



LEADING FROM THE SOUTH

FUND TO RESOURCE WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM
IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

**II Call for proposals for the Latin American
and Caribbean region**

Submission deadline:
monday 18th february 2019



Funded by:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

I. General Framework

Leading from the South (LFS) is a special fund created to resource women's rights activism in the Global South for a period of four years (2017-2020). It's a joint programming initiative implemented by four Women's Funds: **Fondo de Mujeres del Sur - Women's Fund from the South** (FMS) in Latin America and the Caribbean¹, the **African Women's Development Fund** (AWDF) in Africa and the MENA Region, the **Asia Women Fund** (AWF) in Asia and the **International Indigenous Women's Forum** (IIWF) at the global level. It's financed by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands**.

The Programme allocates **40 million euros** to support activism led by women's rights organisations that work for women's political, social and economic empowerment as part of the Ministry's Policy on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and their **Dialogue and Dissent** programme. It's a feminist Fund that seeks to contribute to two **Dutch development policy** priorities: i) advancing women's rights and gender equality, and ii) strengthening civil society organisations.

Several Latin American and Caribbean countries are currently undergoing a severe socio-political crisis that directly contributes to the undermining of democracies and to a clear regression in terms of human rights, which becomes apparent -among other things- in the criminalization and persecution of activists, assassination of militants, democratic backsliding, closing of spaces for citizen participation, politicization of justice, raised gender violence, high rates of femicide/feminicide and advance of fundamentalisms and anti-rights groups that obstruct the work of women's rights defenders and women's and feminist movements in the region.

Leading from the South intends, through grantmaking, capacity development and other strategies, to strengthen women's movements in the global South to resist, influence and impact on public policies, confront unequal power relations and eliminate exclusion, discrimination, violence and unequal treatment. The fund's focus on women's rights, advocacy, and the elimination of marginalization and discrimination highlights a strong alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), to which the UN Member States are committed, particularly with **Sustainable Development Goal 5** on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls of the **2030 Agenda**.

The **Women's Fund from the South** (FMS) was founded in October 12th 2007 by six feminist advisors with a broad experience in defending women's human rights. It was created with the objective of strengthening the women's movement at the sub-regional level: Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Its mission is to mobilize financial and technical resources at local and international levels to strengthen women's organisations initiatives in situations of the worst socio-economic, cultural and environmental disadvantages, with the aim of advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

¹ The FMS is a women's fund with sub-regional mandate (Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay) which, for the purposes of this Programme, works at a regional level (Latin America and the Caribbean).



The FMS works in the promotion of economic, social, and labour rights of women, girls and LGBTI people, environmental and cultural rights, sexual and reproductive rights, political rights, the rights to identity and to a life free of violence.

The FMS is part of [Prospera](#), the International Network of Women's Funds, an association that links 38 women's funds from around the world to promote philanthropy, with a feminist perspective, through various alliances of Fundraising. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the FMS acts with the political-strategic advice of the **Advisory Council of Leading from the South**, constituted by some Women's Funds of the region: The Urgent Action Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean, the ELAS Fund from Brazil, the Central American Women's Fund - FCAM; and by members of the FMS' Board.

II. Call for Proposals Requirements

Leading from the South is concluding its first period of support (2017-2018) and in the process of starting its second round of grants (period 2019-2020). Within this framework, the FMS is pleased to announce the **Second Call for Proposals** to invite groups, organisations, and consortia led by women, working at local, national, sub-regional and/or regional levels to present innovative and high-impact proposals, focused on the defence and promotion of women's rights and gender equality. The proposals should contribute to the implementation of the United Nations **2030 Agenda**, focusing on **Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG) 5 - Gender Equality**.

Special priority will be given to those initiatives of organisations and/or consortia whose proposals contribute to the achievement of the goals established by the international community within the framework of the **2015 - 2024 International Decade for People of African Descent**, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly (AG/ RES 68/237)², with the theme "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development". In proclaiming this decade, the international community recognizes that people of African descent represent a particular group whose human rights must be promoted and protected. Around 200 million people who identify themselves as descendants of Africans live in the Americas.

Likewise, initiatives from organisations working in countries with democratic crises where the integrity and lives of defenders and activists are at risk will be especially considered.

III. Main Approaches

The following approaches will guide the grantmaking process of the **Leading from the South** Programme:

² Please see: <http://www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/index.shtml>

- **Women's Human Rights-Based Approach**
- **Feminism, Gender Perspective and Women's Empowerment**
- **Diversity and Inter-Sectional Approaches**

IV. Geographical Scope

For the implementation of the **Leading from the South** Programme, the FMS will finance proposals from women's groups, organisations, and consortia located and working in one or more of the **23 countries** of Latin America and the Caribbean listed below.

For operational purposes and geographical balance in the selection of proposals, the Latin American and Caribbean region will be divided in three sub-regions:

- a) Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean:** Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Surinam.
- b) Andean Sub-region:** Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.
- c) Brazil and the Southern Cone:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay.

