

Call to civil society organizations to apply for funding



The United Nations Democracy Fund invites civil society organizations to apply for project funding. Project proposals may be submitted on-line in English or French, the two working languages of the UN, **between 20 November 2017 and 20 December 2017** at www.un.org/democracyfund. You can find guidelines, FAQs and lessons learned for applicants at <http://www.un.org/democracyfund/application-materials>.

UNDEF supports projects that empower civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The large majority of UNDEF funds go to local civil society organizations. In this way, UNDEF plays a distinct role in complementing the UN's other work – the work with Governments – to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

This is the Twelfth Round to be launched by UNDEF, which provides grants of up to US\$50,000 per project. UNDEF has supported over 700 projects in over 100 countries at a total amount of almost US\$100 million. Proposals are subject to a highly rigorous selection process, with fewer than two per cent of proposals chosen for funding. All projects are two years long. UNDEF invites project proposals covering one or more of eight main areas:

- ▶ Gender equality
- ▶ Community activities
- ▶ Rule of law and human rights
- ▶ Youth engagement
- ▶ Strengthening civil society interaction with Government
- ▶ Media and freedom of information
- ▶ Tools for knowledge
- ▶ Electoral processes

In this Round, UNDEF particularly welcomes proposals in the areas of gender, rule of law, media, or electoral processes focusing on elections scheduled for 2020 at the earliest.