

## Call for Nominees for Regional Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) for East and Southern Africa

### Background

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) was established by General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010. Its formation was precipitated by advocacy led by civil society (under the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign), calling for the UN to address critical gaps and weaknesses in its efforts towards gender equality globally -including the unclear distribution of roles between different entities and the inadequate resources directed to UN activities on GEEW issues. UN Women was therefore created to be “a dynamic and strong champion for women and girls, providing them with a powerful voice at the global, regional and local levels”<sup>1</sup>.

Civil society is therefore considered as one of the most important constituencies for UN Women (globally, regionally and at country-level), providing a dynamic source for ideas, policy perspectives, partnerships and support for the organization. Additionally, civil society play a vital political role in advancing shared objectives towards the promotion of women’s rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women’s collaboration with civil society will be key to ensuring accelerated action, and strengthened accountability by Member States and other key stakeholders, towards the realization of the Agenda 2030, and UN Women’s call for Planet 50-50 by 2030. Together with civil society, UN Women can strengthen collective efforts, and voice to ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women are realized.

To provide a mechanism for strengthened engagement with civil society, UN Women developed a Civil Society Advisory Group Strategy (December 2017), which articulates the role of the CSAG mechanism as being to provide an institutional mechanism for regular dialogue between UN Women and leaders from the gender equality movement, on key gender equality issues and priorities at national, regional and global levels. CSAGs are therefore intended to play a double and complementary role — as advisors to UN Women, and as advocates for the realization of the gender equality agenda.

### UN Women ESAR’s Regional Civil Society Advisory Group (R-CSAG)

In line with the above in August 2014 UN Women’s regional office for East and Southern Africa (UN Women ESARO) established its first Regional Civil Society Advisory Group (R-CSAG), following a call for nominations in April of the same year it’s the objectives of the R-CSAG are to:

- Agree on key strategic areas for intervention that will address existing gender inequalities and develop agreed frameworks for engagement and support to inform the work of UN Women at regional level.
- Provide inputs to UN Women during the formulation of key strategic documents e.g. the regional strategy, regional programmes and in identification of priority thematic areas for the region.
- Provide feedback on UN Women’s efforts;
- Provide updates on political, social, economic and cultural developments and trends for consideration in UN Women’s programmatic activities in the region;

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<sup>1</sup> Its main roles are provided as: (i) to support to inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms; (ii) to help Member States to implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society; and (iii) to lead and coordinate the UN system’s work on gender equality as well as promote accountability, including through regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

- Provide perspectives on regional scenarios and positions on key issues including for intergovernmental processes;
- Provide strategic perspectives on advocacy to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the region;
- Assist to strengthen UN Women's engagement and partnership with civil society at regional and national levels including in relevant intergovernmental processes and fora; and,
- Contribute to advocacy and outreach on the role and mandate of UN Women.

The membership of this R-CSAG comprised of 12 individuals from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and including 2 men. Following the resignation of 4 R-CSAG members, UN Women ESARO is looking to complete the group. This process will be informed by the strategic priorities articulated in the UN Women Global Strategic Plan (2018-2021), the UN Women ESARO Strategic Note (2018-2021), the UN Women Africa Strategy (2018-2021), the UN Women CSAG Strategy (December 2015).

### **The Call for Nominees**

UN Women ESARO is therefore inviting 5 nominees to the R-CSAG i.e. women and men who are committed to the core values of the UN and to the mission of UN Women. These nominees would be males or females from women's organizations/networks/coalitions and movements, youth-led organizations, faith-based organizations, academia and/or the media. Nominees from regional institutions/networks and coalitions are desirable.

They should also be highly recommended individuals with a proven track record in their respective fields, working in the areas of:

- Governance and leadership;
- Women's economic empowerment;
- Ending violence against women and girls;
- Women, peace, security and humanitarian action.

UN Women ESARO is also looking to ensure that the composition of the R-CSAG is representative of the ESAR and as such, nominees from Burundi, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda and Tanzania will therefore be prioritized.

### **Selection process**

#### ***Nomination process:***

- UN Women will circulate the call for nominations including through existing regional and national gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment networks/coalitions, organizations and movements. Nominations should be sent to: The Regional Director, UN Women regional office for East and Southern Africa, UN Complex, Gigiri, Block M, P.O. Box 30218-00100, Nairobi, Kenya via e-mail to: [csag.nominations@unwomen.org](mailto:csag.nominations@unwomen.org)
- The nominations should include the following:
  - Name, organization and contact details of the person nominating a candidate to the R-CSAG;
  - Name, organization and contact details of the nominee together with a brief description (less than one page) on why the nominee would be a suitable candidate for the R-CSAG accompanied by a detailed CV of the nominee;
- The deadline for receiving nominations is 12 April 2018 (midnight East African Time).

#### ***Selection process:***

The selection of the candidates will be undertaken by a selection committee comprising of Representatives of UN Women Country Offices and eminent gender equality advocates, once a list of qualified candidates has been constituted. This selection committee will be constituted and convened within one calendar

month of the closing date for receiving nominations. The following proposed criteria will be reviewed by the selection committee:

- At least 10-12 years of working experience in civil society, on gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment;
- Experience in engaging in regional and international fora and/or initiatives on gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment issues;
- Thematic expertise and strong track record in: Governance and leadership; Women's economic empowerment; Ending violence against women and girls; and/or women, peace, security and humanitarian action. Experience in women, Peace, security and humanitarian action would constitute an added advantage;
- Strong knowledge and understanding of the socio-political and economic environment in the region;
- No active engagement in politics to safeguard neutrality of the UN.

#### Other considerations

- The advisory group should have both women and men;
- The advisory group should include female youth (using the UN definition of persons aged between 15 and 24);
- The advisory group should include person(s) with disabilities;
- Should there be determined to be a gap in expertise after assessing the nominations, the Regional Director will be at liberty to supplement the membership of the R-CSAG by nominating additional members to fill the gap;
- Nominees should be aware that they do not represent their respective organizations or interests while serving on the R-CSAG.