

TERMS OF REFERENCE-EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

UN WOMEN CIVIL SOCIETY ADVISORY GROUP FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (GASC-LAC)

The UN Women Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean calls for nominations for the partial renewal of its Civil Society Advisory Group:

Objective

Renew four (4) members of the partial renewal of its Civil Society Advisory Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (CSAG-LAC) and four (4) alternates: one (1) of the non-Spanish-speaking Caribbean Member States; one (1) from Mexico and Central America; and two (2) from Andean Countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela).

Participation in the Civil Society Advisory Group is personal and unpaid.

Deadline:

January 15, 2020 until 23:59 (Panama time)

I. Nature

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

As established by the Preliminary Strategy of UN Women for Civil Society Advisory Groups (developed in November 2015), they constitute an institutional mechanism for regular dialogue between UN Women and leaders of the women's and feminist movement on priorities and issues key in gender equality at the national, regional and global levels. They inform UN Women about strategic policy perspectives and normative and intergovernmental processes. They are also a strategic and substantive network of eminently qualified civil society representatives with diverse experience and knowledge about the priority areas of UN Women. 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.

In their advisory role, the CSAGs are a dynamic resource for UN Women, proposing innovative initiatives, ideas, strategies and political perspectives. In their advocacy role, the CSAGs play a key political role in promoting common objectives for achieving gender equality and empowerment of women.

II. Objectives

- ✓ To advice and advocate for policy and program development at the global, regional, sub-regional and country level with the expertise, perspective and knowledge of civil society and to promote sustainable partnerships between UN Women and civil society to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.
- ✓ To advocate and participate in intergovernmental processes and platforms. The role of UN Women is to provide opportunities for dialogue in these areas and among

intergovernmental CSAGs and other stakeholders, including governments and the private sector.

- ✓ To contribute to the effective implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Development Agenda. To act as partners with UN Women and create a network of solidarity of the civil society to coordinate efforts with UN Women in order to accelerate action and advocacy for the achievement of equality gender in 2030.

III. Mandate

The United Nations General Assembly, when creating the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) requested that it continue the existing practice of conducting effective consultation with civil society organizations and encouraged them to make a significant contribution to the work of the Entity (RES. A /64/289).

The UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021, meanwhile, notes that "*civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations play a vital role in promoting women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. The long relationship with the women's movement gives it the opportunity to bring their voices, capacities and contributions in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women, especially those who are more likely to fall behind*".

IV. Role

a) Advisory Role:

- ✓ Provide strategic advice to UN Women, individually or collectively, - and other instances when appropriate - in their thematic and political priorities, including the strategic planning process.
- ✓ Provide information and guidance on the evolution and political, economic, social and cultural trends for the programming of UN Women at the regional level.
- ✓ Provide analysis of the socio-economic and political environment at the regional level and its impact on gender equality and women's human rights.
- ✓ Provide contributions to the programs and policies of UN Women.
- ✓ Provide guidance and contributions to regional strategies for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

b) Advocacy Role:

- ✓ Provide assistance to UN Women in strengthening their relationship and dialogue with civil society at all levels.
- ✓ Participate and influence normative processes and intergovernmental platforms such as the CSW or the Regional Conference on Women, among others.
- ✓ Create a network of civil society solidarity to coordinate efforts with UN Women to accelerate action and advocacy for the achievement of gender equality in 2030.

✓ Contribute to the effective implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Development Agenda.

V. Background

The CSAG-LAC was established in May 2012 and was the result of a rigorous selection process that included applications of almost 120 women and men of great trajectory and prestige. The final selection was made by civil society peers. Fifteen members and three permanent observers were selected, in addition to four alternate members (one per subregion). In order to ensure the continuity of the work of the Advisory Group, a proportion of its members perform their functions for a period of three years. Consequently, in 2014 half of the group was renewed with seven new members. In the first half of 2016 the membership was renewed again, leaving the eight members of the original group and 4 new members were selected through a public call for applications. As of 2016 the group was composed of 11 members in total. On this occasion, 4 members will be chosen - 2 from Andean countries, 1 from Central America / Mexico and 1 from non-Spanish-speaking Caribbean, to maintain geographical balance.

