



European GEAR Campaign Newsletter

June 2009

United Nations Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign - European Focal Point

Dear Friends,

This is the first newsletter of the European Focal Point of the United Nations Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign (GEAR Campaign), a global network of civil society organizations that advocate for the creation of a new United Nations gender equality entity that really works for women. We would like to share with you the recent developments of the gender equality reform process at the UN, and suggest ways to get involved.

Since the UN Secretariat released in March this year a paper that provided details on the different options for the new UN gender equality structure, the political process at the UN has been advancing fast. The UN Member States have been discussing the funding, the staffing, and the organizational structure of the future new gender equality entity, and a near consensus on the option called “composite entity” has been reached. This option, also favored by the GEAR Campaign, would combine normative work at the UN Secretariat and a strong strategic presence at the country level and consolidate the existing fragmented UN gender equality bodies into one single entity.

UN Member States have been asked to take action on the gender equality reform before the end of the current UN General Assembly, that is, by mid September 2009. The GEAR Campaign wants the UN Member States to adopt an effective resolution to create a new, single gender equality entity based on the composite model. In order to have a smooth transitional process, we would also want to see the Under Secretary-General who would lead the new entity to be chosen as soon as possible. It is also important to push governments to make concrete commitments to fund the new entity.

This is a good moment to get more involved in the GEAR Campaign. We will be asking the organizations supporting the Campaign to sign our next advocacy letters, and to use their connections at national level to talk about the GEAR process with their governments. Also individuals can participate. Our website www.un-gear.eu offers individual supporters the possibility to write to their governments.

Best regards,

European GEAR Campaign Working Group

News

CO-CHAIRS PAVING WAY FOR THE NEW GENDER EQUALITY ENTITY



[June 2009, New York] The Co-Chairs of the UN General Assembly are pushing the UN Member States to reach a decision on the creation of the new composite gender equality entity during the current General Assembly. In an “executive summary” released on 19th June they summarize the intergovernmental debates on the UN gender equality architecture reform and suggest possible ways forward.

In the coming weeks, the Co-Chairs will meet informally with delegations and regional groups in order to find common ground on questions that still remain open. One such issue is the funding of the new entity, and the balance between voluntary contributions from UN Member States and contributions from the UN regular budget. Another issue is the governance of the new entity and the form its Executive Board.

[\[Read the Executive Summary by the Co-Chairs\]](#)

NEW INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON GEAR – MEMBER STATES ASKING FOR RESOLUTION



[June 2009, New York] UN Member States gathered on Monday 8th June in another interactive meeting to discuss the details on the staffing and the organizational structure of the future gender equality entity. In the meeting the UN Secretariat presented a paper containing answers to the questions raised by the Member States in previous consultations.

The majority of Member States called for the composite entity, although some questions and doubts were raised. With regard to the next steps of the process, some Member States asked the Co-Chairs of the UN General Assembly to draft a resolution for establishing the new gender equality entity, and offered their help. The Co-Chairs agreed to write a summary and recommendations for the way forward.

[\[Read the presentation on the proposed organizational structure of the new gender entity\]](#)

DETAILS ABOUT THE STAFFING AND THE STRUCTURE OF THE GENDER ENTITY



[June 2009, New York] In response to the questions and requests raised by UN Member States when the gender equality reform was discussed in April, the UN Secretariat has released a paper with detailed information about the staffing, organizational structure and funding of the new entity.

The Secretariat estimates that as a composite entity, the gender equality entity would have a staff of 1049 persons, from whom almost 90% would be working in 5 regional and 50 country offices.

[\[Read the “Consolidated Response” paper\]](#)

HOW SHOULD CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATE?



[May 2009, New York] How civil society should participate in any intergovernmental processes is a complicated issue, and it is no different for the new gender equality architecture at the UN. The GEAR campaign has submitted its beliefs concerning what works and what doesn't. It draws upon models, such as

UNAIDS, to put forward its position for how civil society should participate in the governance of the new gender equality entity.

[\[Read the GEAR Campaign paper on civil society participation\]](#)

Take action!

ORGANISATIONS

Sign the upcoming advocacy letters of the European GEAR Campaign Working Group. In the coming months the European GEAR Working Group will engage in new lobbying activities. We will be asking you to participate in any upcoming activities.

Disseminate information about the GEAR Campaign. Let your members know about the GEAR Campaign and the European campaign website www.un-gear.eu. You can also advertise the Campaign in your newsletters.

Work more closely with the European GEAR Campaign Working Group. Contact the European GEAR Campaign coordinator (campaign@un-gear.eu) and ask how your organization could get more engaged in the Campaign at the European level.

Join the Global GEAR Campaign. Add your organization as a supporter of the Global GEAR Campaign by contacting (gearcampaign@gmail.com)

INDIVIDUALS

Contact your Government. Through the European GEAR Campaign website www.un-gear.eu you can send a letter on the UN gender equality reform to your Foreign Minister.

Disseminate information about the GEAR Campaign. Let your friends and colleagues know about the European GEAR Campaign and the European Campaign website.

