



UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office

ToR for Pacific Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG)

1. Introduction

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women - www.unwomen.org) was established by General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July, 2010 on system-wide coherence with the mandate to assist Member States and the United Nations system to progress more effectively and efficiently toward the goal of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women.

UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office (MCO) covers 14 countries in the Pacific: Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Tonga, Palau, Nauru, Niue, Cook Islands, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tokelau. The MCO programmes include four main thematic areas:

- Women's Political Participation;
- Ending Violence against Women;
- Women's Economic Empowerment;
- Gender and Climate Change/Disaster Risk Reduction

The UN Women's call for Planet 50-50 by 2030 and the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, provides an opportunity to strengthen institutional partnership and engagement with civil society. UN Women Civil Society Advisory Groups (CSAGs) were established four years ago as advisory and advocacy bodies, and offer the opportunity to create a civil society solidarity network that can coordinate efforts with UN Women to accelerate information-sharing, advocacy and strategic action to achieve gender equality by 2030. The CSO Advisory Group mechanism recognises the key historical role of feminist and women's social movements to the UN human rights system. UN Women Fiji MCO is seeking to revise and re-establish a Pacific Civil Society Advisory Group to provide a consultative forum, and a platform for regular dialogue with civil society and social movement members from all the countries covered by the UN Women Fiji MCO.

2. The mandate for the Advisory Groups:

2.1. **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).

2.2. In her **Vision and Action Plan** the founding Executive Director said: *“In recognition of the special relationship I envisage between UN Women and women’s organizations, I will be forming an NGO Advisory Group to advise me as Executive Director of UN Women. This will be a body through which NGOs can share their perspectives, expertise and knowledge from the country level and a channel for our ongoing collaboration.”*

3. Goal for the CSAG

- To foster shared information, dialogue and engagement with a view to advance global goals of gender equality, women’s human rights 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 enable civil society to better understand and interact with UN Women Fiji MCO.
- To serve as a consultative forum of ideas, resources and strategies for UN women’s programme.

4. Roles and functions of the CSAG

The UN Women CSAG strategy document has identified areas of strategic value for the CSAG including the following:

- CSAGs are a set of institutional mechanisms for regular information-sharing and dialogue, between UN Women and leaders from the gender equality and women’s human rights movement, on key gender equality issues and priorities at national, regional and global levels.
- They have a double and complementary role — as advisors to UN Women and as advocates for the realization of the gender equality agenda.
- In their advisory role, CSAGs are a dynamic resource, for UN Women, of innovative initiatives, ideas, strategies and policy perspectives.
- In their advocacy role, CSAGs play a vital political role in advancing shared objectives in promoting women’s rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- CSAG members, individually and collectively, have leveraged their advocacy power and influence very effectively when engaged in inter-governmental processes and inter-

governmental platforms.

- UN Women's role is to facilitate spaces for dialogue in these intergovernmental spaces and between CSAGs and other stakeholders, and to hear the views of CSAG members and other WHRDs negotiating within those spaces.

5. Role of the Pacific CSAG

UN Women and CSAG members draw upon each other's initiatives, ideas, research, analysis, and policy perspectives to advance on national and Pacific regional gender equality goals. UN Women draws upon the CSAG for information, advocacy and political strategies at the country and sub-regional levels to strengthen activism and results for gender equality and women's human rights in the Pacific.

Active CSAG members may benefit from engagement on a range of activities and events, as our key civil society reference group in the Pacific.

6. Composition

- The UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group is to be composed of some 7-10 individuals of experience, knowledge and public profile, with a public record of accomplishment on the ground in areas related to gender equality, women's human rights and women's empowerment.
- CSAG members will be selected among gender equality leaders and Women's Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) who work from a universal human rights framework, are connected nationally and regionally, progressive and hail from the following categories: women's human rights leaders; male gender equality advocates who are considered leaders on this issue; youth leaders with a proven record of work on gender equality with an emphasis on human rights of young women and girls, and young women leaders; leaders of indigenous groups and those of ethnic minorities in the region; LGBTI leaders; representatives of people with disabilities; advocates and leaders of high poverty and marginalized groups in rural and urban areas; labour/Trade Union leaders; feminist media leaders and advocates; progressive and feminist faith based organization leaders.
- Efforts will be made to ensure that the CSAG has members who have thematic expertise in one or more of UN Women's focus areas namely Ending Violence against Women, Women's Economic Empowerment, Women's Political Participation, and Gender and Climate Change/Disaster Risk Reduction.

Serving in the advisory group is considered voluntary work and UN Women will only cover travel related expenses of the members for the group's meetings.

7. Criteria

- Highly qualified persons with diverse experience and expertise.
- Professionals and activists who have at least 5 years of working experience in civil society and with national and regional experience in gender, development and/or human rights.
- Proven record within the women's movement and have expertise in one of the four thematic areas covered by the Fiji MCO (stated above).
- No formal political affiliation to safeguard neutrality of the UN.
- The selection committee will endeavour to include 30% young women and young men advocates, and ensure adequate representation of women and people with intersectional representation from marginalised communities
- The selection committee will endeavour to include representation from each Pacific sub-region (Melanesia, Polynesia, Micronesia; one from each) and those who have interest and capacity in influencing the regional agenda.
- The individuals shall be committed to the core values of the United Nations, and work from a human rights framework
- Members shall not serve concurrently on another UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group.

8. Nomination process:

The selection of the members of the Civil Society Advisory Group involves several steps: There are two ways to submit a nomination:

1. A personal nomination.
 2. You can be nominated by another person.
- The nominations should include the following: Name, organisation and contact details of the nominee, a short description (less than one page) on why the nominee would be a suitable candidate for the Pacific CSAG, and a detailed CV of the nominee.
 - Nominations can be sent by E-mail to Anne Rehagen (anne.rehagen@unwomen.org) by 31 March, 2017.
 - The selection process will be done by an Independent selection panel formed by UN Women and key partners, which will be finally approved by UN Women Representative;
 - Members of the Civil Society Advisory Group will be notified by 7 April, 2017.