Currently, the Advisory Group has a wide representation, both in terms of organizations and thematic fields, as well as geographical. The advisors represent the four subregions: Mexico and Central America, the Caribbean, the Andean countries and Brazil and the Southern Cone. They have proven experience in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment. Among them there are women rights defenders, academics specialized in gender and endorsed by institutions of recognized prestige, indigenous leaders, champions of the rights of Afro-descendant women and outstanding activists for women's political, economic and reproductive rights.

The Advisory Group meets in person once a year and virtually every two months holding regular meetings with the Regional Director. The first face-to-face meeting of the CSAG-LAC took place in October 2012 in Panama with the objective of generating concrete recommendations for the work of UN Women for the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan. The second meeting took place in October 2013 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on the margins of the XII Regional Conference of Women of Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC (focused on gender equality, the empowerment of women and information and communications technologies) and the Forum of Feminist Organizations (a space to discuss and convey the voices of women at the plenary of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean). The third face-to-face meeting was held in October 2014 in Panama and its main objective was to prepare the Work Plan for 2015, as well as to propose the evaluation of the group and the future terms of action. The fourth face-to-face meeting was held in January 2016 in Santiago de Chile on the margins of the regional consultation prior to the CSW60 of 2016 to be organized by ECLAC and UN Women jointly. The fifth face-to-face meeting was held on the margins of the XIII Regional Conference of Women of Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC in Uruguay (October 25-28, 2016). The sixth face-to-face meeting was held in February 2017 in Panama on the margins of the regional consultation prior to the CSW61 (2017). The seventh face-to-face meeting took place in February 2018 in the Dominican Republic on the margins of the regional consultation prior to the CSW62 (2018). Finally, the eighth face-to-face meeting was held in Buenos Aires in December 2018, together with the regional consultation prior to the CSW63.

VI. Composition

The CSAG-LAC consists of eleven (11) members with recognized experience in the field and proven experience in areas related to gender equality and women's human rights and empowerment. The members represent gender equality networks, women's and feminist organizations, as well as other non-governmental and grassroots organizations with work in youth, ethnic groups, Afro-descendants, women's human rights, climate change, innovation, economic empowerment and different gender identities, among other issues, and are committed to the values of the United Nations.

In all cases, members must have recognition and capacities in activism with proven strong connections with women's networks and organizations at national, regional or global levels.

The composition will be as follows:

✓ 8 members of gender equality networks, women's and feminist organizations (intermediate or grassroots). The geographical balance will be ensured by at least two members of each of the sub-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean: 1) The Caribbean (Anglo and French); 2) Mexico and Central America; 3) Brazil and the Southern Cone; and 4) Andean Countries.

✓ 3 experts in one of the impact areas and priorities of UN Women in the region (economic empowerment of women, leadership and political participation, prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls, peace and security, gender responsive statistics and budgets, economic empowerment, climate change, innovation). This is not exclusively for academics, but also people who are endorsed by research institutes or feminist or human rights organizations and other organizations that show proven experience in the areas and priorities listed above.

The composition of the Group should ensure the representation of the diversity of women in the region and include organizations and networks of women and feminists, civil society organizations, academia and selected opinion leaders. The Group shall include members with experience at the grassroots level that represent diverse development perspectives. In particular, special attention will be given to the nominations of young people to promote intergenerational dialogue.

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

VII. Duration of the mandate

The members of the Group will serve in the Advisory Group for a period of two years. The group will be partially renewed by thirds.

To ensure continuity, a proportion of the group members may serve for a maximum period of three years in total.

VIII. Selection criteria 2019

In this call, a total of four (4) people will be replaced and four (4) alternates will be selected. In order to create a balance between remaining and new members of the Advisory Group, the following criteria will have special consideration (minimum 4):

1. Belong to one of the following groups: Young people (up to 30 years old), indigenous, Afro-descendants, rural, women living with HIV, LGTBI, with active participation in the movement of women and / or regional and global feminist.

