

Réseau de
Développement et de
Communication des
Femmes Africaines

African Women's
Development
and Communication
Network



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August 14, 2009

Hon. Minister Peter Siele
Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs,
Department of Women's Affairs - Botswana
Private Bag 002,
Gaborone, Botswana.

Dear **Hon. Minister Peter Siele,**

RE: Call on Botswana to Adopt the Resolution for the New UN Gender Equality Entity during the 64th General Assembly in September 2009

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

We are pleased to bring you an update on the efforts by the United Nations to reform the current structures that focus on gender equality and women's empowerment.

In September 2008, at the end of the 62nd session of the GA, 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 General Assembly 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 the government of Botswana through its representative at the 64th General Assembly Session, to

support the adoption of the Resolution to create a New, Strengthened and Consolidated gender entity based on the composite model.

We have enclosed a pamphlet containing details on the GEAR Campaign, including what the proposed entity will have, and why this is important for Africa. Also enclosed for your information are suggested key points for the resolution in the 64th General Assembly this September.

As African Member States prepare to commemorate 15 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, creating a structure for gender equality that is a stronger, well resourced and adequately represented body in the UN, will increase the capacity of African governments to meet their commitments to women's human rights instruments, the Millennium Development Goals, and to create an enabling environment for realizing women's rights in Africa.

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,



for / **Norah Matovu-Winyi**
Executive Director

On behalf of the GEAR Campaign in Africa