

## Terms Of Reference

### UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### **Background**

UN Women office in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was established in 2008 to provide support to governmental and non-governmental partners to implement existing international and national commitments to women's rights and gender equality. Through its projects and programs, the office provides technical assistance to duty bearers as well as rights holders nourishes networking and exchange of good practices and advocates for women's rights and gender equality in all areas of life. UN Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina supports partners to achieve concrete results in promoting gender equality, overcoming structural inequalities and changing gender roles.

UN Women is setting up a civil society advisory groups as a consultative body for advancing shared objectives in promoting women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. The goal of establishing this group is to build on existing close relationships and increase strategic dialogue with civil society partners, provide a dynamic source for innovative initiatives, ideas and policy perspectives to assist UN Women in achieving its strategic goals. 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.

#### **Objectives**

UN Women CSAG in BiH will be a consultative forum for regular dialogue between UN Women and civil society in BiH. The goals for the group are:

- 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 foster dialogue and engagement, with a view to advancing goals of gender equality and women's empowerment.
- 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 region

#### **Scope of Work**

UN Women BiH CSAG is being established to facilitate effective, on-going and structured consultations between civil society and UN Women at a county level. Rotating every two years, this Advisory Group will focus on the provision of strategic perspectives on advocacy issues, strengthening UN Women's engagement with civil society and supporting, as relevant, intergovernmental processes and forums.

As a consultative forum for regular dialogue between civil society and UN Women, the BiH CSAG will:

- Enhance the dialogue between UN Women and civil society for partnership and learning.
- Exchange knowledge to keep members up-dated on trends, risks and opportunities pertaining to gender equality.
- Share analysis of the socio-economic and political environment in BiH and how it impacts on gender equality and women's rights issues.
- Identify emerging issues that may be addressed by UN Women in future programmatic interventions.
- Provide analysis, ideas and lessons learned that could feed into UN Women advocacy work.
- Provide input to UN Women BiH's strategic planning instruments such as the Strategic Note and Annual Work Plan;
- Act as a platform for engagement with the broader women's movement in BiH.

### **Composition**

BiH CSAG will be composed of a maximum of 9 individuals with proven and distinguished track records in the areas of gender equality, women's empowerment and sustainable development. The Group's composition must ensure that the diversity of women in the county is represented. Members will be drawn from gender equality networks, women's organizations, academia, as well as other non-governmental and grassroots organizations which are committed to the core values of the United Nations.

The composition of the BiH CSAG will be as follows, ensuring representation from a variety of society perspectives: experienced CSOs working with gender across BiH, Roma CSO, survivors of Violence Against Women, Conflict Related Sexual Violence and Gender Based Violence, rural women, youth, entrepreneurs and private sector, academia and think-tanks.

Applications are sought from an individual nominating his/her candidature or from a network/coalition of NGOs nominating a CSAG members. In all cases, members of the BiH CSAG will be individuals with proven credentials of influence and participation in civil society organizations and activism. They will serve in their personal capacity for a period of two years. After the period of two years, should they be nominated again, they can be selected for an additional term of two years.

Membership in the group is honorary and members will receive no remuneration. However, UN Women will cover all travel expenses related to members' attendance of CSAG meetings.

### **Nomination and Selection Process**

To ensure a transparent and county wide representative process, UN Women is requesting Expressions of Interest and this call will be circulated via the UN Women website and through non-governmental networks and organizations, ensuring widest possible outreach.

A **selection committee** comprised of key UN Women staff from the County Office, representative of BiH UNCT, a member of the ECA Regional CSAG and an independent expert, will be constituted to make recommendations. Members of the Selection Committee must not be affiliated with organizations from

which expression of interest may be received. The selection process will be duly documented ensuring transparency.

The selection committee will assess expressions of interest and make recommendations using the following criteria:

1. strong connection to national women's organizations and networks, concerned with matters within the UN Women mandate and with extensive experience in national advocacy and policy development;
2. strong connection to national, non-governmental or academia networks concerned with matters of sustainable development;
3. demonstrable understanding of the needs and interests of diverse groups of women, including those who are subjected to multiple forms of discrimination;
4. thematic expertise in UN Women's impact areas, as defined in UN Women's global Strategic Plan [2014-2017]
5. understanding of different development realities, including work in conflict, post-conflict, and transition;
6. experience in policy, legislation and/or human right treaties is valued;
7. qualified men, as well as individuals from minority groups, Roma, persons with disabilities or representing the most disadvantaged groups are encouraged to apply in order to ensure neutrality and in compliance with UN ethical standards, members shall not be engaged in active politics, such as elections, political parties, etc;
8. ensure inclusion of grassroots organizations and networks;
9. ensure representation of young men and women;

### **Structure and Operational Framework**

The BiH CSAG will be managed by UN Women Country Office in BiH. It will meet biannually and will ensure opportunities for more regular engagement with UN Women Representative and staff through other means. In addition, members of the CSAG will be given an opportunity to engage and contribute to the thematic meetings as available. Electronic exchange and Skype conferences in the margin of the CSAG meeting and beyond will be organized, as appropriate.

### **Language**

English and Bosnian / Croatian / Serbian languages will be used as means of communication with CSAG members.

**UN WOMEN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA CIVIL SOCIETY ADVISORY GROUP:**

**APPLICATION FORM**

1. Family name:
2. First name:
3. Nationality:
4. Telephone:
5. E-email:
6. Permanent Address:
7. Sex:

Male

Female

8. Applying as a member of (please check the ones that are appropriate):

Women's equality network

Women's organizations

Grassroots organizations

Academia

As an individual

Other

9. Representing interests of (please check the ones that are appropriate):

Roma or ethnic minority groups (please specify):

Rural women

Gender activists

Persons living with/affected by HIV/AIDS

Persons with disabilities

Girls and adolescents

- Youth
- Private sector
- Academia
- Others

10. Are you currently affiliated with an organization? If yes, please explain the nature of the work you do within this organization, how it is linked to gender equality and women's empowerment issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

11. What is your area of expertise? (Please link it specifically to UN Women's priority areas: violence against women, gender-responsive budgeting, economic empowerment, leadership and participation, peace and security)

12. Why do you believe you are a suitable candidate to be a part of the UN WOMEN BiH Civil Society Advisory Group?

13. Additional remarks, if any

Signed:

Date:

Please send your application and CV to [unwomen.bih@unwomen.org](mailto:unwomen.bih@unwomen.org) NOT later than 01 September 2017 and indicate "**BiH CSAG application**" in your email subject line.