** "Enabling environment to ensure implementation of normative commitments in the region through partnership building, knowledge generation and advocacy", **Outcome 6.1** "Global and regional setting of norms and standards on GEWE incorporates/is influenced by intergovernmental processes, with the full participation of women in their diversity", **Output 6.1.1** "Governments and key stakeholders, including women's organizations representing women in their diversity, have improved their reporting on the progress in the implementation of global and regional normative frameworks regarding women's empowerment and gender equality".

### 3. Expected Results, Deliverables and Activities

**Main result:** A civil society regional assessment on the progress and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean is conducted and disseminated.

#### **Deliverables:**

- A **regional position document/paper** on civil society's assessment of the progress and challenges encountered in Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, with recommendations to support implementation and take up opportunities for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and other similar processes.
- A **civil society advocacy strategy** in support of the Beijing+25 review process and of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action ahead of and after CSW 64

### Suggested activities:

- Regional and national virtual consultations with civil society organizations representing different interest groups (including human rights defenders, youth, rural women, indigenous women, afro descendent women, women living with disabilities, women living with HIV-Aids, migrant women, old women, LGBTI, etc)

on the progress and challenges in the implementation of the Twelve Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly

- Elaboration of a draft regional position document/paper
- Elaboration of a civil society regional advocacy strategy
- Presentation of position document/paper and advocacy strategy for validation at a regional civil society and/or inter-governmental forum
- Presentation of position document/paper and advocacy strategy at global/regional/national civil society and/or inter-governmental *fora* (e.g. Regional Conference on Women LAC, CSW 64 regional consultation in LAC, etc)
- Reproduction and dissemination

## 4. Application, Criteria and Selection Process

### 4.1. Who can Apply?

- Civil society women and/or gender equality advocacy organizations and/or networks with presence and/or representation at the regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Preferably with previous experience in similar global/regional assessment processes (e.g. Beijing+5/+10/+15/+20, Cairo+5/+10/+15/+20, MDGs, etc)
- Must represent/reflect the geographic diversity of civil society in Latin American and the Caribbean and different interest groups including including human rights defenders, youth, rural women, indigenous women, afro descendent women, women living with disabilities, women living with HIV-Aids, migrant women, old women, LGBTI, etc
- Must have expertise in two or more areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

### UN Women will not consider applications:

- Submitted by individuals without any organizational affiliation



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- Submitted by organizations that do not have a legal status in the countries of operation or who are not legally registered in any Latin American and/or Caribbean country
- Not complying with the criteria established for the elaborations of proposals and/or the deadline of submission

#### **4.2. How and When to Apply?**

Applicant organizations are expected to submit proposals following the template in **Annex 1, with a total length of no more than 15 pages.**

The prodoc must include a total budget.

The proposed budget must be broken down by results and activities.

The proposal must cover the period July 2019 to November 2019.

Proposals can be submitted in the following languages: **English and Spanish.**

The **deadline** for submission of the proposals is **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

All proposals must be submitted by email to [giulia.bortolotti@unwomen.org](mailto:giulia.bortolotti@unwomen.org). UN Women will acknowledge receipt of proposals through a confirmation e-mail. Due to the anticipated high volume of applications, UN Women cannot respond individually to those not selected for further consideration.

#### **4.3 Appraisal and Selection Process**

The proposal selection is made through an open and competitive process. Submitted proposals will undergo an internal review process by a selection committee at UN Women's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama. There will be only one proposal selected for funding. It is anticipated that grant approval and disbursements will be made immediately after selection of the successful grantee and upon completion of necessary project approval and administrative processes. The successful proposal will be expected to be further developed following UN Women's standards and formatting requirements, with support from UN Women staff, as required, to include high-quality standards of project design and implementation. The selected organization must undergo a capacity assessment by UN Women to determine level of capacity for implementation of the selected project.