

The proposed merger is not just an economic issue but also a human rights issue.

Protecting and promoting women's rights is of paramount importance and there is no economic way to quantify that value.

The word "Women" on a separate UN agency should not disappear. This is a matter of principle - women should not be erased, nor reduced to reproductive vessels. We fear that UN Women is an easy target for male cost-cutters.

Moreover, the mandates and operations of UN Women and UNFPA are vastly different and would, in practice, be difficult to merge without harm to both organizations.

The eventual entity for women should have a civil society advisory board - there should be more, not less, space for women's voices from civil society.