

**GEAR Campaign
Working Group**

African's Women Development
and Communication Network

Asia Pacific Women's Watch

Association for Women's
Rights in Development

Bahá'í International Community

Center for Women's Global
Leadership

Collective for Research and
Training on Development-Action

Development Alternatives with
Women for a New Era

European GEAR Working Group

femLINKpacific

Foundation for Studies and
Research on Women

International Planned
Parenthood Federation

International Women's Health
Coalition

Servitas Cameroon

South Asian Campaign for
Gender Equality /SAATHI

Women's Environment and
Development Organization

World Federalist Movement-
Institute for Global Policy

The Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign, a network comprised of 310 organizations worldwide, welcomes the themes for the 2010 ECOSOC High Level Segment sessions.

In this historic year of celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the 4th World Conferences on Women held in 1995, women's, human rights and social justice groups urge Member States and the United Nations (UN) Secretariat to establish the promised gender equality entity as soon as possible. Women have waited long enough and the UN must implement changes that are crucial to fulfilling its mandate in working for gender equality and the advancement of women as a critical component of the global agenda for development, human rights, peace, and security.

A stronger UN entity for women will enable the UN and its Member States to better deliver on their numerous commitments to advance gender equality and women's empowerment including the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security, the Millennium Declaration and Development Goals in addition to many others.

On September 14, 2009, the General Assembly adopted a historic resolution (A/RES/63/311) supporting the consolidation of the existing four UN gender equality entities into a composite women's entity, to be headed by an Under Secretary-general (USG). The GEAR Campaign welcomed this resolution as well as the recent "Secretary-General: Comprehensive proposal for the composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women" (A/64/588) which addresses many of the key issues for the launch of the new women's entity and demands final closure on this issue during this 64th GA session.

We urge Member States to move swiftly on a resolution that will create the gender equality entity by July 2010. The following elements are fundamental to the establishment of the new entity:

- Universal country presence and a strong policy and programmatic mandate to ensure that the entity is the UN system's driver for women's empowerment and gender equality.
- Substantial, multi-year core funding and a commitment to a budget of US \$1 billion, with increases over time.
- Formal mechanisms for meaningful and systematic participation of civil society, particularly women's organizations, in the governance structure of the entity with civil society advisory bodies at the global, regional and national levels.
- A transparent process to recruit an USG to head the entity. The ideal candidate for should combine a global vision with gender equality expertise and experience in working for women's empowerment on the ground, as well as the ability to secure funding and lead the organizational transition process.

To close the gap in realizing women's rights, the UN has recognized the need for a strong, well resourced coordinated body to be a driver for these goals at the highest levels of leadership, both at Headquarters and in the field. Now is the time to take action and build a United Nations that really works for all women!