

CIVIL SOCIETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UN WOMEN

Over the last months the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign has collected input from civil society organizations around the world. Below are recommendations received by early January which have been collated in the following groups: Priorities for UN Women in the first 100 Days, Calls for NGO involvement, and Beyond 100 days. The GEAR Campaign strongly advises UN Women to undertake a global consultation process with women’s rights groups worldwide to ensure that civil society expertise is recognized as being indispensable to designing the program of the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Please contact gearcampaign@gmail.com for further information.

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African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)	Africa	Norah Matuvo Winyi, director@femnet.or.ke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that human and financial resources make it possible for UN Women to deliver on its mandate quickly and efficiently. Define mechanisms for engagement with stakeholders, particularly African women's rights organizations. Guarantee fair representation of African women in top positions of UN Women. Guarantee fair representation of African women in developing regional programs. Create regional/national advisory committees that include women to set key agendas to respond to the unique needs of African women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN Women must take into account the views of African women and NGOs and stakeholders that represent this group: Support the statement from the 2010 Africa Feminist Forum on the UN Women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address and consider underlying causes of sustained inequality in all actions undertaken by UN Women. First five years focus on promoting African women’s economic rights, empowerment, peace and security for African women, and elimination of sexual and gender based violence. Remain committed to support and provide resources to African women's organizations and networks. Appoint at least 2 feminist economists with expertise working in Africa as part of a policy team tasked with designing alternative development models to fight poverty in Africa.
Al Mustaqbal Center for Women	Iraq	Zainab Sadeq, zainab_sadik@yahoo.com			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create centers, which aim to train disadvantaged women on a set of targeted vocational skills that will give

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					them the necessary expertise to enter the workplace and income-generating skills that will empower them and increase their economic independence.
Batool Welfare Trust (BWT)	Pakistan	Nazia Batool, bwtrwp@gmail.com		Engage with NGOs and CSOs as well as the private sector to discuss the work of UN Women at the national and local levels.	
Canadian Federation of University Women	Canada	Ardith Toogood, rtoogood@golden.net			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the Millennium Development Goals with an emphasis on: Primary education for all; Elimination of violence against women and girls; Women's economic sustainability (to eliminate poverty); Adequate food, clean water, shelter; Access to health care - with special emphasis on maternal and child health, combating HIV/AIDS, and universal access to vaccinations and mosquito nets to eliminate the spread of disease. Implement UNSCRs 1325, 1820, 1882, 1888 and 1889 on peace and security for women and girls. Focus on the achievement of the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW with attention to leadership development for women.
Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL)	United States of America	Natalia Cardona, ncardona@rcitgers.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the analytical capacity and practical programming to support governments in meeting economic and social rights obligations. Support women's organizations in holding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a civil society taskforce made up of thematic and regional experts that provide expertise on economic and social rights is well within the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on addressing economic and social rights of women and girls in the aftermath of the global economic crisis. Address women and girls' access to

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			<p>governments accountable for the way in which governments design and implement economic policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand its programming in economic and social rights by creating expert programming units at the global, regional and national level. • At the global level an expert group of economists (at least five) should be developed to advise on economic and social rights programming. • Regional and national bodies should include economists in their staff and programming. 	<p>parameters of UN mechanisms and would be beneficial to the development of an economic and social rights unit within UN Women.</p>	<p>education and training, as well as the promotion of women's equal access to employment and decent work.</p>
Declaration from the Cairo UN Global Conference on “Women and the 21 Century-Feminist Alternatives”	Middle East and North Africa	Boriana Jönsson, boriana_j@tele2.se	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a 30% gender quota globally to ensure political participation as a democratic demand and as a way to transform patriarchy and decrease militarism. • Develop global measures to stop violence against women • Raise the issue of social tolerance • Do not compromise women’s rights in the name of tradition, culture or religion and separation of religion from state, public and legislation is a precondition for that. • Set gender equality and women’s rights urgently on the political agendas. 		
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)	International	Anita Nayar, a.u.nayar@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form Independent Thematic Experts (ITE) from civil society appointed by the head of UN Women to examine a specific issue or situation and whose report will be made available to governments 		

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			<p>(country level) and submitted to the Executive Board (global level). ITEs would have the right to communicate with relevant State and civil society actors directly or by participating in seminars, conferences, expert meetings in order to identify critical concerns, gaps and policy recommendations related to the issue/situation s/he is investigating. ITE's would be administratively supported by UN Women and serve as a link between CSO Thematic Working Groups (see below) and the Executive Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Thematic Working Groups (TWG) at the global and regional levels as a mechanism to ensure that CSO expertise/voices shape UN Women's programme development and implementation. Instead of having one general working group at the global and regional levels, we feel it would be more fruitful to have thematic working groups that can substantively engage with UN Women programme staff at the global and regional levels. These could be for example on economics, SRHR, VAW, etc. Regional TWGs would link to CSOs at the country level while Global TWGs would link to both regional and country level CSOs. • Appoint a non-voting member with consultation from civil society on the Executive Board as an important foothold in the overall governance of UN Women. 		

