

Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign Suggested Key Points for GA Resolution on Gender

1) IT IS CRUCIAL THAT MEMBER STATES ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NEW GENDER ENTITY BASED ON THE COMPOSITE (OPTION D) DURING THIS GA SESSION WHICH ENDS SEPTEMBER 14TH.

- Over the past three years, member states have agreed that the current structures on gender equality have resulted in many gaps and challenges, are not well coordinated, and are under-resourced.
- Many Member States and most NGOs involved have expressed a strong preference for one institutional model, the composite entity (option D which combines B + C of the Deputy Secretary-General's July 23, 2008 paper: *Institutional Options to Strengthen United Nations Work on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*) as it is the only option that formally links normative and operational functions.
- The Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, and the President of the 63rd General Assembly all endorse the creation of a new UN entity on gender equality and women's empowerment during this GA session and have favored the composite option D.
- The entity must have the mandate to hold the UN system accountable for delivering on gender equality, through a strategy of both gender mainstreaming and women-specific work.
- The new entity should have universal coverage with strategic presence at the country level. Even though its offices would begin in the Global South, it must have a universal mandate to address women's rights in all countries since none have achieved full gender equality.
- The new entity would report both through the SG to the GA and ECOSOC and have an executive board for operational matters that is regionally diverse; takes account of the entity's broad mandate and universal coverage; and provides systematically for meaningful participation of civil society.
- **Therefore, member states need to adopt a resolution to create a new, strengthened and consolidated gender entity based on option D, the composite model, in September 2009 in order that work to create the entity can begin.**

2) THE RESOLUTION SHOULD AUTHORIZE A USG POSITION AND DIRECT THE USG TO LEAD THE PROCESS OF CREATING THE ENTITY.

- The new gender entity should be led by an Under Secretary-General (USG) that is a full member of the Chief Executives Board (CEB) to ensure that the new entity has the ability to effectively drive the UN's gender equality agenda.

- The SG should undertake a recruitment process, in consultation with member states and civil society, to appoint the new USG soon. However, the process should involve a credible global search to identify candidates with significant stature, expertise and experience in gender equality work at the national and regional or global levels.
- The USG would lead the process of creating the structures for the entity in collaboration with the current UN working group and report back to the SG & Executive Board with a program of implementation.

3) THE NEW ENTITY MUST BE AMBITIOUSLY FUNDED WITH STABLE AND PREDICTABLE RESOURCES

- The Member States should pledge and secure a minimum of US\$ 1 billion in funding for the new gender entity in the first phase of development, as well as substantial annual increases built into the process to expand to more countries over time. Public commitments by states pledging to fund it are needed now.
- This must include significant programmatic as well as staff funding to ensure a strong operational presence of the entity.
- While funding for the new entity will come from both voluntary and assessed contributions, the expansion of field presence will require significant increases in voluntary contributions.
- The entity needs to give the USG delegated authority on financial matters and human resources, similar to that of other funds and programmes, in order to operate effectively at the country level.

4) IT IS CRITICAL TO ENSURE MEANINGFUL, SYSTEMATIC AND DIVERSE CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE WOMEN'S ENTITY

- The active involvement and invaluable contribution of civil society, particularly women's organizations, in the SWC process thus far has been acknowledged. In order to deliver for women everywhere, it is critical to tap into this expertise and the insights of a diverse and wide-ranging NGO constituency, including grassroots women.
- Systematic and meaningful participation of civil society representatives, especially women's organizations, needs to be ensured in the governance of the new women's entity. The Executive Board should include one civil society representative from each region, following the HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinating Board model.
- Civil Society Advisory bodies should be created at global, regional and national levels and should be comprised of representatives from diverse NGOs, and especially women's organizations and local women at country level.

(Prepared July 2009)