**Questions and Answers**

**Call for Proposal for the ACT Global CSO Platform**

**Question 1:** Given the criteria indicating a prior focus on both Latin America and East Africa, could you please confirm whether we can apply with a proposal that focuses solely on East Africa and the global aspect? We seek clarification on whether the inclusion of Latin America is mandatory for eligibility or if a focus exclusively on East Africa and a global perspective is acceptable.

**Answer:**

As this call for proposal is for the set-up and hosting of a Global ACT CSO Platform, proposals must be global in scope (covering all regions globally). A proposal that focuses exclusively on one region and a global perspective would therefore not be eligible.

**Question 2:** Our organization prepares full financial statements that are compiled by auditors and go through the necessary processes for U.S. Tax filing as an NGO. We would appreciate your guidance on whether these compiled financial statements are acceptable for submission, or if it is mandatory for the financial statements to be audited.

**Answer:**

It is mandatory for proponents to submit audit reports of their audited financial statements. The audit reports should be certified by the proponents’ auditors and accepted by their Board.

**Question 3:**

I would like to clarify whether it is possible to submit a consortium proposal involving organizations from different countries, specifically including an organization from one country in Africa and one organization from another country in Africa. We understand that the programme focuses on feminist movements and organizations at the global and regional levels, and we are interested to know if a consortium involving partners from different countries within the African region could be considered for funding, even if the primary activities are conducted at the national level.

**Answer:**

As this call for proposal is for the set-up and hosting of a Global ACT CSO Platform, proposals must be global in scope (covering all regions globally).

Applicants from country/national level feminist women’s rights organizations or a consortium of several country/national level feminist women’s rights organizations are not eligible for this call for proposals. Proposals focused on country/national level interventions or interventions in only one region are also not eligible for this call for proposals.

**Question 4:** If possible, could we request a brief additional extension to ensure we submit the best possible application?

**Answer:**

The application submission deadline has now been extended. The new applications submission deadline is the 9th of September, 2024, 23:59 pm New York Time.

**Question 5:** How can we ensure collaboration with other organizations in carrying out activities at the global and regional levels, without sub-granting to organizations that work at the national level?

**Answer:**

Country/national level feminist women’s rights organizations cannot be the lead applying organization or sub-partner forming part of a consortium for consortium applications. However, a proportion of the awarded amount may be used for sub-granting to women’s rights organizations. Sub-granting to national organizations is allowed if the funded activities are global or regional in scope. Sub-granting to organizations to support national or local ending violence against women (EVAW) initiatives or activities is not eligible within this call for proposal;

In addition, national organizations can also be engaged and collaborate in the activities of the ACT Global CSO Platform as members of the platform with the aim to ensure that global and regional level advocacy is informed by grassroots activists as well as to generate impact and results at the country level.

Once the global ACT CSO Platform is in place, the hosting organization, with support from UN Women, will invite Women’s Rights Organizations to join the platform as members. The ACT CSO Platform membership will be open to all feminist women’s rights organizations, working on ending violence against women and girls, committed to the shared advocacy agenda, including national and grassroots women’s rights organizations, especially, from the global south.

Moreover, national, local and grassroots feminist women’s rights organization may be supported for their engagement, and participation in key global or regional advocacy spaces and moments, and policy and decision-making fora relevant to EVAWG linked to the shared advocacy agenda and action plan to strengthen the visibility and influence, particularly of under-represented groups of women and girls, within collective advocacy on EVAWG.

**Question 6:** How are the regional implementation proposals of the ACT platform (for LAC, Africa) going to link to this global platform?

**Answer:**

The regional calls for proposals within the ACT Programme seek to address the specific challenges and needs of feminists women’s rights movements, organizations and networks in each of the respective regions within the two objective areas of the ACT Programme: 1) Strengthen coalition building, networking, leadership and resilience of global and regional feminist women’s rights movements and 2) strengthen advocacy, campaigning and influence policymaking on EVAW through multi-stakeholder partnerships and coalitions.

