Annex F

Invitation for Expression of Interest

UN Women is in the process of identifying potential Responsible Parties to design and implement **advocacy initiatives** addressing priority gender equality challenges in Türkiye within the scope of *"Strong Civic Space for Equality and Women's Empowerment (Strong Civic Space for Gender Equality - Phase II) "* Project.

Instructions to potential Implementing Partners for submitting the Expression of Interest:

1) The Expression of Interest (EOI) is the first step in a two-step selection process for engaging CSOs as Implementing Partners.
2) The Expression of Interests by CSOs will be assessed by a UN Women review panel to identify organizations that have the required knowledge, skills, and capacity to support achievement of results and selected CSOs will be placed on a shortlist for potential partnerships.
3) Submission of an Expression of Interest is non-binding and does not create any obligations for either party. It should be noted that participation in this Expression of Interest and placement on a shortlist does not guarantee the organization will be selected for partnership with UN Women. Only the **shortlisted CSOs will be invited to submit detailed proposals as part of the Call for Proposals exercise**. The Call for Proposals will provide a more detailed description of the scope of work and evaluation criteria. Detailed proposals received after the EOI in response to the Call for Proposals will be evaluated for the final selection of an Implementing Partner.
4) The Expression of Interest includes the Partner Agreement template (with all the Annexes). Interested CSOs must indicate their acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined in the Partner Agreement template with their Expression of Interest, or clearly state any reservations or objections.
5) Interested CSOs are advised to review UN Women's Anti-Fraud Policy, which is attached to the invitation for Expression of Interest.
6) Collaborative applications from consortiums are encouraged. UN Women requires a consortium governance framework that details governance structures within the consortium delineates roles of lead and partner organizations; specifies decision-making authorities; establishes transparency & accountability standards; outlines conflict resolution procedures; and sets regular communication protocols.
7) Due to the volume of submissions, UN Women will be unable to acknowledge receipt of completed Expressions of Interest.

1. Background

UN Women (the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

In Türkiye, in line with its global Strategic Plan 2026-2029 and Country Strategic Note (2026-2030), and the overall UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Turkiye (UNSDCF) (2026-2030), UN Women works towards the overarching goal of "By 2030, women and girls have improved

and equal access to resources, opportunities and rights, and enjoy a life without violence and discrimination.". UN Women works in four thematic areas: (i)women's leadership and decision making; (ii) women's economic empowerment (iii) ending violence against women and girls; and (iv) women, peace and security and humanitarian action. UN Women contributes to two UNSDCF outcomes: 1) Women and girls have improved and equal access to resources, opportunities, and rights, and enjoy a life without violence and discrimination; 2)By 2030, the governance system in Türkiye is more transparent, accountable, inclusive, and rights-based, with active civil society participation, and the quality of judiciary services is improved.

The UN Women 'Strong Civic Space for Equality and Women's Empowerment-Phase II' (Strong Civic Space for Gender Equality Project) is being implemented between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2027 with the financial support of European Union. The project aims to reduce gender inequalities by enhancing the ability of civil society organizations (CSOs) to be agents of transformative change towards gender equality and women's rights. The specific objective of the project is "Women's rights groups, women led CSOs, other rights-based organizations, platforms and groups more effectively influence the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda at the national and local levels."

One of the outputs of the project is 'Women's rights groups, women-led CSOs, other rights-based organizations have enhanced operational, normative and programmatic capacities and strengthened sense of community around common goals as part of a larger network of UN Women supported organizations through principled and demand-driven financial and technical support.'

Türkiye has made measurable progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in access to basic services such as health and education and ranked **45th out of 193 countries** in the 2023/2024 Human Development Index. However, these gains have not translated into commensurate progress in gender equality. Türkiye's **gender-adjusted HDI ranking drops to 63rd**, while the country ranked **127th out of 146 countries** in the 2024 Global Gender Gap Index, reflecting persistent disparities in women's economic participation, political representation, educational outcomes, and health. Despite alignment of national legislation with international gender equality standards, implementation gaps remain, underscoring the need for sustained, innovative, and intersectional advocacy efforts. The CEDAW Committee has emphasized the importance of protecting women's fundamental rights and positioning gender equality as a driver of sustainable development.

