

Réseau de Développement et
de Communication des
Femmes Africaines

African Women's
Development
and Communication Network



Kussco Offices, Kilimanjaro Road,
P.O. Box 54562, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 725-766932
Fax: +254 20 2712974
Email: admin@femnet.or.ke
Website: www.femnet.or.ke

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A Call on African Member States to Adopt the Resolution for the New UN Gender Equality Entity during the 63rd General Assembly

Greetings from the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya.

We write to you on behalf of the UN Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign (GEAR). GEAR is a global campaign of over 300 organizations in over 50 countries that advocates for stronger gender equality architecture within the United Nations system.

As you know, in September 2008 at the end of the 62nd session of the General Assembly, Member States requested the Secretary-General to provide a paper presenting details on institutional options for strengthening the gender equality architecture at the UN, with particular focus on the 'Composite Entity' option (or Option D in the Deputy Secretary General's July 2008 Paper: *Institutional Options to Strengthen United Nations Work on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*).

The requested paper was presented to the GA in March 2009. It endorsed the Composite Entity, stating that it has the greatest potential to: consolidate the strengths of the existing four gender-specific entities, address the gaps and challenges previously identified, strengthen national-level support to Member States, and achieve synergies between operational, normative and policy development functions.

FEMNET, as a Focal Point for the GEAR Campaign in Africa, urges African Member States to support the adoption of the Resolution to create a New, Strengthened and Consolidated gender entity, led by an Under Secretary-General, before the conclusion of the 63rd Session of the GA. We also urge you to support the creation of an Under Secretary position, that will lead the process of constituting the new entity, enabling it to remain prioritized and timely.

We hope we can count on you to champion this reform process on behalf of African women, and endorse the proposals for change of the Gender Equality architecture in the UN during the 63rd General Assembly session.

We look forward to continued collaboration with you in promoting the rights of women in Africa. Join us in building a United Nations that really works for all women.

Sincerely,

**African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)
GEAR Regional Focal Point
Africa**