



**CPDC**  
Caribbean Policy Development Centre

## **APPLICATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

### **Request for submission of Expression of Interest by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Barbados to become a member of the CPDC National Major Group (NMG)**

#### **Summary of the Expression**

The **Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)**, a regional umbrella organisation through the support of the **UN GEF- Small Grants Programme** for Caribbean Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), is currently undertaking work to support the development of an enabling policy environment for Civil Society Organisations to Contribute More Effectively to the 2030 Agenda, particularly, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### **CPDC Profile**

The CPDC is a legally registered non-profit organisation headquartered in Barbados and established in 1991. CPDC serves as a regional umbrella NGO for organisations comprising of small farmers, women, youth, Indigenous People, rural populations, Rastafarians and other faith-based organisations located across CARICOM. CPDC also has strong networking partnerships with organisations of persons with disabilities, artisans, micro entrepreneurs, human rights, and workers. Altogether, it serves some 17 regional, sub-regional and national NGOs working at the grassroots level in economic, social, and cultural areas in the Caribbean.

The organisation is mandated to work with NGOs and civil society to understand how policies affecting Caribbean people are made; to share information about policies and decision-making processes; to work to influence and bring change to the developmental process; and to support and to lobby for policies which improve the lives of Caribbean people. In fulfilling its mandate, the CPDC seeks to build the confidence and the ability of the Caribbean peoples to influence public policy.

## **Background to Project**

A key issue which Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are faced with in the Caribbean, is that an enabling legislative environment does not exist to allow CSOs to effectively participate in the policy making process.

This project serves as a model for the creation of an enabling legislative and regulatory environment for NGOs across Barbados to contribute more effectively to national and regional development, as well as, the 2030 Development Agenda, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Goals require ‘universal action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity’ (UNDP, 2017). SDGs are therefore concerned with providing solutions to existing vulnerabilities and disadvantages. NGOs are at their core, heavily development focused. Given that NGOs are concerned with the welfare of the environment and society, there is a need to ensure that these organisations exist within a supportive and enabling environment to meet their respective goals for positive change in our environment, society and economy, which are fully aligned with the United Nations’ SDGs.

NGOs and charitable organisations play an important role in providing services and representing the views of marginalized persons in our society. They bring to the fore issues of environmental protection and sustainability, poverty eradication, human rights and economic empowerment. However, the reality is that NGOs are constrained in meeting contemporary goals and objectives because of the absence of a conducive enabling environment. An enabling environment speaks directly to the legislative, economic, political, institutional, governmental, social and the overall support system/mechanisms within which NGOs operate. The aim is to engender the viability and sustainability of the organisations and by extension the sector.

At present, NGOs lack legal recognition; are financially burdened and at the same time are financially dependent on external funding and are unable to financially sustain themselves because the law does not fully recognize the generation of revenue for a public benefit, as distinct from a company established for profits. Additionally, there is a financial burden, characterized by taxes and duties on most goods and services required, which limits the potential impact of services and actions undertaken. The above issues support the need for a concise legal and regulatory environment to enable NGOs to pursue their objectives more effectively and also to highlight that their systems of legitimacy, representation and transparency meet the required standards, similar to those in the public and private sectors.

CPDC has recently (within the last 12 months) undertaken specific research on NGO model legislation which examined the legislative frameworks in existence as it relates to NGOs across the region and identified key elements to be included towards drafting an NGO Act. This project therefore seeks to further this work particularly in the context of Barbados.

## **Project Summary**

The project aims to promote and advocate for an enabling environment for NGOs, through a policy and legislative framework which stands on the principles of good governance. The work undertaken will enable NGOs to build their capacity thereby improving their daily operations (internal governance). At the same time the project will advocate for efficient and effective external governance which falls under the responsibility of government.

Through established research processes and consultations, the project will engage civil society actors to get a better understanding of the various issues NGOs in Barbados face particularly with respect to achieving good governance. The information gathered from the research will be fed into a comprehensive policy paper which will serve as a guide for drafting model NGO legislation for Barbados. National consultations will be held on the draft legislation with civil society organisations and other key stakeholders providing feedback on this timely document.

To achieve the objectives of the project CPDC will draw heavily on the experience and expertise of civil society actors across Barbados to provide invaluable input on the work to be undertaken. This input will be channelled through the mechanism of the National Major Group which will consist of seven (7) highly influential members.

## **Role of the National Major Group**

The NMG will serve as an advisory body to the CPDC, ensuring that the outputs from all activities are relevant and based on key stakeholder considerations.

## **Specific functions of the Major Group include:**

- To review subject matter materials provided by CPDC as requisite background for further input into project activities
- To provide feedback on the Terms of Reference for the drafting of documents to be produced by consultants
- To review and provide input on all documents formulated in the project before finalisation
- To assist in mobilising input from other NGOs within the process
- To serve as a platform for advocacy and lobbying of key stakeholders, particularly policy makers

## **Commitment Requirements**

The NMG committee will meet a minimum of six times through face-to-face and online meeting facilities as required. Meetings will be convened every two months for the duration of the project which runs from January 2018 to December 2018. Members are required to attend meetings on a regular basis.

## **Criteria for Selection to the membership of the working Group**

- Representatives should be nominated by their organisation
- Representatives should have at least 5 years of experience working with an NGO or sitting on a Board
- CPDC will give special consideration to those applying from youth organisations who might not have the required years of experience
- Representatives must be functioning in a senior capacity within the organisation;
- Representatives should have previous experience lobbying and advocating for policy changes on behalf of their beneficiaries;
- Representatives should presently have membership based or organisational membership with at least one umbrella organisation that addresses sectoral issues of importance to the NGO community.

## **Application Process**

NGOs and CSOs will be required to complete the Expression of Interest Form. Applicants must be nominated by a senior member of their organisation.

## **Application Deadline**

The Expression of Interest form can be completed via the [link](#) provided by **5:00 pm on Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2018.**

For further information Contact  
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