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### Terms of Reference

## Re-advertisement for the Request for Proposal from an International Research Institution to Conduct the Study on the Economic Costs of Gender-based Violence in Mongolia

### BACKGROUND

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a significant public health concern in Asia and the Pacific, with many consequences for the health, social and economic well-being of women and girls, being an impediment to sustainable development. The inclusion of Target 5.2 to “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation” under SDG 5 of achieving gender equality demonstrates the importance to combat GBV.

Evidence on the extent of GBV and its health and social consequences has been gathered, forming a basis for advocacy, policy-making and programmatic interventions. In response, countries in the Asia and Pacific Region are taking significant steps to promote gender equality and address GBV in collaboration with women's organizations, UN agencies, and other national and international partners.

Mongolia has undergone a tremendous societal change in the past three decades stemming from the country's political and economic transition. This changing context has had a significant impact on the country's socio-cultural norms, the dynamics of gender equality, power relations and GBV. A 2015 assessment conducted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reaffirmed that GBV, and particularly domestic violence (DV) against women and children, is prevalent and widespread in Mongolia. While there have been legal advances in the country in recent years, including improvements in legal protections for victims, GBV remains one of the most severe and life-threatening human rights violations in Mongolia. The UNFPA-supported Combating Gender-based Violence (CGBV) Project, which is co-financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and UNFPA, is helping Mongolia strengthen the national response mechanism to prevent and combat GBV, particularly DV.

Guided by the Country Programme document 2017-2021, UNFPA Mongolia CO is committed to strengthening national capacity by working with Implementing Partners such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (which hosts the National Committee on Gender Equality), the National Statistics Office (NSO), National Policy Agency, and NGOs, etc.

UNFPA's objective in working with such implementing partners are focused on upstream work, influencing legal frameworks, including policy development and implementation that would provide improved policies and programmes to help combat GBV.

It is against this background that a study is launched to estimate the (macro)economic cost of GBV in Mongolia. With such data, the objective is for the government to have more information on how damaging GBV is to the country's economy, such as the loss of productivity and realizing the costs of inaction. Together with the GBV prevalence study, which was conducted by NSO in 2017, the study will provide policy options to the Government of Mongolia, in particular for the state budget allocations to prevent and effectively respond to GBV in the country.

It should be noted that a separate study is being commissioned by the project to estimate the current level of budgets and expenditures, at the national and sub-national levels, which are being used to provide essential services to the victims of violence. In addition, the assessment was conducted in 2017 to identify gaps in existing One Stop Service Centers (OSSCs) for victims of violence as well as shelters in terms of ensuring the quality of service provision, which is aligned with the newly launched UN Guidelines on Essential Service Package.

Therefore, UNFPA Mongolia CO is seeking an international research institution under the GBV project who will be tasked to conduct the study on the economic costs of GBV.

#### **SCOPE OF WORK AND TENTATIVE TIMELINE**

The study should be completed for 12 to 18 months (maximum), starting from mid-August 2018. The selected academic research institution will work in close collaboration with UNFPA, and the implementation shall be undertaken in accordance with UNFPA rules and regulations.

It is anticipated that the academic research institution will provide research excellence, guidance and expertise for conducting the study on estimating the economic costs of GBV/ DV. The bid should provide both the technical and financial proposals with details on how the study will be conducted.

The objectives of the research project are to:

- Estimate the economic costs of GBV/ DV, including the estimated cost of the loss of productivity in the labour market and impact of the Mongolian economy; and
- Estimate the cost of in-action in preventing and responding to GBV/ DV.

The academic research institution will be responsible for the following:

- Provide research expertise and excellence in GBV costing;
- Work collaboratively with the national partners such as the National Statistic Office, and national consultants to build capacity on GBV costing tools, methodologies and macroeconomic costing of the impact of GBV/ DV;
- Develop the operational framework and tools for estimating the Economic Impact of Violence;
- Guide and work with the local consultants in how to conduct the baseline research and data collection for the study on the cost of service provisions for victims of violence;