

GEAR

gender/equality/architecture/reform

WHAT IS THE GEAR CAMPAIGN?

The GEAR Campaign is a network of over 300 women's, human rights and social justice groups around the world that have been working for four years to gain UN Member State and UN Secretariat approval for the creation of a larger, more coherent, coordinated UN agency that can further advance the UN's mandate of working for gender equality as a crucial component of development, human rights, humanitarian concerns, peace and security.

The new Gender Equality Entity - to be headed by an Under-Secretary General - will consolidate the four existing UN bodies dedicated to women's issues: the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), and the Office of the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI). Bringing these entities together and better coordinating their work with gender mainstreaming efforts throughout the UN system should enable the UN and governments to deliver more effectively on their obligations and many commitments to advancing gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights. The new Gender Equality Entity should also have improved operational capacity at the country level and increased funding for work on women's empowerment and advancement.

CIVIL SOCIETY CALL TO ACTION

Created on July 2, 2010, UN Women is the result of years of advocacy by civil society. The new entity combines the mandates of the four existing UN structures for women into one new, higher level UN organization with both policy and operational functions. The GEAR Campaign, a network of over 300 women's, human rights and social justice groups, is now engaged in working to ensure that UN Women will be a coordinated, strong, and strategic organization that further advances the UN's work on gender equality and women's empowerment. Some organizations are already engaged with the UN transition process at the national and regional levels, and the GEAR Campaign encourages more actors in civil society to get involved in helping UN Women realize its potential as a powerful vehicle for women's rights on the ground. The campaign recommends the following next steps for civil society engagement:

- **Establish meaningful, systematic, and diverse civil society participation**
- **Demand a dynamic and relevant agenda for UN Women**
- **Pressure donors to aim for \$1 billion in funding and meet their commitment to "core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable" contributions**
- **Seek powerful, capable and effective leadership at every level**

To read the entire Civil Society Call to Action, visit http://www.gearcampaign.org/news_events/

The Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign

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