



# GEAR UP!

## Civil Society and UN Women Moving Forward Together

The GEAR Campaign seeks to ensure that UN Women is both accountable to and informed by civil society, especially women's organizations, through the establishment of mechanisms that include meaningful participation at headquarters and at the regional and country level. Women's NGOs are best placed to provide programming and policy expertise on how the UN and governments can advance women's human rights and achieve gender equality. Bringing in diverse women's voices, including grass roots women, and building on this experience is critical to UN Women's success and sustainability at all levels.

**Moving forward, the GEAR Campaign calls for the systematic and meaningful participation of civil society, particularly women's groups, in UN Women through:**

- 1. The designation of dedicated UN Women staff /units to liaise with civil society at all levels – global, regional, and national.** It is essential to have women's voices heard in order for UN Women to fulfill its mandate and be accountable to the people it is trying to serve.
- 2. The creation of civil society advisory councils at the country, regional and global levels** – these bodies should include diverse representatives of civil society and can be thematic experts as well as other stakeholders.
- 3. The establishment of Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)** at the global and regional levels as accountability mechanisms to ensure that CSO expertise/voices shape UN Women's program development, allocation, and implementation.
- 4. The appointment of Independent Thematic Experts (ITEs) from civil society to act as advisors in examining specific issues and situations pertaining to women's rights.** ITEs need to be administratively supported by UN Women and can serve as a link between CSO Thematic Working Groups and the Executive Board.
- 5. 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.**
- 6. Full participation on the Executive Board governing UN Women.**



## Additional Note on Funding

### **AIM FOR \$1 BILLION IN FUNDING AND MEET COMMITMENT TO “CORE, MULTI-YEAR, PREDICTABLE, STABLE AND SUSTAINABLE” CONTRIBUTIONS**

To enable the entity to be effective, member states should pledge core, predictable, and multi-year voluntary funds now. The US \$500 million proposed in the UN Secretary-General’s comprehensive proposal of January 2010 (A/64/588) can only be understood as resources for the initial year.

A commitment to grow to \$US1 billion and beyond over time is essential; one billion represents less than 0.5% of the expenses of all UN agencies in 2008. The founding resolution for UN Women gives Member states a responsibility to make their contributions predictable and multi-year to best support the viability of its work. At the January 2011 Executive Board meeting several governments made commitments to give money to UN Women. We urge governments to keep their promises in order to meet the US \$1 billion and beyond goal.