Call for proposals

Grant for CSOs for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Ethiopia

I.   Background

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has commissioned a Call for Proposals (CFP) for Civil Society organizations (CSOs) to apply for small grants to facilitate and support the implementation of transformative human rights promotion and protection projects initiatives at federal, regional and community levels in Ethiopia. The support to CSOs is aligned to ongoing reform efforts geared towards widening the democratic space and improving the human rights situation in the country.

Additionally, the repeal of the "Charities and Societies Proclamation" to the "Civil Society Organizations Proclamation law", also has created a conducive operating environment for CSOs to work on a diverse range of thematic human rights issues. However, due to the protracted curtailment of civic society in previous years, a significant number of CSOs were incapacitated to engage in promotion and protection of human rights initiatives. Similarly, push back on human rights in previous years resulted in retrogressive measures contrary to human rights commitments stemming from international and regional human rights treaties signed and ratified by Ethiopia. These trends also had negative trickle down effects on active and meaningful participation of CSOs in public affairs; planning and decision-making processes.

To this end, the initiative seeks to support and strengthen CSOs and networks including emerging ones to promote and protect human rights; support the implementation of specific programmes/projects on thematic areas of choice with a view of inculcating a culture of respect for human rights in the society. OHCHR-EARO shall make use of the existing and functioning Grant Committee structure and procedures put in place by UNDP-Ethiopia to administer/manage the grant scheme.

II.   Overall Objective

- Provide small grants to CSOs for protection and promotion of human rights project initiatives in Ethiopia.

   Expected outputs

- Strengthened capacity of CSOs, and other relevant stakeholders to contribute to the advancement of human rights at the federal and local levels.
- Enhanced capacities of CSOs to engage with national, regional and international human rights mechanisms and to undertake strategic human rights advocacy.

III. Eligibility & Qualification criteria

- Local CSOs registered by the Federal Agency for Civil Society Organizations or by respective regional authorities mandated to work on human rights

IV. Project Coverage and Priority Area Focus

- CSOs operating in one or more regions with strong focus on community level initiatives and presence.
- Membership to existing CSOs networks at national or regional level will be an added advantage.

Priority areas of Programmatic focus

- Programme on vulnerable groups including persons with disability.
- SDGs and Climate change;
- Engagement with youth, traditional and religious leaders on the promotion of human rights and sustainable peace;
- Initiative on the promotion of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on the promotion of civil and political rights.

V. Institutional capacity, Governance and Absorption capacity

- Must have a formal decision-making structure;
- Minimum credible performance track records including at regional levels;

VI. Innovativeness and creative approaches to programme implementation (optional)

Project proposals with transformative and catalytic effect, demonstrating a high level of innovativeness and sustainability will be given priority. Initiatives that seek to advance the implementation of Sustainable Development Agenda with a strong focus on marginalised groups and leave no one behind will be desirable. Projects than enhance participation and advances civic space

Projects that seek to maximise use of technologies including social medias and various accessible communication tools will be prioritised.

VI. Grant Scheme

The overall amount of the grant will progressively increase over the coming three-year period based on performance. OHCHR-EARO reserves the right not to award all available funds to multiple CSOs.

The proposal to be beneficiary of this call shall consider the following minimum and maximum amounts.

- Minimum amount $5,000
- Maximum amount $10,000

VII. Monitoring and Evaluation

The proposal must include a section on elaborating monitoring and evaluation methods to ensure the achievement of the outcomes/objectives set by the proposal. The objectives should have corresponding verifiable indicators with targets and baselines, to the extent possible.

OHCHR-EARO will conduct a mid-term review as well as an independent evaluation of the programme in dialogue with the implementing organisation. These M&E activities should be planned for as part of the inception phase.

a) Budget and Duration

The proposal shall include a budget with an estimation of the costs for implementing the actions to be proposed. The budget should reflect a clear division between the costs for managing the grant and the conducting of actions. It should be detailed enough for OHCHR-EARO to be able to assess the reasonability of each budget item.

The initial planned duration of an action may not be more than 12 months.

How to apply and procedures to follow

Proposals shall be submitted to OHCHR-EARO via the following email address: **ashenafik@un.org,** cc: **vwede-obahor@un.org** and **chere@un.org**

OHCHR-EARO has not set a specific format for the proposal but the body of the proposal including foot notes or end notes shall not be more than seven pages.

 Please include a letter and a copy of the organisation's licences as proof of registration. An audit report will be an advantage.

Language

The application must be written in English. No hand-written applications will be accepted.

Notice to applicants

Applicants will be notified by OHCHR-EARO in writing of the decision concerning their application. Notice of decision will not be given before the whole assessment process is finalised.