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) remains widespread and rooted in gender stereotypes and unequal power relations. Multiple forms of violence, including physical, sexual, economic, psychological, digital violence, workplace mobbing, and child, early and forced marriages, continue to undermine women's rights and safety. Intersectional inequalities further exacerbate risks, particularly for refugee women, women with disabilities, women living in rural areas, and women affected by crises such as the 2023 earthquakes. Civil society organizations play a critical role in preventing and responding to VAWG through advocacy, service provision, monitoring, and accountability efforts, and remain central actors in advancing survivor-centered and rights-based approaches.

Women's economic empowerment is another priority area where advocacy interventions are urgently needed. Türkiye continues to face **low female labor force participation**, high unemployment among women and young women, widespread informal employment, and unequal distribution of unpaid care work. The ongoing economic crisis and the compounded impacts of the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes have deepened poverty and social exclusion, disproportionately affecting women across all age groups. Advocacy initiatives are needed to address structural barriers, promote inclusive economic policies, and elevate the care economy as a cornerstone of gender-equal and sustainable development.

Gender inequalities also heighten women's vulnerability to **climate change and disasters**, due to unequal access to resources, decision-making, technology, and mobility. Gender-responsive climate action, disaster risk reduction, and just transition policies are essential to ensure women's leadership and participation in building resilient, low-carbon, and inclusive economies. Civil society advocacy remains vital to integrating gender perspectives into climate, environmental, and disaster-related policies and programmes.

This Expression of Interest (EOI) seeks to establish a pool of experienced and committed women's rights and women-led civil society organizations that can serve as potential partners for the design and implementation of advocacy initiatives under the Project for the above mentioned areas which are elimination of violence against women and girls; advancing women's economic empowerment and gender responsive climate action and/or disaster risk reduction. Through this EOI, UN Women aims to identify appropriate partnership modalities to advance transformative, rights-based, and inclusive gender equality advocacy aligned with the Project's overall objectives in these areas.

2. General Overview of Required Services

Through this Expression of Interest, UN Women seeks to engage minimum 2 **women's rights organizations and women-led civil society organizations (CSOs)** working on **gender equality** to design and implement **advocacy initiatives** addressing priority gender equality challenges in Türkiye.

The services required under this call aim to support **transformative, inclusive, and rights-based initiatives** that not only strengthen feminist discourse, influence social norms, but also generate evidence, monitor policy implementation, formulate actionable policy recommendations, contribute to institutional and structural change, and amplify women's voices at national and grassroots levels in the areas of elimination of violence against women and girls; advancing women's economic empowerment and gender responsive climate action and/or disaster risk reduction.

UN Women is committed to ensuring a **transparent, fair, and evidence-based partner identification process**, in line with its established policies and procedures. Through this Expression of Interest, UN Women aims to map the technical, advocacy, and thematic expertise available among **women's rights organizations and women-led civil society organizations**, and to assess their programmatic, operational, financial, and administrative capacities relevant to the design and implementation of advocacy initiatives.

This EOI seeks to identify qualified organizations capable of contributing to **high-quality, rights-based, and transformative actions** that advance gender equality and women's empowerment in Türkiye. The focus is on initiatives that strengthen feminist discourse, influence policies and social norms, promote accountability, and amplify women's voices at both national and grassroots levels, in alignment with international human rights and gender equality frameworks.

Selected organizations are expected to demonstrate a strong contextual understanding, feminist and intersectional approaches, and the capacity to mobilize diverse constituencies and stakeholders. Advocacy initiatives should be innovative, participatory, and inclusive, making effective use of creative, art, cultural, and digital tools to drive social change and support collective action for gender equality.

