

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION OF UNDER-SECRETARY- GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN 'UN WOMEN'

The GEAR Campaign strongly believes in the need to ensure transparency in the appointment process of the Under-Secretary General (USG) for the newly created UN Women. The GEAR Campaign has stated that all qualified candidates must have a vision for and demonstrated commitment to meeting gender equality goals and securing women's human rights, and meet the following criteria:

1. Experience in and passion for working on gender equality and women's human rights and empowerment, with a demonstrated interest in engaging with civil society, and particularly women's organizations;
2. Thorough understanding of the needs and interests of women at the local grassroots, both in the Global South and North, with a successful track record of concrete impact in the field;
3. Demonstrated and recognized leadership and integrity, including:
 - Collaborative working style and ability to build positive relationships with a wide range of partners;
 - Visible record of public advocacy for gender equality and women's human rights and empowerment; and
 - Readiness to be outspoken and independent in fulfilling the entity's mandates;
4. Track record in fundraising and proven skills in the management of complex organizations and developing strategy accordingly in a creative and effective manner;
5. Politically astute and able to engage effectively with a wide range of actors in international negotiations.

In the spirit of contributing to the transparency and accountability to women worldwide of the USG selection process and to facilitate civil society access to the best possible information about the candidate's vision and goals for UN Women, the GEAR Campaign would like to invite the candidates being considered for this important position to publicly respond to the following questions (please send answers to gearcampaign@gmail.com):

1. What is your vision for UN Women? What do you think should be its key priorities? How will UN Women be a champion and strong driving force for gender mainstreaming, women's human rights and women's empowerment throughout the UN system?
2. Considering that UN Women is expected to become a powerful voice for women and girls at the global, regional and local levels, what mechanisms do you think the entity should put in place for consulting, supporting and ensuring the meaningful participation of civil society at large and women in all their diversity, particularly women's organizations from the grassroots to the international level?
3. Where would you like UN Women to be in ten years? What would you like to see at that time as its three main contributions to advancing gender equality, women's human rights, and women's empowerment?

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