

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL TO LEAD THE UNITED NATIONS COMPOSITE ENTITY SUPPORTING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

The General Assembly's resolution on System-Wide Coherence of 14 September 2009, stated that it: "[s]upports that the composite entity [OSAGI, DAW, UNIFEM and INSTRAW] shall be led by an Under-Secretary-General, who will report directly to the Secretary-General, to be appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, on the basis of equitable geographical representation and gender balance." (OP 2)

The GEAR Campaign calls on the Secretary-General to immediately begin consideration of exceptionally well-qualified candidates who would best be able to meet the demands of this important post, which includes securing funding and leading the transition towards the creation of the composite entity.

Above all, qualified candidates must have a vision for and demonstrated commitment to meeting gender equality goals and securing women's human rights, and meet the following criteria:

1. Experience in and passion for working on gender equality and women's empowerment/human rights, with a demonstrated interest in engaging with civil society, and particularly women's organizations;
2. Thorough understanding of the needs and interests of women at the local grassroots, both in the Global South and North, with a successful track record of concrete impact in the field;
3. Demonstrated and recognized leadership and integrity, including:
 - Collaborative working style and ability to build positive relationships with a wide range of partners;
 - Visible record of public advocacy for gender equality and women's human rights and empowerment; and
 - Readiness to be outspoken and independent in fulfilling the entity's mandates;
4. Track record in fundraising and proven skills in the management of complex organizations and developing strategy accordingly in a creative and effective manner;
5. Be politically astute and able to engage effectively with a wide range of key actors in international negotiations.