

GEAR UP

BUILDING A UNITED NATIONS THAT REALLY WORKS FOR ALL WOMEN

CAMPAIGN FOR STRONGER GENDER EQUALITY ARCHITECTURE REFORM (GEAR) AT THE UN

A stronger women's organization that can deliver results on the ground:

- An Under-Secretary-General should head this entity for women, to ensure the necessary status required for representation and decision-making at the highest levels both in policy- development and program operations at the global and country levels. The new Under- Secretary-General post would provide higher level leadership than at present to more effectively drive the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda.
- Extensive field presence and a strong policy and programmatic mandate is essential for a strengthened UN entity for women to effectively improve the lives of women on the ground.
- Substantial and predictable resources to ensure that the new entity for women has the capacity to meet expectations and deliver results at all levels. It must be funded initially at a minimum level of \$1 billion USD with increases over time.
- Accountability within the new entity for women, at both national and international levels, including through meaningful involvement of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations for women.
- The new entity should also promote gender mainstreaming by the integration of gender equality and women's human rights throughout the UN and especially in the UN Country Pilots and in all UN reform processes.
- Systematic civil society participation in the process now and later in the functioning of any new entity created.
- An ongoing seat in the Working group (even as observer) and an opportunity to review and contribute to the next Secretariat's modalities paper at all stages of the drafting process.

Strengthening the UN's gender equality machinery is a crucial part of financing for development. It will better enable the UN and governments to deliver on promises made to advance gender equality and women's human rights, which are essential components of development at the global and country levels.

To read a more comprehensive discussion of women's concerns about gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the UN and UN Reform:

<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/globalcenter/policy/unadvocacy/Gender%20Equality%20Architecture%20and%20UN%20Reforms%20July%202006.pdf>; and at <http://www.wedo.org>.

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