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Rutgers Women's Rights Organization Welcomes the Establishment of New United Nations Gender Equality Entity

September 15, 2009

New Brunswick, N.J., USA - After three years of campaigning, the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), founded at Rutgers University in 1989, is pleased to announce that the United Nations General Assembly took action today, September 14, 2009, to adopt a resolution that will enable the creation of the new United Nations gender entity.

CWGL, a unit of the Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL) at Rutgers University, is a principal coordinator of a civil society led initiative entitled the Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign (GEAR). Women's rights organizations and allies from around the world have been advocating for three years for a stronger better resourced agency on gender equality and women's empowerment rather than the current fragmented state of work on women's rights.

At this crucial time, when women are facing intense human rights violations and complex global challenges, CWGL is delighted that we are now seeing the first steps to the creation of such an organization. Charlotte Bunch, the founding director and current senior scholar at CWGL notes, "Women around the world have waited long enough for the United Nations and member states to fulfill the promises made to women in various UN World Conferences. We look forward to this coming to fruition on the eve of the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action from the 4th World Conference on Women."

The GEAR Campaign working group and network of over 300 organizations worldwide consists of regional and global focal points as well as a New York based lobbying group. CWGL has acted as a facilitator during the last three years, using its' expertise to educate many representatives of U.N. missions about the gender dimensions of the U.N. reform processes.

As CWGL is celebrating this small victory in an arduous process, we are positive about the next phase. Radhika Balakrishnan, the current Executive Director of CWGL, stated how glad she is, "that this is moving ahead," and she is, "looking forward to working with women's rights groups to see how it evolves in the future."

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