The objective of the Global ACT CSO platform will be to convene women’s rights and civil society organizations working to end violence against women and girls across all regions globally, develop a shared advocacy agenda to increase momentum and amplify advocacy priorities of women’s rights organizations and movements.

UN Women has consulted with feminist women's rights organizations at both the global and regional level (in Africa and Latin America) for the initial conceptualization of the Global ACT CSO Platform and to develop initial thinking on advocacy priorities, governance, and operations. The responsible party engaged to co-host the Global ACT CSO platform will build on these efforts, in a collaborative and inclusive manner. Feminist women’s rights organizations engaged at the regional level as ACT Programme partners will also be engaged to ensure complementarity, synergies and linkages with advocacy priorities identified at the regional level as well as the activities that are carried out through the regional components of the ACT Programme in Africa and Latin America.

Once all programme partners have been selected across regions and at global level, a coordination mechanism will be put in place, including regular coordination meetings between the regional and global partners to ensure synergies and linkages and opportunities for collaboration.

**Question 7:** The CFP says the following "A proportion of the awarded amount may be used for sub-granting to women’s rights organizations or organizations working on intersecting issues..." As we understood from the meeting this week, we can't do grantmaking with this proposal. What is this sub-granting referring to and who do you expect this money will go to, if not national level organizations?

**Answer:**

A proportion of the awarded amount may be used for sub-granting (grantmaking) to women’s rights organizations working at the regional or global level. Sub-granting to national organizations is only allowed if the funded activities are global or regional in scope.

This could include:

* Sub-granting to women’s rights organizations working on intersecting issues to foster cross-sectoral collaboration and coalition building across relevant policy areas by creating spaces for the sharing of knowledge, expertise, experiences, and best practices between different sectors; to enable strengthened capacities across sectors to undertake effective advocacy, policy, and programmatic work; and to facilitate the development of joint advocacy strategies, actions and policy recommendations in support of the shared advocacy agenda and action plan, and leverage opportunities for influencing policy documents and processes to integrate EVAW as well as for identifying potential new entry points for financing EVAW efforts.
* This could, for example, also include cross-sectoral collaboration and coalition building between ending violence against women (EVAW) experts and digital rights and EVAW experts to cultivate learning and cross fertilization to inform the development of effective strategies and solutions to prevent and eliminate tech facilitated GBV, climate justice, disability rights, LGBTQI+ or other areas aligned with the shared advocacy agenda and action plan.

Any grantmaking component included in the proposal must not exceed 50% of the partner agreement budget and each individual grant may not exceed 25% of the Partner agreement budget.

**Please note**: Sub-granting (grantmaking) to fund national or local ending violence against women (EVAW) initiatives or activities is not eligible within this call for proposal.

**Question 8:** In the CFP, on page 2, it's instructed to develop a proposal with a global scope of work covering all regions, but on page 2 it's mentioned that ACT will only be implemented in Africa and Latin America with some global component. In our activity plan, should we focus on all regions or only Africa and Latin America.

**Answer:**

The Global ACT CSO Platform is part of the global component of the ACT Programme. The objective of the platform will be to convene women’s rights and civil society organizations working to end violence against women and girls across regions globally, develop a shared advocacy agenda to increase momentum and amplify advocacy priorities of women’s rights organizations and movements. Proposals must therefore be global in scope (covering all regions globally). Africa and Latin America are the only regions that are currently receiving funding through different calls for proposals and activities at the regional level.

**Question 9:** Je viens par ce mail demander la version française du projet CFP No. UNW-HQ-EVA-CFP-2024-003. *[I would like to request the French version of the call for proposals]*

**Answer:**

The call for proposal is only available in English and proposals must be submitted in English to be considered for this call for proposals.

**Question 10:** While I have reviewed the call for proposals, I couldn't find specific instructions on how to submit an application on your website. Could you please provide guidance on how to proceed with the application? Additionally, any details on submission requirements or deadlines would be greatly appreciated.

**Answer:**

Proposals must be received by UN Women at the following email address: act@unwomen.org not later than 23:59 pm New York Time on the 9th of September, 2024.

