

Terms of Reference for UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group in the United Republic of Tanzania 2019-2020

Introduction

In light of UN Women's call for Planet 50-50 by 2030 and the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, UN Women Civil Society Advisory Groups (CSAGs) are aimed at playing a key role in strengthened institutional partnership and engagement with civil society. Presently, there are over 40 national, regional and global CSAGs set up or in process to be set up with more than 500 members.

The CSAG at a national level has both an advisory and an advocate role. The aim is to build on existing close relationships and increase strategic dialogue between UN Women and civil society partners, to formally recognize civil society as one of UN Women's most important constituencies, and draw upon each other's initiatives, ideas, and policy perspectives and strategies to advance on national gender equality goals.

The CSAG will provide a regular forum for exchange of views and ideas between UN Women Country Office in Tanzania and civil society organizations that will help advocate for subjects of priority and mandate to UN Women. The CSAG will help advocate for the agency's mandate on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights in the country and contribute to ensuring UN Women is connected to the real needs and issues of women and girls in Tanzania.

Mandate for the Advisory Group is embedded in the following:

1. The 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).
2. UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2022: UN Women will continue to forge effective partnerships with civil society and facilitate the participation of civil society in inter-governmental processes and key international policy-making fora. The Civil Society Advisory Groups (CSAGs) at national, regional and global levels, will be essential for building dialogue among all stakeholders to strengthen ownership of the development and normative agenda on gender equality and women's empowerment (UNW/2013/74).

Role and function of the Civil Society Advisory Group in Tanzania

Objectives of the Civil Society Advisory Group are:

- i. To provide a unique space and forum for open dialogue on national development issues and trends with a view to advance goals of gender equality and women's empowerment.
- ii. To assist strengthening UN Women's engagement with civil society and enable UN Women to consult and draw upon the rich and diverse expertise, experience, outreach and networks, perspective and knowledge that civil society can offer.
- iii. To serve as a consultative forum of ideas and strategies

iv. The CSAG is a platform for informal consultations. Hence, it does not have any oversight, monitoring or decision-making role in UN Women programming activities

Operational framework

i. UN Women envisages at least one face-to-face general meeting with the entire CSAG membership to be convened during the calendar year. Minutes of all meetings will be recorded and shared with all members. UN Women bears the costs of the meetings as well as travel of CSAG members to the general meeting location, as necessary.

ii. Ongoing collaboration with UN Women will take place via a mailing list and/or on other online platforms, set up by UN Women, for group members to engage with each other.

iii. UN Women will convene the Civil Society Advisory Group and act as the secretariat. Working language will be English. Summaries of meeting minutes and action points will be available in English.

Membership of the Group, criteria and composition:

The following principles apply:

- The CSAGs are to have a small, manageable number of individuals (7-10 individuals).
- 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.
- CSAG members will be selected among gender equality leaders who are strong, progressive and hail 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 indigenous groups; advocates and leaders of marginalized groups; labor/Trade Union leaders; feminist media leaders and advocates; progressive and feminist faith-based organization leaders.
- The CSAG should include strong youth advocates (with a suggested quota of 30%).
- CSAG members join the advisory groups as eminent individuals 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; the appointment will be for a fixed period of time, on a renewable basis and their membership is rotational.
- CSAG members must be able to devote time and attention to participate in this body. The CSAGs members must, actively engage with other members (national, regional and global) and with the broader civil society in their national and regional contexts and provide valuable inputs to the work as needed.
- The Group should represent diverse developmental and human rights perspectives demonstrating a high level of inclusiveness.
- The Group shall have wide geographic representation.
- 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.
- The CSAG member shall not advertise or publicize his or her association with UNWOMEN, nor shall the name, emblem, or official seal of UNWOMEN be used for business or professional purposes or otherwise without the prior written approval of UNWOMEN.

Application and selection process

Interested individuals will be requested to fill an application form and attach their CV. The UN Women Country Office will then establish a committee to review applications based and select a diverse group of CSAG members. The Representative will issue a memorandum listing the approved CSAG members.