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<p>ECLAC/CEPAL NGO Beijing +15 Regional Meeting Statement</p>	<p>Latin America and the Caribbean</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create formal and transparent mechanisms for meaningful and systematic participation of civil society, particularly feminist and women’s organizations, at all levels and in all the areas of work of UN Women. Assure that the governance structure of UN Women will have civil society advisory and consultation bodies, particularly with feminist and women’s organizations, at the global, regional and national levels. All CSO participation mechanisms should play an effective role in decision-making by the Executive Board of the entity. CSO advisory and consultation bodies should have clear and adequate allocation of resources to ensure their effective participation. 	

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Federation of Women Municipalists (FEMUM/Latin American and Caribbean)	Peru	Olenka Ochoa olenka.ochoa@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent femicide. • Prevent sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls. • Promote a healthy budget and investment into women's issues. • Promote women and girls' rights to education and health. • Promote security for women and girls in cities and urban settings. • Work with the Security Council on issues of peace and security, as well as conflict and post-conflict situations which pertain to women - establish the presence of UN Women within the Security Council. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance women's protection in public spaces. • Ensure safety in urban areas.
Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)	Latin America and the Caribbean	Mabel Bianco, feim@feim.org.ar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a large Forum at the 55th CSW with diverse women's organizations worldwide to hear their needs. • Organize well publicized meetings with heads of United Nations Agencies to establish agreements. Request the participation of women who work on or are affected by the issue. For example, if UN Women will become a co-sponsor of UNAIDS, promote that women affected by and living with HIV are present and speak at the session. • Sign working agreements with women's organizations to give visibility and incorporate their voices and perspectives. • Appoint ambassadors of UN Women and name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Global and Regional Advisory Committees. • Call on governments to incorporate women's organizations in the official delegations at all UN meetings. • Promote consultations with women's groups about issues that will be addressed by the Board, incorporate the opinions of these organizations when speaking with governments, and state these agreements publicly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When visiting countries always organize broad meetings inviting all and the most diverse women's organizations. • Seek the opinions of women's organizations and include contribution in speeches, statements and commentaries.

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			indigenous women, adolescents and young women, women living with HIV, among others, and always in representation of the most marginalized women.		
GEAR Campaign	International	gearcampaign@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold dynamic Public forums or Hearings for UN Women to listen to and exchange with NGOs from around the world during the CSW and at key regional UN events. • Full participation on the Executive Board governing UN Women: UN Women's first board meeting should include representatives of civil society as non-voting members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of civil society advisory councils at the country, regional and global levels – these bodies could be made up of thematic experts as well as other stakeholders. • Appoint Independent Thematic Experts (ITEs) from civil society to act as advisors in examining specific issues and situations pertaining to women's rights. The ITE reports would be made available at country, regional, and global levels and submitted to the Executive Board. ITEs should communicate directly with relevant State and civil society actors and identify critical concerns, gaps and policy recommendations related to the issue/situation s/he is investigating. ITE's need to be administratively supported by UN Women and can serve as a link between CSO Thematic Working Groups and the Executive Board. • The establishment of Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) at the global 	

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				and regional levels as accountability mechanisms to ensure that CSO expertise/voices shape UN Women's program development, allocation, and implementation.	
Girl Child Network Worldwide	United Kingdom	Hazviperi Betty Makoni(Muzvare), ceo@girlchildnetworkworldwide.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the empowerment of girls in the home, school and community as a foundation stage to women walking in the fullness of their potential. • Identify and support girls who are at risk of, or who have survived gender based violence globally. • Support and promote girls' access to education, and support the learning and growth of individual girls. • Combat economic and social inequality so as to minimize gender based violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with organizations and networks to speak out at key international gatherings and policy-making forums to highlight issues challenging girls worldwide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Empowerment Villages to provide medical, legal and educational services, as well as access to police protection to victims of sexual violence. • Follow the Girl Child Empowerment Model (developed in Zimbabwe). • Address access and cost of menstrual pads. • Eliminate church organized child marriages now and increase educational access for girls.
GRAIFA, Group to support women's empowerment initiatives	Democratic Republic of Congo	Hermine Kasongo, graifa.ngo@gmail.com			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine challenges and barriers to bridge the gap in the implementation of policies, programs and legal protocols relating to gender violence;
Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)	India	Kusum Jain, kjgbs@rediffmail.com, gbsbsk@sancharnet.in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness and education for rural women on women's rights, human rights, reproductive and sexual health and rights. • Establish a system for monitoring and evaluating the activities of UN Women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve NGOs in implementation at the community level. • Nominate NGOs to form monitoring committees of UN Women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create partnerships between UN Women and NGOs and community leaders especially rural women.