The call for Proposal document contains the details on the mandatory documents to be completed by proponents and returned as part of their proposal. Please refer to the first page of the call for Proposal document for an overview of the call for proposal sections, the annexes and mandatory documents: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/unw-hq-eva-cfp-2024-003-act-global-civil-society-platform-readvertisement.pdf>

**Question 11:** Is my country eligible for this call for proposals?

**Answer:**

As this call for proposal is for the set-up and hosting of a Global ACT CSO Platform, proposals must be global in scope (covering all regions globally). Applicants from country/national level feminist women’s rights organizations or proposals focused on country/national level interventions or interventions in only one region are not eligible for this specific call for proposals.

**Question 12:** I have another question regarding the audited statements: Must the organization be in possession of three years of audited statements? Or would the last financial year's audited statements suffice?

**Answer:**

It is mandatory to provide audited statements of the organization for the last 3 years.

**Question 13:** Are we applying online? I have been trying check if there are forms to complete or we are preparing the documents ourselves with those needed.

**Answer:**

Proposals must be received by UN Women at the following email address: act@unwomen.org no later than 23:59 pm New York Time on the 9th of September 2024.

The call for Proposal document contains the details on the mandatory documents to be completed by proponents and returned as part of their proposal. Please refer to the first page of the call for Proposal document for an overview of the call for proposal sections, the annexes and mandatory documents: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/unw-hq-eva-cfp-2024-003-act-global-civil-society-platform-readvertisement.pdf>

 **Question 14:** The organization I represent is a think tank with substantial experience in policy research, strategy formulation, advocacy, and consultancy services. We have collaborated with various international organizations, NGOs, and academic institutions in research initiatives. Could you please let me know whether our organization is eligible to apply for the proposals under the UN Women ACT Global Civil Society Platform aimed at Ending Violence Against Women and Girls?

**Answer:**

Proponents must be a global feminist women’s rights organization or a consortium of global and regional feminist women’s rights organizations. Please review the Mandatory Requirements/Pre-Qualification Criteria in Annex B-1 of the call for proposals as well as the required competencies on page 9 and 10 of the Terms of Reference in the call for proposal to confirm if your organization meets all of the eligibility requirements.

**Question 15:** My question is based on the ACT initiative how do I forward my proposal to you?

**Answer:**

Proposals must be received by UN Women at the following email address: act@unwomen.org no later than 23:59 pm New York Time on the 9th of September 2024.

**Question 16:** My organization is a social enterprise focusing on research and policy work around themes relevant to the call. In terms of the nature of business of the consortium members, is this call restricted to CSOs?

**Answer:**

Yes, only civil society organizations are eligible for this call for proposals. Proponents must be a global feminist women’s rights organization or a consortium of global and regional feminist women’s rights organizations. Social enterprises are not eligible for this call for proposals.

**Question 17:** Which entity can we bid with (location) Do the consortium members have to submit registration documents for Africa/Latin American countries apart from having offices in these regions?

**Answer:**

Registration documents should be submitted from the location area in which the organization is legally registered. The location of the organization’s base/legal registration does not have to be within Africa and Latin America as this call for proposals is part of the global component of the ACT programme.

**Question 18:** When applying as a consortium: Does the consortium itself have to meet the 5-year of existence requirement or does this requirement only apply to the lead/each organisation?

**Answer:**

The lead organization must meet all the minimum criteria outlined in Annex B-1, including Legal status and registration of 5 years, or in exceptional circumstances, three (3) years of history registration may be accepted.

The lead organization must also meet the competencies criteria outlined in page 9 and 10 of the Terms of Reference in the call for proposal or must demonstrate clearly how collectively with sub-partner(s) they meet the competencies criteria.

**Question 19:** When applying as a consortium: Are all the organisations expected to fill in copies of Annexes B2, and B4 separately; or do these require only the information of the lead applicant?

**Answer:**

Annexes B-2 and B-4 only need to be completed by the lead organization submitting the proposal.

However, the proposal must clearly indicate the names of the consortium members (sub-partners) within the technical proposal if applying as a consortium of organizations.