3. **Description of Required Services**

The services sought under this EOI include the design and implementation of advocacy initiatives that respond to the thematic priorities as outlined above (elimination of violence against women and girls; advancing women's economic empowerment and gender responsive climate action and/or disaster risk reduction) using innovative and non-traditional tools. Advocacy approaches may include, but are not limited to:

- **Advocacy and Policy Influence:** Development of advocacy strategies, feminist campaigning, stakeholder engagement, and dialogue processes aimed at influencing laws, policies, strategies, budgets, and institutional practices at national and local levels.
- **Policy Analysis and Formulation:** Generation of evidence, development of policy briefs, recommendations, guidelines, and implementation tools that translate international and national gender equality commitments into actionable and context-specific policy proposals.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Accountability:** Design and implementation of monitoring mechanisms, community-based accountability tools, scorecards, data collection and analysis to track policy implementation, service delivery, and institutional performance from a gender and human rights perspective
- **Innovative and Non-Traditional Tools:**
    - Art, culture, and creative expressions as catalysts for feminist discourse, activism, empowerment, and social transformation, with the potential to build communities, foster dialogue, and deepen grassroots engagement;
    - Digital and technology-based advocacy tools, including initiatives that strengthen CSOs' understanding of digitalization, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies, their intersections with gender equality, and their potential to either reinforce or challenge existing inequalities;
    - Learning-oriented and participatory advocacy actions that explore how digital tools and AI can be leveraged to promote gender equality, counter digital violence and discrimination, and expand feminist organizing across diverse constituencies.

4. **Target Beneficiary Population/Groups**

The primary beneficiaries of the advocacy initiatives to be designed and implemented under this Expression of Interest are women and girls in Türkiye who face structural, systemic, and intersectional gender inequalities, particularly those whose rights, safety, and access to resources and decision-making are constrained by discriminatory norms, policies, and practices**.**

The advocacy initiatives are also expected to engage and influence secondary beneficiaries, including duty-bearers and key stakeholders whose decisions, policies and practices shape gender equality outcomes. These may include public institutions, local and national policymakers, private sector actors, media, opinion leaders, and broader communities whose attitudes and behaviours impact women's rights and gender equality.

The interventions should be grounded in feminist, rights-based, leave no one behind (LNOB) and intersectional approaches, ensuring meaningful participation of women and girls, amplifying their voices, and contributing to systemic change that advances gender equality, women's empowerment, and inclusive governance at national and local levels.

5. **Timeframe:** Start date and end date for completion of required services/results

Indicative start date: May 2026

Indicative end date*: May 2027

*The period of implementation shall be minimum 10 and maximum 12 months. In case there is a change in the timeframe after the signature of the contract, UN Women will amend it accordingly as per UN Women Rules and Regulations in consultation with the applicant organization.

6. Indicative Budget

Following the EOI process, shortlisted candidates will be invited to submit a detailed budget as part of the subsequent Call for Proposals.

The indicative budget range for the required services is between USD 90,000 and USD 100,000, to be submitted in Turkish Lira (TRY) using the latest UN Operational Rates of Exchange, available at: https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php

Please note that **applicants are not required to submit a budget at the EOI stage**. The budget information provided above is for indicative purposes only, to enable applicants to assess their financial and operational capacity in the event they are shortlisted and invited to submit a full proposal under the Call for Proposals.

7. Competencies Required:

The applicants must be civil society organizations, i.e. associations or foundations legally established and operating in Türkiye. Initiatives or platforms that do not have a legal entity/official registration **are not eligible** to apply under this EOI. International non-governmental organizations that do not have a legal entity/official registration in Türkiye **are not** eligible to apply under this EOI. Municipalities, cooperatives, international organizations, companies, private or public universities, unions or individuals **are not** eligible applicants under this EOI.

a. Technical/functional competencies required

- The applicants as a civil society organization must have been in operation for at least five (5) years as of 13 February 2026, which is the deadline for applications to this EOI. In exceptional

circumstances three (3) years of history registration may be accepted and it must be fully justified. These provisions will be strictly observed by the Evaluation Committee.