V. Priority Thematic Areas

Priority Area 1: Leadership, Voice-Agency and Women's Political Participation

Priority Area 2: Women's Economic Justice

Priority Area 3: Violence against Women (VAW)

Priority Area 4: Climate Change and Environmental Justice

VI. Target Population

Special attention will be given to those proposals that show a strong commitment to working with women and girls from the marginalized sectors at political, economic, social, cultural and territorial levels. This may include: women living in extreme poverty; peasant, indigenous, black/afro-descendants, rural women; women from marginalized urban areas; migrants; women workers in precarious sectors (domestic, sewing, maquilas, others); women with disabilities; women living with HIV/AIDS and/or other sexually transmitted diseases; environment women's defenders; lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI); union leaders; young women; among others.

The FMS will promote initiatives led by or that involve the participation and agendas of these groups.





In this second call and in accordance with the International Decade of People of African Descent (2015 - 2024), proposals submitted by organisations led by black women / afro-descendants will be prioritized.

VII. Eligible Strategies

The proposals can include some of the following strategies:

Dissent and resistance, activism and mobilization, lobby and advocacy³, accountability, organisational capacity development, dissemination and communication, strategic partnerships, knowledge generation and learning management, among others.

VIII. Eligible Organisations

For the purposes of this call, there have been established three categories of organisations to be selected: Large-sized organisations, Mid-sized Organisations and Consortia of Grassroots Organisations.

Large-Sized Organisations: The organisations that shall be considered to be large-sized organisations are those civil society organisations (CSOs) which have an annual budget **equal to or greater than 100,000 euros**. They can apply individually or as networks or consortia. In the case of networks and consortia of organisations, the applicant organisation⁴ is the one that needs to have the specified annual budget. This requirement does not apply to the rest of the members.

Mid-Sized Organisations: The organisations that shall be considered to be mid-sized organisations are those civil society organisations (CSOs) which have an annual budget **equal to or greater than 50,000 euros**. They can apply individually or as networks or consortia. In the case of networks and consortia of organisations, the applicant organisation⁵ is the one that needs to have the specified annual budget. This requirement does not apply to the rest of the members.

Consortia of Grassroots Organisations (CGO): Grassroots organisations may apply in consortia with other grassroots organisations. Grassroots organisations are women's groups or organisations that work directly with community actors and are usually the first to respond and provide support in cases when women's rights violations take place (front-line defenders). They are usually based in small and isolated villages or towns far away from capitals or mid-sized and large cities. This category includes emerging organisations, community-based groups or organisations, and women groups in organisations or mixed communities that generally have limited access to resources but

³ Proposals that consider lobbying, influence, incidence, activism, defence and advocacy activities at government bodies at all levels, to claim for women rights and gender equity.

⁴ The applicant organisation is the main responsible for the project management and its contractual obligations.

⁵Op cit.

which make important contributions to advance women and girl's rights at local levels. Every member must have an individual annual budget of **less than € 50,000**. The sum of the budget of the organisation members of the CGO must be equal to or greater than **€ 35,000**. The CGO must be composed of at least **4 grassroots organisations**.

IX. Amount and Duration of Grants

<i>Categories of organisations</i>			
	<i>LARGE-SIZED ORGANISATIONS</i>	<i>MID-SIZED ORGANISATIONS</i>	<i>CONSORTIA OF GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS (CGO)</i>
<i>Legal Status</i>	They must be legally registered.	They must be legally registered.	The legal requirement is mandatory only for the applicant organisation.
	In the case of consortia/networks, this requirement applies only for the applicant organisation.	In the case of consortia/networks, this requirement applies only for the applicant organisation.	If none of the members of the CGO has legal status, a third organisation can be presented as <i>fiscal sponsor</i> ⁶ .
<i>Annual Budget</i> ⁷	They must have an annual budget equal to or greater than € 100,000 .	They must have an annual budget equal to or greater than € 50,000 .	The sum of the budget of the organisation members of the CGO must be equal to or greater than € 35,000 .
	In the case of consortia/networks, the applicant organisation must have the largest annual budget as indicated.	In the case of consortia/networks, the applicant organisation must have the largest annual budget as indicated.	In the case of the CGO, every member must have an individual annual budget of less than € 50,000 .

⁶ The fiscal sponsor organisation shall be understood as the allied organisation that provides its structure (legal status and bank account) to the CGO. The direction, financial resource management and implementation of the project/initiative are the sole responsibility of the consortia.

⁷ To comply with this requirement, the budget of the organisation to be considered is that of the past two years, 2016 and 2017. In at least one of them, the budget must be equal or greater than the specified one. The organisation has to present the balance sheets/financial reports they present to the tax authorities/State.

<i>Leadership and Structure</i>	The organisations must be composed and led by women.	The organisations must be composed and led by women.	The member organisations of the CGO must be composed and led by women.
	-	-	The CGO must be composed of at least 4 grassroots organisations .
<i>Geographical Scope ⁸</i>	Regional or Sub-regional.	Regional, Sub-regional or National.	Regional, Sub-regional, National or Local.
<i>Project duration and budget</i>	Biannual.	Biannual.	Biannual.
<i>Expertise</i>	At least 2 years of proven experience in the priority areas and with the target population of this Programme.	At least 2 years of proven experience in the priority areas and with the target population of this Programme.	The CGO should have a collaborative experience of at least two years in the priority areas and with the target population of this Programme, or it should form an ad hoc alliance with a clear strategic objective. ⁹
<i>Grant amount</i>	Up to € 130,000 per year - € 260,000 per 2 years.	Up to € 60,000 euros per year - € 120,000 per 2 years.	Up to € 45,000 per year - € 90,000 per 2 years.

