



S.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Room S 3800
United Nations
New York
New York 10017

20 October 2009

Dear Secretary-General,

We write to you on behalf of the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign, a network of over 300 women's rights, human rights and social justice groups worldwide to emphasize the high expectations which our organizations have for the appointment of an Under-Secretary-General to lead the new women's entity at the United Nations. Over the past three years, the GEAR Campaign has been actively involved in the GEAR process, notably by meeting with United Nations officials and Member States and providing substantive inputs to documents prepared by the UN Secretariat.

On 14 September 2009, we welcomed the General Assembly's adoption by consensus of a landmark resolution that "strongly supports" the creation of a consolidated, new women's entity at the UN based on the Composite option. This was a momentous decision, which clearly has the potential to make the United Nations deliver better for women around the world. The resolution also "[s]upports that the Composite entity 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 person who will be charged with the responsibility of Under-Secretary-General faces an extraordinary challenge in ensuring a successful transitional period and the early success of this new composite entity. This is why your continued support and leadership is crucial.

The GEAR campaign believes that the search for well-qualified candidates must begin immediately to ensure the transition from the existing four separate women's entities to one consolidated and expanded agency that formally links normative and operational functions.

Criteria/Qualifications for Appointment

We believe that it is vital that qualified candidates first and foremost have a commitment to, as well as a vision for, meeting gender equality goals and securing women's rights. This commitment needs to have been demonstrated

through past experience with gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as an expression of a thorough understanding of women's needs at the country level, both in the global South and the North.

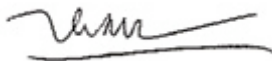
The GEAR campaign has just completed a consultation process with our partners around the world and has agreed upon the attached selection criteria which we would like to present to you for the USG post. Our organizations believe that while a passion for gender equality and women's rights is a vital characteristic of the future Under-Secretary-General, practical experience is equally important and have therefore included criteria regarding the candidates' leadership and management abilities as well.

With respect to the **selection process**, the GEAR Campaign believes that in order to choose the most outstanding candidate for the position of Under Secretary-General of the new women's entity, it is fundamental that the process be open, participatory, transparent and based on accountability. We stand ready to contribute to your work in this regard and assume you will want to consult with civil society organizations in this process. We would therefore like to request a meeting with you to discuss the GEAR criteria and your plans for proceeding on this important matter. Please contact Colette Tamko at WEDO - Colette@wedo.org-about when we can meet with you.

The mandate to realize this goal of creating a stronger women's entity at the UN has been granted to you by the General Assembly on September 14, 2009. Women around the world are tremendously excited as gender equality and women's empowerment cannot afford to be put on hold any longer. Therefore, we urge you to move swiftly and take the necessary steps to obtain a budget allocation and begin an open, transparent and effective selection process for the USG post now!

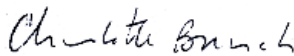
We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Xuan Nguyen
Executive Director
**Women's Environment and
Development Organization (WEDO)
(CWGL)**

xuan@wedo.org
212-973-0325 ext.232



Charlotte Bunch
Founding Director
**Center for Women's
Global Leadership**

cbunch@igc.org
732-932-8782

<http://www.wedo.org>

<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/>