**Call for Applications to the Beijing +30 Civil Society Steering Committee for Europe and Central Asia**

UN Women is launching this call for applicants to the Beijing +30 Civil Society Steering Committee for Europe and Central Asia, to ensure the effective and coordinated engagement of regional and national women’s rights organizations/civil society organizations in the regional review process in the lead up to the global review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) in 2025.

**Background**

The year 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a pivotal global agreement on gender equality and women's rights. This milestone presents an important moment to review state action and compliance in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. During this anniversary review, feminist movements will also examine the current political, economic, and social landscape, seeking ways to advance women's rights in a world characterized by growing inequalities, environmental crises, and challenges to women's human rights.

This review aligns with the broader global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by demonstrating the link between gender equality progress and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The review process begins in 2024 and culminates in a global assessment at CSW69 in 2025. It will evaluate the progress in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment and identify challenges in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a vital role in this review process. CSOs are encouraged to participate in both national and regional reviews. In the Europe and Central Asia region, UN Women and UNECE will facilitate the regional review, ensuring civil society's active involvement.

Furthermore, in the Europe and Central Asia region, a high-level intergovernmental meeting on gender equality and women's empowerment will take place in Geneva as part of the regional review process. This meeting will also include a Civil Society Organization (CSO) Forum.

To promote the active participation of civil society, a steering committee comprising up to twelve civil society organizations will be established. The steering committee will encompass the following:

* subregional representation – each region (Western Balkans and Türkiye, Eastern partnership Countries and Central Asia) will be represented by at least two CSOs or two CSOs networks;
* Minoritized groups of women will be constitute 20 percent of the committee,
* Youth networks and coalitions will be represented by at least one member.

This committee will collaborate closely with UN agencies, providing valuable input into the review process, organizing forums, and contributing to negotiation processes. Once the membership is established, the members will collaboratively appoint a Chair and an Administrative Lead, from the representatives present in the group. The designated individuals will serve as the regional focal point for the Steering Committee's engagement with UN Women and other stakeholders, leading the coordination of committee activities and promoting communication among members.

In essence, the 30-year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2025 offers a significant opportunity to assess progress in gender equality and women's empowerment, in alignment with global development goals, and ensuring the active, meaningful and effective involvement of civil society in the review process. It is a moment to reflect on past achievements, address ongoing challenges, and identify emerging issues affecting women's rights, as well as methodologies for partnerships and collaborations towards progressing gender equality in the region and across the globe.

**Purpose**

The Steering Committee for the Beijing +30 Regional Review will serve the crucial purpose of effectively coordinating and facilitating the involvement of civil society organizations in these initiatives and drive meaningful change. More detailed objectives and functions for the committee are as follows:

* To function as a central coordinating body, fostering collaboration and engagement among civil society organizations to ensure their active, meaningful and effective participation in the regional review of Beijing +30.
* To facilitate the sharing of information and review outcomes with civil society constituencies and various stakeholders, including governments and institutions, and thus encourage informed dialogue and advocacy.
* To lead and facilitate substantive input into the development of draft outcome documents for key events, such as the ECA Conference on Gender Equality and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) review, to represent the voices and priorities of civil society.
* To engage in continuous consultations with civil society and act as liaison with UN Women and UNECE to influence the structure, content, outcomes, and participation of women's rights organizations and civil society at intergovernmental meetings.
* To conceptualize, plan, and organize a Civil Society Forum, ensuring the participation of diverse constituencies and sub-regions from the ECA region. This will include developing criteria for selecting CSOs and shaping and implementing the agenda, content, and joint CSO statement for the Forum.
* To inform their constituencies on and to coordinate post-meeting follow-up actions to ensure that the commitments and outcomes are translated into tangible actions and impact.
* To develop effective communication mechanisms to keep the broader civil society informed about the ongoing processes, consultations, and the results of the regional reviews.
* To establish a focal point system with working committees to efficiently implement the tasks at hand, fostering greater efficiency and coordination.
* To work on processes to engage civil society in the post-regional processes, ensuring that regional priorities are effectively conveyed to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and future sessions of the CSW, influencing the methods of work and thematic priorities.
* To work on processes to link the outcomes of the civil society’s work in the region to the related Agenda 2030 processes.

Please note that one of the Steering Committee members will be selected to receive and manage funds from UN Women’s Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia towards the facilitation of the Steering Committee’s agreed activities. In this regard, the selected Steering Committee member will be required to undergo a corporate Due Diligence check including a capacity assessment which will be undertaken by UN Women, and to submit a project document and detailed budget in line with the agreed activities of the Steering Committee and UN Women’s corporate financial rules and regulations.