X. Non-Eligible Proposals

In all organisations categories, the following proposals will NOT be considered:

⁸ It shall be understood, as **Regional** work, the intervention in countries of two or more sub-regions; as **sub-regional** work, the intervention in at least two or more countries of a sub-region; and as **national, local** or **community** work, the work within the borders of a country. A **sub-region** shall be understood as one of the three defined in the geographical scope section, on page 4 of these bases.

⁹ In the application form, it is required to specify both the objectives of the consortia and the role of each of its members.

- ✓ Proposals submitted by women organisations, networks and movements that have no base or do not work in one or more of the **23 countries** of Latin America and the Caribbean mentioned above;
- ✓ Proposals submitted by **individuals** without membership to any organisation;
- ✓ Proposals submitted by organisations funded by, or structurally or economically dependent on **political parties, governmental bodies or religious institutions**;
- ✓ Proposals submitted by **large NGOs** working at the global level;
- ✓ Proposals that do not put emphasis on **women's rights** and gender equality, or are not led by women;
- ✓ Proposals oriented to **income generation**, service provision or charity. This includes micro funding, vocational training and medical care. For instance: productive projects, micro enterprises, micro-credits, entrepreneurship, medical care provision, cooperatives, among others.
- ✓ **Infrastructure expenses**, such as purchase of land, goods, the acquisition of office buildings or the construction or rehabilitation of existing buildings or offices.
- ✓ Meetings, trips or participation in events in an isolated manner (meetings, trips and participation in events will only be considered if they are an integral part of a broader proposal).
- ✓ Proposals aimed at delivering **grants to external parties/grantmaking**.
- ✓ Applications presented by **FMS grantees** in any of its current programmes.

XI. Link to Apply

- 1. Link to the application format (project and budget):** Those organisations that wish to apply to the current Call for Proposals must complete the **Application Form** in the following [LINK](#) and attach the **mandatory documentation**.

ATTENTION! The Application Form, once closed, does not allow the storage of the information. In this sense, it is important to fill the form offline (the Form is available in *Word format* in the FMS website - www.mujieresdelsur.org). We suggest that once you have completed the proposal in the Word file and have organized the mandatory documentation, copy and paste the information in the Electronic Form. **Only applications submitted in the online form will be considered.** The loading time of the information, once prepared, is approximately 30 minutes.

Mandatory Documentation:

- Certified/audited financial reports of the past 2 fiscal years (2016 and 2017) approved by local authorities. This is only applicable for large and mid-sized organisations (Consortia of Grassroots Organisations are excluded).
- Copy of the legal registration/legal entitlement certificate.

2. Deadline: The term to send proposals starts on Wednesday 19th December 2018 and finishes on **Monday 18th February 2019** at 23:59 hrs. (Argentinian Time).

3. Language: Applications can be submitted in **Spanish, Portuguese and English**. The Call for Proposals is also available in French for a greater coverage.

To take into account:

- ✓ **Number of applications per organisation:** Only one application per organisation will be accepted. Multiple applications by one organisation will automatically be disqualified. The same organisation cannot apply as part of a consortium or network and, at the same time, individually as a large or mid-sized organisation.
- ✓ **Grantees of the First Leading from the South Round (2017 – 2018):** The large and mid - sized organisations selected in the first call of LFS (2017) can apply only as new consortia, networks and coalitions by incorporating new member organisations and with a different lead organisation.
- ✓ **Queries** can be sent via e-mail to liderando@mujeresdelsur.org up to 7th February, 2019.

XII. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Eligible proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the quality of the technical proposal and according to the coherence of its budget allocation. The maximum possible score will be 100 points according to the following selection criteria:

	Criteria	Score
1	Organisations Experience	25
2	Project Quality and Relevance	60

3	Budget Coherence and Relevance	15
TOTAL		100

The final decision, in addition to the score, will take into account the criteria of geographical and thematic balance.

The selection process will be carried out by the **Executive Team of the FMS**, the **Advisory Board for Leading from the South**, the **Reference Committee** and the **FMS board members**, which will be responsible for the final decision making.

XIII. Calendar

Phase	Date
Publication of the Call for Proposals	December 19 th , 2018
Deadline to send queries and comments related to the Call for Proposals	February 07 th , 2019
Deadline to submit proposals	February 18 th , 2019
Assessment of proposals and selection process	February 18 th to April 15 th , 2019
Publication on the FMS website and contact with selected organisations through e-mail and/or telephone calls	April 16 th , 2019
Signing of cooperation agreements by the selected organisations. First grant disbursement:	April 16 st to April 30 th , 2019
Project's implementation	From May 1 st onwards