EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Proposals to co-host side/parallel events with the Australian Government

62nd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
12th - 23rd March 2018
New York

Applications close 11.59pm Sunday 17th September 2017

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) is seeking applications from interested individuals and representatives of non-government actors1 to put forward a short proposal to co-host side/parallel events with the Australian Government in the margins of the 62nd session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) to be held in New York from 12-23 March 2018.

CSW is the highest level international forum on gender equality and women’s empowerment which meets annually in New York.

The priority theme for CSW62 is: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.

The review theme for CSW62 is: Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women.

Australia typically sends a high level delegation to CSW each year. The Australian Government hosts and co-hosts a range of side and parallel events related to the priority and review themes, as well as Australia’s priorities for the achievement of global gender equality, alongside emerging and innovative topics which support the empowerment of women.

Non-Government actors are invited to put forward a maximum two page proposal (expression of interest) providing an outline of the proposed event and how it relates to the selection criteria.

Expressions of interest may be shortlisted with further information sought from applicants.

1 Including but not limited to: academics, community advocates and organisers, representatives of workers’ and employers’ groups.
THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT’S INTERNATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY PRIORITIES

Broadly speaking, the Australian Government has a range of priorities for the achievement of global gender equality, including:

- The prevention and elimination of all forms of gender-based violence, including harmful traditional practices;
- Increasing women’s economic security by accelerating women’s participation in the paid workforce and enabling better access to finance, trade opportunities and information and digital and communications technology;
- Including women in leadership and decision-making roles in all areas of society including at all levels of government, the private sector, the broader community and in conflict and post-conflict zones;
- Better health and education outcomes for women and girls with a focus on access to quality, affordable services including in relation to women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights; and
- Recognition of the importance of working with men and boys, and the role of civil society, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and human rights defenders as agents of change in ensuring gender equality and the protection of the human rights of women and girls.

Specific priorities to inform the Australian Government’s position during negotiations of the CSW62 Agreed Conclusions and other related resolutions will be informed by a (separate) open submissions process. For information on the priority-setting submissions process, please refer to the Office for Women website at www.pmc.gov.au/office-women

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must provide a maximum 2-page proposal, addressing the selection criteria as set out below, noting that each criterion carries the same weighting. Please include specific examples. Any format is acceptable.

Proposals which exceed 2 pages will not be considered beyond the end of the second page.

**Criteria**

1. Demonstrated ability to deliver a relevant, high quality, focussed event of up to an hour to an international audience.
2. Relationship of the proposed event to the priority and/ or review theme.
3. Relationship of the proposed event to the Australian Government’s priorities for the achievement of global gender equality.
4. Diversity and profile of proposed list of speakers.
5. Number, diversity and profile of expected audience and how the event will be promoted.
6. The extent to which the event focuses on marginalised groups including Indigenous women, women with a disability, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, youth and women from marginalised groups.
7. Focus on emerging topics or innovations that can be used to promote gender equality.
8. Support sought from the Australian Government.

All proposed side/parallel events must include a speaking role for an Australian Government participant at the Ministerial level for events held in the first week of CSW and at official level during the second week of CSW.

**FUNDING AND OTHER SUPPORT**

No Australian Government support is available to assist event organisers to travel to CSW or for accommodation in New York, nor speaker stipends or other event costs.

The Australian Government will cover the costs of the room hire at the United Nations Headquarters (for side events) where a room can be secured for our use, or the Australian Mission (for parallel events), and arrange speakers passes for the event (only).

**ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS**

Side event proposals selected as Australia’s official side events will be developed in partnership with the non-government actors.

This is a two-step process whereby the expression of interest will be used to identify a shortlist of possible events. The Australian Government will then work with the shortlisted applicants to further develop the side event concept.

The final list of side/parallel events hosted by the Australian Government is contingent upon a number of factors, including the availability of event space and other resources.

The decision by Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister for Women, is final.

**LODGING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST/PROPOSAL**

Email your two-page proposal and any queries regarding side/parallel events for CSW62 to WomensBranchInternational@pmc.gov.au.

Applications close 11:59 pm Sunday 17th September 2017.

Late or incomplete applications may not be accepted. Proposals that exceed two pages will not be considered beyond the end of the second page.