



Support for the creation of a new gender entity at the United Nations

"We all know we need to do more to promote the rights of women and girls to end the epidemic of gender violence. Women already bear a disproportionate burden as wives, mothers, grandmothers, and healthcare workers in the AIDS crisis. Violence and discrimination should not add to that burden. That is why I have decided to support the current effort of many governments and advocates to create a new United Nations agency for women, and I want to thank Stephen Lewis especially for his passionate and unyielding support."

- *Former US President Bill Clinton, August 2008*

"In the Nordic countries' view, status quo is not an option. We believe that the best outcome would be achieved by merging the present gender units to one UN entity headed at USG level."

- *Ambassador Hjálmar W. Hannesson, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations, On behalf of the Nordic Countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), September 8, 2008*

"It is not possible to imagine development without talking about development of women, without advancing the situation of women and without gender equality. ...And in this process we have the opportunity to contribute to the development of women and of our societies through the strengthening of the gender architecture of the United Nations as a fundamental tool to support national efforts both in normative aspects and as a reality in the field."

- *Ambassador Jorge Arguello, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations, September 8, 2008.*

"The [UN] system currently falls short of delivering results, particularly at the country level. ...the status quo cannot produce the desired results."

- *Ambassador John McNee, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, On behalf of CANZ (Canada, Australia, New Zealand), September 8, 2008*

"We have incessantly complained that the status quo does not serve us well. Time and again we have made decisions and adopted resolutions that cannot be implemented effectively. The larger membership here today agrees that currently there is no single center of leadership and authority that is promoting and coordinating coherence in gender matters within the UN system. What we have is far too fragmented, underresourced and can only boast of feeble presence at the local level. It is time to create a structure that would eliminate duplication, be

effective at the international level and also have a strategic presence in regional and local levels.”

- *Ambassador Z.D. Muburi-Muita, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations, September 8, 2008.*

“The Government of India is fully supportive of the objectives of gender empowerment, gender parity and gender mainstreaming that this entity is meant to support. These are laudable objectives and the United Nations is mandated to pursue them both within and without.”

- *Dr. Anupam Ray, Counsellor, September 8, 2008.*

“We need to keep in mind that MDG 3 on [gender equality and women’s empowerment] plays an integral part within the other MDGs. Strengthening the gender architecture would positively contribute to bringing us forward on this particular MDG.”

- *Ambassador Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, September 8, 2008.*