



26 June 2019

Excellency,

UN Women is pleased to announce that it is launching the first programming cycle of the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations. In March 2019, UN Women in partnership with the Government of Canada launched the Elsie Fund with the aim of accelerating progress towards UN targets to increase the meaningful participation of women serving in uniformed roles in peace operations.

I, alongside my co-chair of the Steering Committee for the Fund, Ms. Larisa Galadza from the Government of Canada, am very pleased to draw your attention to the attached call for letters of interest, which invites both Troop and Police Contributing Countries (primary recipients) and UN organizations (secondary recipients) to apply to the Fund. The Fund will consider proposals for three different types of activities:

- Barrier assessments to identify the main factors impeding the deployment of uniformed women peacekeepers to United Nations missions;
- Projects aimed at increasing the meaningful participation of uniformed women peacekeepers in United Nations missions;
- A premium for the deployment of gender-strong units that include substantial representation of women overall and in positions of authority, have provided gender-equity training to all unit members, and has adequate material to ensure parity of deployment conditions for women and men peacekeepers.

Consideration can also be given to funding a combination of these activities for Troop and Police Contributing Countries.

Proposals for activities by ODA-eligible UN Troop and Police Contributing Countries will be given priority consideration for funding. The Fund may also support projects submitted by participating UN organizations that will implement and test innovations aimed at enhancing the meaningful participation of uniformed women deployed in United Nations peace operations.

All Permanent Representatives  
of Member States  
to the United Nations  
New York

Letters of interest are due on 1 October 2019, signed by a Minister or Chief of Defense, Minister of Interior or Police Commissioner, or equivalent. Further details are available in the attached call for letters of interest.

All communications regarding the Fund, including the submission of letters of interest should be directed to [elsie.mptf@unwomen.org](mailto:elsie.mptf@unwomen.org).

The Elsie Initiative Fund continues to seek donors interested in supporting the deployment of trained and qualified uniformed women to UN peace operations through a financial contribution to the Fund.

For further details on activities of the Fund and potential contributions, please contact: [elsie.mptf@unwomen.org](mailto:elsie.mptf@unwomen.org).

To assist in understanding the fund, UN Women and the Government of Canada will provide a technical briefing at 1.15 p.m., on Tuesday the 9th of July, in Conference Room 7 in the UN Secretariat.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Åsa Regnér', is centered on the page.

Åsa Regnér  
Assistant-Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director