2. Have a proactive approach to participation in advisory and working groups and have availability to follow up on activities and contribute to initiatives and consultations. Availability of at least 10% of weekly work time is required. If you work in an organization or institution you must attach a letter from the employer authorizing, you to have that minimum % of your work time to participate in the group.
3. Thematic experience in at least two impact areas and priorities of UN Women in the region (economic empowerment of women, leadership and political participation, prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls, peace and security, gender responsive statistics and budgets, climate change, innovation).
4. Experience in policies, legislation and/or human rights treaties will be valued, particularly at the regional / international level.
5. Academic and research experience, especially in one of the areas or priorities of UN Women.
6. Have a wide presence and proven active participation in spaces of the women's and feminist movement at the regional level.
7. Strong connection with women's or feminists' networks and organizations at national or regional level working within the impact areas and priorities of UN Women and with extensive experience in promoting gender equality and women's human rights at the level national and / or regional and development policies.
8. Proven understanding and experience of the needs and interests of the various groups of women, particularly in the Global South.
9. Knowledge of the different development models and the differences between middle-income countries and less developed countries.
10. In order to guarantee neutrality, and in accordance with the ethical standards of the United Nations, members must not integrate boards of directors of political parties, hold public office or be elected. In case of being elected to public office after their selection as members of the GASC-LAC, they must submit their resignation to the group in writing or their mandate will be terminated before their appointment.
11. Those who, at the time of the application, are still part of national or global advisory groups of UN Women are not eligible.
12. Commitment to the mandate of UN Women and the United Nations letter to carry out this work.

This call for nominations will be disseminated among and by the networks and organizations of women and civil society in the region.

XIX. Operating Framework: Activities

1. Meet in person once a year, preferably prior to the annual session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Regional Conference of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean; or other events of high relevance for the gender equality agenda at the regional and global level.

2. Participate in virtual meetings every two months with a thematic agenda previously agreed with the Regional Director of UN Women and the Regional Office team.
3. Maintain permanent complementary contact in virtual form with contributions to the work of the group. If you have a temporary problem that prevents or limits your participation, this must be notified. Member may also be in contact on their own initiative or at the request of the regional group with the Civil Society Advisory Groups at national and global level and must inform the Group of the activity carried out and the result.
4. Contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the bi-annual work plan and development of a new plan as required. The plan must have specific objectives, actions and time frames and contribute to the priorities of UN Women. Among these actions, virtual thematic dialogues will be carried out.

The Regional Office of UN Women will have a facilitator of the Advisory Group, who will be in charge of coordinating virtual and face-to-face meetings, guiding and organizing the discussions and processes of the Group and serving as a regular liaison between the Group and the Regional Office for specific topics.

X. Products

1. Concrete recommendations to UN Women (product of face-to-face and virtual meetings).
2. Work Plan.
3. Reports of virtual dialogues.
4. Minutes of bi-monthly meetings.
5. Reports and / or documents providing advice to UN Women.
6. Reports of participation in meetings and activities on behalf of the Group.

XI. Selection Committee

The selection modality will be through a Committee composed of four members of Civil Society, one from each Sub Region and two representatives of UN Women as facilitators, who will evaluate the applications. The Selection Committee will adopt decisions by consensus.

XII. Requirements

Interested persons should submit the following documentation:

1. Curriculum Vitae. No more than 5 pages.
2. Professional profile (short CV) that reviews your professional training and work experience and, in the women's/feminist movement.
3. Letter of interest duly signed expressing the reasons for your application and what will be your contributions to the Advisory Group.
4. Letter of guarantee from a feminist or women's organization or with a central activity in the equality of certified women, not less than five years old, signed by the competent authority.
5. Letter of availability signed by competent authority, in case of being an employee if a civil society organization or institution.



All applications must be sent to the following emails before the deadline:
gasc.rolac@unwomen.org

Applications can be submitted in Spanish and/or English.