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Mr. Tore Eriksson, President
CTIF - International Association for Fire and Rescue Services

WOMEN IN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Women are a minority in Fire and Rescue Services but the number of women in this field is increasing worldwide. Women have different roles within Fire and Rescue Services but it is known that their role in fire safety throughout the world is significant despite the fact that they face many challenges. Since 2012 there has been a Working Group for Women in Fire and Rescue Services in CTIF. The group has been active and has had several meetings since its establishment. Based on this background and in support of the application submitted by Women in Fire and Rescue Services Working Group, the National CTIF Committee of Finland would like to most kindly suggest to CTIF that the position of Women in Fire and Rescue Services would be changed from a Working Group into a Commission.

The National CTIF Committee of Finland sees that "Women in Fire and Rescue Services" is not a project-based and short-term matter but it needs a permanent position within CTIF and long-term planning for its work. It is important to bear in mind the fact that women have different roles in Fire and Rescue Services in different countries. As a Commission there would be much greater opportunities to work together, gather information and make suggestions for member countries and also attract more member countries to join CTIF's work.

Women in Fire and Rescue Services Working Group has already done a great work by having regular meetings twice a year and sharing information within the group. The next step for this work would be to become a Commission with a long-term work plan which consist of e.g. mutual visions, goals, activities and working methods. The National CTIF Committee of Finland is eager to support the work to be done in the Commission.

On behalf of the National CTIF Committee of Finland,

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