The deadline for receiving applications is 15th December 2023. (Midnight Istanbul time).

Applications should be submitted in English to e-mail address: eca.partnerships@unwomen.org.

You can also communicate any questions/requests for clarification concerning this Call to the above email.

In summary, the Steering Committee will play a pivotal role in uniting civil society organizations, advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment, and ensuring the lasting impact of regional reviews and intergovernmental meetings throughout the ECA region.

**Membership**

The Steering Committee is co-chaired by one of the members based on selection made by members during their first meeting.

Steering committee members will be considered based on the following criteria:

* Regional or sub-regional organizations and/or international organizations with demonstrated presence in ECA region. *As such, applications submitted by individuals will not be accepted*
* Demonstration of **capacity to coordinate and represent** key constituencies, issues or sub-regions which shall include
	+ Sub-regions of Central Asia, Eastern Partnerships, and Western Balkans and Türkiye
	+ Constituencies representing
		- Rural women
		- Migrant women
		- Indigenous women
		- Women living with disabilities
		- Urban poor women
		- Young women
		- Older women
		- Women and girls in all their diversities, including diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression
		- Women survivors of violence
		- Women living with HIV and AIDS
		- Women workers from a diversity of sectors
		- Women in ICTs
		- Women in media
		- Women in or affected by conflict situations (including women refugees or internally displaced)
		- Others
* **Steering committee members must be able to commit time** to the steering committee which includes (inter alia):
	+ attending regular teleconferences;
	+ regular email contact;
	+ writing and editing documents;
	+ communicating with constituencies or sub-regions;
	+ participating in working committees;
	+ contributing language for civil society statements and review of draft government documents;
	+ actively contributing to the civil society forum planning, preparation, delivery, evaluation and follow-up steps;
	+ attending the CSO Forum and the *ECA High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women: Beijing+30 Review* in the last quarter of November 2024.
* **Expertise** and **history** of work on women’s human rights, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and processes of review /Agenda 2030 and the SDGs localization and review processes, including networking with national, provincial and grass-root CSOs in their respective sub-regions.
* Capacity and time to provide substantive expertise, leadership, lobbying and advocacy to inform and influence the process.
* Organizations that support the **human rights framework** and practice **inclusive and progressive feminism**, whose work does not marginalize or deliberately exclude women on grounds of ethnicity, nationality/citizen status, ability, race, age, caste, indigeneity, socio-economic status, migrant status, household status, HIV and AIDS status, sector of work, religion, sexual orientation and identity and expression and sex characteristics, or other grounds.
* To be able to work effectively in English, which will be the working language of the Steering Committee. To be able to use online cooperative working tools (such as Google Docs, Zoom, etc.)

**Administrative and Technical Support**

Support to the administrative and technical tasks of the Steering Committee will be provided by UN Women ECA Regional Office in consultation with members of the Steering Committee. Upon selection of members, the CSO Steering Committee will engage into a joint planning of its work with an action plan as the final deliverable.

**Tenure of Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee is constituted for the duration of the B+30 review processes until end March 2025.

**Selection Process**

The selection will be conducted by a UN Women Evaluation Committee composed of membership from UN Women Headquarters, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and selected country offices in the region. This Evaluation Committee will be convened within one calendar week of the closing date for receiving applications, and the results will be communicated to the twelve organizations by the end of the following calendar week of the same. The first virtual meeting of the Steering Committee will be held tentatively by mid-January 2024.

**Documentation Required**

UN Women will circulate this call through UN Women offices regionally, through regional inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and existing regional and national gender equality, women's rights and women’s empowerment networks/coalitions, organizations and movements. Applicants should submit the following (which should speak directly to the criteria for selection of Steering Committee members):

• Organizational profile referencing the organizational mandate, target constituencies and program profile including leadership and engagement in intergovernmental processes (Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and Agenda 2030 and SDGs and other critical global commitments) and the organization’s programming principles and approaches.

• The profile should also provide the organization’s geographical areas of coverage (countries), including where the organization has offices. An indication of civil society/women’s rights networks that the organization is part of, would also be desirable;

• Legal registration documentation, clarifying the legal identity of the organization and country of establishment;

• Management structure and profiles of the organization’s management;

• Profile of the person who will be representing the organization on the Steering Committee, confirming their capacity and availability to effectively participate in the Steering Committee.

• A letter of recommendation for the applicant, from a Women’s Right Organizations/civil society organizations and/or UN agency (ies).

Applicants should include with their submission a cover note providing information on the primary contact for your organization for the purposes of this application:

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| Name: |  |
| Title: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Telephone Number: |  |
| Email Address: |  |