**Question 20:** When applying as a consortium: When completing the Organisational Background and Capacity section, do we need to highlight this about the lead organisation, all member organisations or the consortium as one?

**Answer:**

If applying as a consortium of organizations, the technical proposal must indicate which organization is the lead organization and which organizations are consortium members (sub-partners). It is advised to include details on the organizational background and capacities of both the lead organization and consortium members, including details on their respective roles in the consortium.

**Question 20:** We are a coalition of organisations from East Africa, West Africa and Southern Africa. Would we need to include a consortium member from Latin America to qualify?

**Answer:**

Proponents must be either a global feminist women’s rights organization or a consortium of global and regional feminist women’s rights organizations. Proponents are not required to include consortium members from organizations from Africa and Latin America to qualify. However, as this call for proposal is for the set-up and hosting of a Global ACT CSO Platform, proposals must be global in scope (covering all regions globally) and proponents must have demonstrable experience in movement building and coordination and capacity to convene women’s rights organizations across regions globally.

**Question 21:** Could you please advise whether we need to prepare separate budgets for the two action areas, or if we can submit a combined budget?

**Answer:**

If applying for both action areas a separate budget must be provided for each Action Area and the technical proposal must clearly indicate the technical approach and activities for each of the two Action Areas.

**Question 22:** I am writing to enquire whether Our NGO, is eligible to apply for the above funding. As a national NGO working in south central Somalia, Our major thematic areas includes, ending violence against women and girl child. We carry out advocacy related actions to end violence against women in our focal point areas.

**Answer:**

As this call for proposal is for the set-up and hosting of a Global ACT CSO Platform, proposals must be global in scope (covering all regions globally).

Applicants from country/national level feminist women’s rights organizations or a consortium of several country/national level feminist women’s rights organizations are not eligible for this call for proposals. Proposals focused on country/national level interventions or interventions in only one region are also not eligible for this call for proposals.

**Question 23:**

 I am the founder of a CBO based in Kenya. I would like to request for guidance if we could participate in the call for proposals for the ACT Global Civil Society Platform on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

**Answer:**

As this call for proposal is for the set-up and hosting of a Global ACT CSO Platform, proposals must be global in scope (covering all regions globally).

Applicants from country/national or community level feminist women’s rights organizations or a consortium of several country/national level feminist women’s rights organizations are not eligible for this call for proposals. Proposals focused on country/national or the community level interventions or interventions in only one region are also not eligible for this call for proposals.

**Question 24:**  We wish to apply for this project as a regional coalition networking through advocacy with global affiliations. Can we apply as a consortium but linking with regional and global affiliates for the implementation of this project?

**Answer:**

Proponents must be a global feminist women’s rights organization, or a consortium of global and regional feminist women’s rights organizations and proponents must have demonstrable experience in movement building and coordination and capacity to convene women’s rights organizations across regions globally. If your organization is a regional organization, you would need to apply as part of a consortium including a global feminist women’s rights organization.

**Question 25:** Would you please clarify the exact deadline for the submission of the call for proposals for the ACT Global Civil Society Platform on Ending Violence against Women and Girls?

We ask this because online we see September 02, 2024, sometimes September 09, 2024.

**Answer:**

The application submission deadline was extended to the 9th of September 2024, 23:59 pm New York Time.

If you are still seeing the previous deadline in some of the documentation, try opening the call for proposal webpage in a different browser or clearing your web browser cache.

**Question 26:** Would you please tell us the exact deadline for the submission of the call for proposals for the ACT Global Civil Society Platform on Ending Violence against Women and Girls?

We ask for this clarification because in your guide we saw September 2, 2024 and online September 9, 2024.

**Answer:**

The application submission deadline was extended to the 9th of September 2024, 23:59 pm New York Time.

If you are still seeing the previous deadline in some of the documentation, try opening the call for proposal webpage in a different browser or clearing your web browser cache.

**Question 27:** I just want to know, is the call open for Pakistan based organizations?

**Answer:**

As this call for proposal is for the set-up and hosting of a Global ACT CSO Platform, proposals must be global in scope (covering all regions globally).

