

Guiding Principles

UN Women's Civil Society Advisory Groups

UN Women at Headquarters, regional hubs and country offices are setting up civil society advisory groups to be consultative bodies for regular dialogue on policy, programming normative, intergovernmental and operational activities.

The aim of setting up civil society advisory groups is to build on existing close relationships and increase strategic dialogue with civil society partners at global, regional and national levels and to formally recognize civil society as one of our most important constituencies - providing a dynamic source for innovative initiatives, ideas and policy perspectives to assist UN Women in achieving its strategic goals. Closely linked is the vital political role played by civil society in advancing shared objectives in promoting women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Together these groups form a strategic and substantive network of eminently qualified persons with diverse experience and expertise, perspectives and knowledge in any or all of UN Women's priority areas. They are provided with a web platform to facilitate communications among and between the groups and individuals.

While there is not a "one-size fits all" approach to setting up the groups, the following principles apply:

- The nomination/election/selection of individuals to the advisory groups is to be determined in consultation with civil society networks/organizations in accordance with practices well-

suited to local and national contexts to achieve a just, balanced and diverse membership, including individuals of stature from academia as well as representatives from grass-roots communities;

- The advisory groups are to have a manageable number of reputed individuals (women and men) committed to the core values of the United Nations and preferably with strong credentials as gender, development and/or human rights advocates;
- Members preferably are to have expertise in one or more of UN Women's priority areas and represent diverse developmental and human rights perspectives;
- Members are to be drawn from gender equality networks, women's and grass-roots organizations, development and social policy think tanks and academia;
- Members take part in advisory groups in their personal capacity for a fixed period on a renewable basis and their membership is rotational;
- Members of the CSAG may belong to organizations that are implementing partners of UN Women. However, the goal must be to avoid conflict of interest. Hence, the CSAGs should not have any oversight, monitoring or decision-making role in UN Women programming activities.