- Track record of experience in the field of women's human rights, gender equality, women's empowerment.
- Specialized knowledge and expertise in the field that the EOI is submitted under (elimination of violence against women, advancing women's economic empowerment, gender responsive climate action and/or disaster risk reduction).
- Experience in engaging with multiple stakeholders, including but not limited to governmental and non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and advocacy networks, private sector, academia, etc.

b. Other competencies, which while not required, can be an asset for the performance of services

- Experience in facilitating exchange of ideas, good practices and dissemination of knowledge and information throughout Türkiye in the specific field of work is an asset.
- Familiarity with UN Women, particularly through prior implementation of Small Grants under the Strong Civic Space for Gender Equality Project (Phase I: September 2021–2024 and/or Phase II: October 2024–September 2027), will be considered an asset.

Submission Requirements

Interested CSOs should submit an Expression of Interest to UN Women (turkiye.cfp@unwomen.org) with a title " Expression of Interest – Organization Name" by **13 February 2026** enclosing the information listed below.

Section A – Organizational Information		
1.	Legal Name of the Organization	
2.	Address of the Organization	
3.	Website of the Organization	
4.	Contact Information (including name, designation and email address)	
Section B - Conflict of Interest Statement		
1	To your knowledge, do any staff members of your organization have personal or financial relationships with any UN Women personnel, or any other conflicts of interest with this programme or UN Women?	Yes/no If yes , please explain.
Section C – Fraud Statement		
1	Does your organization have fraud prevention policies and practices in place?	Yes/no If yes, please attach as supporting document.
Section D – Organizational Budget		
1	Size of annual budget (previous year, USD)	Use UN Operational Rates of Exchange (https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php)
2	Source of funding	Outline funding base, including local, international and private sector donors
3	Main funding partners/ donors	
Section E – Staff Capacity		
1	List of core organization staff and functions	
Section F – Mandate and Background		
1	Outline the organization's mandate and field of work and how it aligns to UN Women's mandate. (maximum 250 words)	
Section G – Description of Organizational Expertise		
1	Available expertise and specialists (maximum 250 words)	Outline the distinctive technical capacity of the organization to achieve results in the proposed programmatic area
2	Experience in proposed area of work (maximum 250 words)	Outline of type/scope and key results achieved in proposed programmatic area in recent years, including any recognition received at local / global level for the work in the proposed area.
3	Knowledge of the local context/ Accessibility to target population (maximum 250 words)	Outline of presence and community relations in the location(s) the activities will be implemented in, including access to vulnerable populations and hard-to-reach areas (if any)

4	Monitoring (maximum 250 words)	Outline the systems in place (policies, procedures, guidelines, and other tools) that systematically collect, analyse and use programme monitoring data
5	List of previous similar projects	Please include only the title of the Project, funding source, budget, duration, time
6	List of three references to support the Expression of Interest	Please include name, title, contact information (e-mail) and brief summary of relationship
Section H – Proposed Intervention		
1.	Initial ideas for intervention (maximum 500 words)	(main proposed objective, list of tentative activities, expected results)
Section I – Acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined in the template Partner Agreement		
1	Do you accept the terms and conditions outlined in the template Partner Agreement? Please indicate any reservations or objections to the terms and conditions outlined in the template Partner Agreement.	Yes/no If no, please explain.

***Please ensure that the wording limits indicated in the above form are respected*.**

Please attach the following with the Expression of Interest:

1. Copy of valid Legal Registration in the Country
2. Organization's Programme and Administrative Policies/Procedures/Rules (i.e.Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy, procurement guideline, anti-fraud policy)
3. Audited Statements for the last three years
4. Latest Annual Report

Please ensure that all attachments are sent directly by e-mail, rather than through other electronic formats, including private document transfer or sharing platforms. If the attachments do not fit into a single e-mail, kindly send them in two separate e-mails. Please do not submit any documents other than those listed above. Any additional documents submitted will not be taken into account during the evaluation process of this EOI.