Applicants from country/national or community level feminist women’s rights organizations or a consortium of several country/national level feminist women’s rights organizations are not eligible for this call for proposals. Proposals focused on country/national or the community level interventions or interventions in only one region are also not eligible for this call for proposals.

**Question 28:** Could you please let us know if we need to just submit the CVs of key personnel of the lead applicant organization or also attach the CVs of  key personnel of the consortium partners?

**Answer:**

It is only required to submit the CVs of key personnel of the lead applicant organization. However, youare welcome to submit CVs of key personnel of the consortium members in support of your application.

**Question 29:** we have a question about the following required documents:

* List of main suppliers/vendors of organization and copies of their contract(s) including evidence of their selection processes

Because our contracts and procurement documents include confidential information, would a list of our top 5 suppliers be sufficient as an attachment during the proposal stage?

**Answer:**

Providing a list of main (top) suppliers/vendors of organization and copies of their contract(s) including evidence of their selection processes is mandatory to include as part of the proposal.

**Question 30:** I am writing to request a critical clarification related to the recent CFP (CFP No. UNW-HQ-EVA-CFP-2024-003) which is deadlined by 2nd of September, 2024.

In the introduction, page 2, the following statement was made clear as (*As this call for proposal is for the set-up and hosting of a Global ACT CSO Platform, proposals must be global in scope (covering all regions globally). Applicants from country/national level feminist women’s rights organizations or proposals focused on country/national level interventions or interventions in only one region are not eligible for this specific call for proposals*).

However, our organization is a full feminist & women-managed and oriented NGO, which registered globally and in Sudan, as well.  Therefore, we are highly motivated to apply for Action One: (***Action Area 1:*** *Strengthen coalition building, networking, leadership and resilience of global and regional feminist women's rights movements*).  We kindly, need your feedback and/or assurance that we are fit-to-apply for ***Action Area 1*** for this CFP.

**Answer:**

Global organizations that are also registered at the national level are eligible to apply for the call for proposal (including Action Area 1) provided that they meet all of the eligible criteria outlined in the call for proposal, including having demonstrable experience in movement building and coordination and capacity to convene women’s rights organizations across regions globally.

Please also note that the application submission deadline was extended to the 9th of September 2024, 23:59 pm New York Time.

**Question 32:**

I am writing to you on behalf of a possible consortium of organizations, interested in the ACT program held by UN Women. While the impact of all the organizations has been primarily in Latin America, one of them has had some initial global experiences, and our goal is to expand our regional actions to a global level. Therefore, we would like to inquire if our application for the CFP ACT Global Civil Society Platform on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls 2024 would be considered relevant given our aspiration for global impact.

**Answer:**

Applying organizations must be a global feminist women’s rights organization or a consortium of global and regional feminist women’s rights organizations and must have demonstrable experience in movement building and coordination and capacity to convene women’s rights organizations across regions globally. If all the organizations in your consortium are currently regional organization in Latin America, you would need to include a global feminist women’s rights organization in your consortium to be eligible.

**Question 33:** We have encountered some challenges regarding the documentation required. Specifically, we are seeking clarification on the following documents:

1. Anti-fraud policy framework
2. PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) policy framework
3. Documentation evidencing training offered by the organization to its employees and associated personnel on prevention and response to SEA
4. Policy and procedure documents related to grant-making
5. Policy and procedure for selecting partners
6. Procurement policy/manual

Could you please advise on the types of documents that can be submitted to meet these requirements? Additionally, are these documents considered mandatory, or is there a possibility to provide alternatives or explanations if we do not have them fully in place?

**Answer:**

The annex B-4 (on page 23 of the call for proposal) provides an overview of the documentation to be submitted as well as which documents are mandatory, and which are optional. The types of documentation to be included are your organizations documentation for each of these. Please note that all the documents that are listed as mandatory are required to be submitted as part of your proposal.

However, regarding, grant-making, please note that providing documentation on your

organization’s policy and procedure documents in respect to grant-making is only required if you are including any grantmaking component in your proposal.