

Civic Space for Climate Action

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law is announcing a call for proposals to support civil society organizations advocating for an enabling civic space for climate action. Grants up to \$25,000 are available for projects meeting the criteria below. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through **February 15, 2022**.

All sub-grant recipients must complete their projects no later than November 30, 2022.

Background

There is virtually no aspect of human rights or development that will not be affected by the climate crisis, and there will be no effective response without the full engagement of civil society globally. Under international law, States must facilitate this engagement by creating an enabling environment for the full enjoyment of core civic freedoms, including the rights to peaceful assembly, association, and public participation.

However, civil society operating in the field of environmental protection and climate change face multiple threats from State and non-State actors. In his [2021 report](#) to the United Nations General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (UNSR), Clément N. Voule, warned against the closing space for civil society's engagement in climate action: "as more people around the world organize to defend their lands and demand a green future, violent repression has also increased." This global trend is marked by the adoption of legal and extra-legal measures against climate activism, including anti-protest legislation, physical attacks and unlawful surveillance of climate defenders, arrests and criminalization of climate protestors, and exclusion of civil society groups from climate negotiations. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these threats, since governments have sought to justify many of these actions by citing the public health emergency.

ICNL is inviting proposals from national civil society organizations that support advocacy efforts to expand and protect civic space for climate action, including by furthering national-level implementation of multilateral commitments to ensure respect for the rights to peaceful assembly, association, and public participation in the context of climate change decision-making and governance.

Illustrative activities include:

- Document developments in legislation, policies and implementation practices affecting civil society's participation in climate decision-making and governance in your country; developing legal analyses, white papers, and policy briefs; and proposing legal and policy recommendations.
- Developing trainings and other activities to enhance the knowledge of in-country legal experts, civil society and social movement leaders and/or journalists on international human rights norms and standards related to the rights of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, association and public participation in climate decision-making and governance.

- Monitoring legal restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly that target climate related protests.
- Convening coalitions of civil society organizations to share information about challenges and opportunities and develop coordinated advocacy strategies, including in preparation of COP27.
- Promoting the adoption and scaling up of good practices or guidelines that promote civic freedoms and participation in the context of climate decision-making and governance, including in the development and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

ICNL is particularly interested in proposals that:

- Rely on international human rights norms and standards as the basis for advocacy and/or informational training tools for national or sub-national use, including the thematic report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, Clement Voule ([A/76/222](#)). Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the thematic report before applying.
- Promote the rights of women and girls and are responsive to the needs of marginalized and at-risk groups, including Indigenous Peoples and groups experiencing different forms of discrimination based on their age, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other characteristics.

This list is merely illustrative, and we strongly encourage applicants with innovative ideas and approaches not described above to apply.

Application Instructions

To apply for this grant, applicants must submit the following in English or Spanish:

- [Application coversheet \(see below\)](#)
- Proposal (not more than 5 pages – see content requirement below)
- Resume, Curriculum Vitae (CV), or other statement of relevant work history and education (no more than 3 pages each for up to 3 key personnel)
- Line item budget (not more than 1 page)
- Background information about the applicant organization (e.g. website links or informational materials)

Content of Proposal

In five pages or less, please describe your proposal. The following elements must be addressed in the proposal:

- The project concept, including
 - The specific need for this type of project in your context/location.
 - Proposed activity plan with specific goals.
 - Intended outcomes.

- Potential partners (government or non-government), or stakeholders that will be engaged in the activities outlined in the application.
- A timeline for completing the proposed activities;
- Expected impact of project activities and how impact will be measured or otherwise determined;
- The applicant's specific experience and expertise related to the activities covered in the proposal; and
- The applicant's COVID-19 contingency plan, including policies with regards to travel and physical meetings, if applicable, and plans to address disruptions due to government measures (i.e., lockdowns) or staff illness.

Eligibility Requirements

This call is open to civil society organizations working at the regional, national or sub-national level located in countries currently listed on the [DAC List of ODA recipient countries](#).

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures;
- Demonstrated commitment of the applicant to improving civic space in your country and locality.
- Quality of proposed project, including the project's innovations, the proposed methodology/design, and feasibility of the project.
- Diversity of selected proposals with weight given especially to linguistic, geographic, and intersectional diversity;
- Proposed budget and apparent value for cost; and
- Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success.

Terms of Reference

All sub-grant recipients must submit a final report on the use of funds, activities conducted, and outcomes of their projects prior to receiving their final grant disbursements. ICNL expects proposals to be contracted and start implementation between March and April 2022. Work must be completed by November 30, 2022.

After completion of projects, ICNL may liaise with grantees to assess the effectiveness of the initiative, and identify lessons learned and potential recommendations for future implementation.

How to Apply

Interested applicants can apply by completing the application coversheet and submitting it to ICNL, along with all required documents by email (see instructions below).

Deadline

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until all grant funds are awarded. Applicants should submit their applications no later than **February 15, 2022**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

About ICNL

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW (ICNL)

ICNL works with governments, civil society organizations, and the international community in more than 100 countries to improve the legal environment for civic space around the world. We believe that when people have the space to come together, positive, lasting change can be made. To achieve this vision, individuals must be able to join together, speak out and take action to make the world a better place. Since 1992, ICNL has worked with our partners to promote and protect an enabling legal environment for civil society. Our international staff includes experts in all aspects of the laws governing free association, assembly, and expression, spanning from the local to global contexts. We also foster a worldwide network of organizations and individuals with in-depth expertise on a diverse range of issues relevant to civil society. Learn more about our work and browse our research at www.icnl.org.

Application Coversheet

Please complete the coversheet and submit it, along with your proposal and other application documents to global@icnl.org . Please ensure that the subject of your email is “Civic Space for Climate Action: Sub-grant Application 2022.”

Full Name:

Position:

Organization:

Mailing Address Line 1:

Mailing Address Line 2:

Mailing Address Line 3:

Country:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

Click on the boxes below to indicate that you have properly completed the application.

- I have attached a proposal that is no more than five pages in length.
- I have attached the CVs of leading project staff.
- I have attached a line-item budget.
- I reside and work in one of the eligible countries listed in the Call for Proposals.