

TERMS OF REFERENCE

UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group Moldova

Background

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was established by UN General Assembly Resolution 64/289 and became operational in January 2011. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women aims to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women has a universal mandate on strengthening and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women nationally, regionally and globally. UN Women's work is guided by the principles of *the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*, *Beijing Platform for Action* and *UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security*. UN Women works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these international gender equality standards. At the time that UN Women was established, the United Nations General Assembly requested the head of the *Entity* to "continue the existing practice of effective consultation with civil society organizations, and encourages their meaningful contribution to the work of the Entity" (GA/64/289).

In response to this request, UN Women has set up [Civil Society Advisory Groups \(CSAGs\)](#) at the global, regional and national levels to build on existing partnerships and increase strategic dialogue with civil society partners in countries, regionally and internationally. Civil society is one of UN Women's most important constituencies - providing a dynamic source for ideas and policy perspectives, partnerships and support for the organization - which can assist UN Women in achieving its strategic goals. Closely linked is the vital role played by civil society in advancing shared objectives in promoting women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In line with its global directive, UN Women Moldova established the first Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) in 2011, being one of the first in the region. During the implementation of the previous UN Women Moldova Country Strategic Note for the period of 2014-2017, CSAG contributed significantly to the strategic planning processes of UN Women and advocated for the achievement of the joint goal towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In the framework of the new [UN Women Moldova Country Strategic Note for 2018-2022](#), UN Women will focus on achieving results under three impact areas, namely:

- Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems
- Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy
- All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence.

In the framework of its new Strategic Note, UN Women Moldova is launching the process of establishing a new country Civil Society Advisory Group.

Objectives and Role of the Advisory Group

The CSAG is a mechanism for regular dialogue, between UN Women and leaders from the gender equality movement, on key gender equality issues and priorities at the national level. The CSAG has a double and complementary role — as advisors to UN Women and as advocates for the realization of the gender equality agenda.

The goals for the CSAG are:

- To foster dialogue and engagement, with a view to advancing goals of gender equality and women's empowerment.
- To enable UN Women to consult with civil society and draw upon the rich and diverse expertise, experience, outreach and networks, perspective and knowledge that civil society can offer.
- To serve as a consultative forum of ideas and strategies for UN Women's programming, including identification of the most pertinent and emerging gender equality issues in the country.

The role of CSAG is:

- To provide strategic perspective to UN Women on the realization of its overall vision and mandate in Moldova, including on advocacy issues and UN Women's thematic priorities;
- To provide analysis on socio-economic and political developments in Moldova to keep UN Women updated on the trends, risks and opportunities pertaining to gender equality in the country;
- To identify emerging gender equality and women right's issues that may need to be addressed by UN Women in future programmatic interventions;
- To share information, good practices and lessons learned that could feed into UN Women programming and advocacy work
- Provide input to UN Women CO Moldova strategic planning instruments such as the Strategic Note and Annual Work Plan;
- Act as a platform for engagement with the broader gender equality movement in Moldova.

Composition

CSAG will be composed of a maximum of 7 individuals with proven records in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment. The composition of the group will ensure that the diversity of the society is captured. The members of the CSAGs must be eminent civil society representatives with strong credentials as gender equality advocates, a proven record within the women's movement and understanding of the UN and UN Women context, priorities and mandates. They can come from the following categories: women's rights leaders; male gender equality advocates who are considered leaders on this issue; youth leaders with a track record of work on gender equality; leaders of ethnic minority/indigenous groups; LGBTI leaders; advocates and leaders of marginalized groups; labor/Trade Union leaders; feminist media leaders and advocates; progressive and feminist faith-based organization leaders.

CSAG members join the advisory groups as eminent individuals, in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their organizations. While they bring the strength of their organization and constituency to the CSAG, within the CSAG they will operate in their individual capacity as a gender equality leader.

Members of the Moldova CSAG will serve as a CSAG member for a period of **two years**. After the expiration of this period, they can apply for an additional term and in case they are selected, can serve for another term of two years. Membership in the group is honorary and members will receive no remuneration.

CSAG members may belong to organizations that are implementing partners/responsible parties of UN Women. However, in order to avoid conflict of interest, CSAG does not have any oversight, monitoring or decision-making role in UN Women programming activities. In order to preserve the integrity and autonomy of the CSAG as a civil society group of eminent women's rights advocates and gender equality leaders, members of government bodies or political parties' leadership cannot be part of a CSAG or part of any CSAG selection process.

Selection Process

To ensure a transparent and objective selection process, UN Women is requesting interested candidates to submit their Applications and this Call will be circulated via the UN Women website and through civil society networks and organizations, ensuring widest possible outreach.

A Selection Committee comprised of key UN Women staff from the Moldova Country Office and representatives from United Nations Country Team, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECA), and Regional ECA CSAG, will be constituted to make recommendations on the selection of CSAG. Members of the Selection Committee will not be affiliated with organizations from applications received. The selection process will be duly documented.

The Selection Committee will assess the applications and make recommendations using the following criteria:

1. Extensive experience in advocacy, activism and policy development on gender equality and women's rights;
2. Strong connection to organizations and networks representing women's rights and working towards gender equality in the country;
3. Demonstrable understanding of the needs and interests of diverse groups of women, including those who experience multiple forms of discrimination;
4. Documented thematic expertise in at least one of the UN Women Moldova's impact areas, as defined in UN Women Moldova Strategic Note for 2018-2022;

To ensure the views and needs of a larger and diverse constituency is covered, the nomination of representatives of umbrella organizations and networks is strongly encouraged. Special consideration will be given to the applications from youth, grassroots organizations, individuals from minority groups, persons with disabilities or representing the most disadvantaged groups and organizations working on men's engagement for gender equality.

Operational Framework

It is envisaged that the CSAG will meet quarterly and additional meetings may be organized on an ad-hoc basis if needed. Communication may be also carried out via e-mails.

English, Romanian and Russian languages will be used as means of communication with CSAG members.

How to apply

Qualified candidates who are interested in becoming a member of CSAG Moldova are invited to submit their application in English or Romanian language no later than **August 15th, 2018**.

Applicants may submit as part of their application recommendation or nomination letters by civil society networks/coalitions.

Application package shall consist of:

- ✓ Completed Application Form
- ✓ Curriculum vitae (CV)

Please send your application form and CV to info.md@unwomen.org indicating "Moldova CSAG application" in your email subject line.

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Only selected candidates will receive an acknowledgement.