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Huairou Commission	International	Pamela Ransom rpransom@aol.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form an Advisory Board on implementing the MDG Goals to include the voices of women's grassroots leaders in providing important policy guidance on a range of issues. • Bringing together 50 grassroots women leaders to discuss strategies to participate in development processes at the 55th CSW. • Chair CSW parallel event that will focus on grassroots women vision for UN Women. • Broaden thematic work by having dialogues to strengthen the focus of the agency to the full range of issues that matter to poor women including land and property, climate change, community resilience, food and basic services. • Ensure that grassroots women play a highly visible role in the ongoing thematic work of the body. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give support and visibility to women-led, specifically grassroots, participatory research processes and create an office, committee or program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that not only home based caregivers play a lead role in the formation of UN Women's response to the HIV/ AIDS issue but that strategies for ongoing consultation occur.
HelpAge International	International	Bridget Sleap bsleap@helpage.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint dedicated staff to women and ageing, consolidate existing research, identify gaps, and commission new research on this topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that civil society organizations working on women and ageing have a voice in setting UN Women's priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a comprehensive report on older women's issues setting a policy agenda for the next 10 years.

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International Peace Bureau	International	Ingeborg Breines, i.breines@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put disarmament, anti-militarism and peacemaking at the forefront the agenda. Cooperate closely with the rest of the UN system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate closely with civil society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspire new global commitment to gender equality (in combination with a commitment to sustainable development and peace). Provide good quality and regular statistics on gender equality and women's empowerment. Bring about a fifth World Conference on Women (with a focus on the implementation of gender equality, and on how to advance the empowerment of women).
International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP)	International	Ann Campbell, iwaraw-ap@iwrav-ap.org, iwrav_ap@yahoo.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frame CEDAW as the cornerstone of UN Women's operational and policy structures. Consider the inter-related, inter-dependent and mutually re-enforcing nature of the relationship between CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action when creating its operational structures. Use CEDAW as the normative framework when implementing its mandate. Convene a meeting of the Executive Board within the first 100 days - in order to publically clarify and set out the principles and standards which will act as a framework for" UN Women's work. Release a substantive statement outlining the priorities of UN Women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a concrete mechanism and permanent institutional procedure for engaging with and seeking input from NGOs and civil society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to human rights, substantive equality and non-discrimination as its principles. Set standards and instruments, including CEDAW that will underpin its work. Define standard setting function of UN Women at the international, regional and national levels. Decide mechanisms for interaction and integration with other UN agencies at all levels and define its authority will be in that context. Develop capacity building and monitoring functions. Mainstream its framework principles through the UN system.

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Pakistani Rights Activists (Civil Society Alliance on UN Women) International Peace Bureau	Pakistan	Maria Rashid, maria_72_98@yahoo.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop adequate institutional and financial arrangements. Promote effective and quality leadership (at all levels) with special attention paid to appointments made with regional/sub-regional representation, and expertise in women's rights and issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define its vision, mission, mandate and operational focus with the input of civil society and other stakeholders in all matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all investments and programs benefit women and contribute to sustainable development Eliminate anti-women and anti-poor policies, instead of partnering with the Bretton Woods institutions/ IFIs to promote such negative policies. Staffing at regional level should reflect the unique concerns of women in the region. Assessments and mapping must be conducted to determine specific needs and exercises and regional mandates should not deviate from the overall norms and standards of the global level. Country level offices must have a senior-level country representative and national-level assessments. Country level offices must be adequately resourced (multi-year funding for country programs).

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Joint Statement: Pathways to Peace, Women's Intercultural Network, Women's World Summit Foundation	Switzerland	Jean Shinoda Bolen , jsbolen@gte.net ; Elly Pradervand, wwsf@wwsf.ch; Avon Mattison , avonm@pathwa ystopeace.org ; Marilyn Fowler, win@win- cawa.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for a UN NGO 5th World Conference on Women (5WCW) and advance the priorities set in convening such a conference. 		
UN Women's Circle Campaign	United States of America	Ann Smith, annasmith@emb arqmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-create a two-way Internet communications system between grassroots women and girls and UN Women for best practices and resource sharing. Endorse the Circle Campaign to make local women and girls the official capacity to be taken seriously as major stakeholders in their communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of indicators to monitor and measure progress should be formulated with UN Women's Circle Campaign and all existing UN NGOs to ensure relevance. Regional and national Advisory Committees should be made up of grassroots representatives, meeting in a "circle setting" that empowers their voices to be heard and utilizes their active participation in carrying out solutions where they live. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect leadership from grassroots to the United Nations
Women's Empowerment Foundation Southern Africa	South Africa	Edinah Masanga, edna@wef.org.za	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a strong network and safe space for female journalists in Southern Africa that will advocate for them and offer support and protection while fighting for equality in the newsrooms. Develop media and grassroots women programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise civil society voices to expose pressing issues related to women, gender and the media. Speak out to highlight issues challenging female journalists in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take proactive action against media houses cited as unfair to women. Develop empowerment training modules for female journalists. Increase access and visibility of

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				Southern African and how this is impacting grassroots women.	<p>marginalized voices of community based women in the media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the coverage of women's gender related experiences in the media.
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)	International	Rachel Harris, Rachel@wedo.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt sustainable development as a an area where gender synergies can be supported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with civil society, especially women's organizations, at national level where sustainable development conventions are being implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing the gender component to the forefront of sustainable development at Rio+20 in 2012.