

**UK Gender & Development Network & Women in Development  
Europe Statement on  
Gender Equality Recommendations of the High Level Panel on  
UN Reform**

The UK Gender & Development Network (GAD) <sup>1</sup>and Women in Development Europe (WIDE) join gender equality and women's rights advocates from around the world in welcoming the recommendations on strengthening the UN's gender equality architecture set out in the report released November 2006 by the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on UN reform. We strongly believe that gender equality is critical for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and must be central in the UN reform process. We are pleased that the report's recommendations are consistent with our own submission to the Panel in July 2006.

In particular, we support the Panel's recommendations to:

- Establish an ***independent, women-specific entity*** that will combine OSAGI, DAW and UNIFEM,
- Appoint an ***Under Secretary-General*** to oversee the work of this entity and to be recruited through an open and transparent process,
- Ensure a ***universal country presence with senior level gender equality experts***.

As the Panel has highlighted in its report, it is essential that these mechanisms are accompanied by adequate financial, technical and human resources and support to ensure that they are able to strengthen the effectiveness of the gender mainstreaming work of other UN agencies, as well as to advance women's rights at all levels.

We urge the governments convening during the UN General Assembly to endorse the Panel's recommendations on creating a stronger gender architecture at the UN and to set out a clear timeline and process for implementation of the report's recommendations.

In addition we urge appropriate resources and the engagement and participation of women's movements and organisations at all levels as part of the mandate of the new entity.

We make this statement in solidarity with women around the world who have signed the CWGL (Center for Women's Global Leadership) and WEDO (Women's Environment & Development Organisation) November 9th statement.

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<sup>1</sup> The Gender & Development Network is the UK Platform for Women in Development Europe.

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