



WOMEN'S FEDERATION

FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL

NGO in General Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC

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Statement of the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI) on the Proposed Structural Merger of UN Women and UNFPA

**To: His Excellency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations
Copy to UN Women, Government Missions**

Subject: Preserving the Independent Mandate of UN Women while Advancing United Nations Reform, Institutional Balance, and Coordinated Delivery

The Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI), a non-governmental organization in General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) representing 128 national chapters, respectfully submits this statement in response to the ongoing consideration, under the UN80 Initiative, of a possible structural merger between the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Affirming its support for the continuing efforts of the United Nations to enhance efficiency, accountability, coherence, and institutional effectiveness, WFWPI recognizes the importance of responsible reform at a time of financial constraint, growing humanitarian needs, and increasing demands upon the multilateral system.

Such reform should, however, be guided not solely by administrative considerations, but also by the protection of internationally agreed mandates, continuity of essential services, and measurable improvements in the lives of women, girls, families, and communities.

In alignment with these principles, WFWPI expresses reservations regarding a structural merger and recommends that UN Women remain a separate, visible, and adequately resourced United Nations entity. As the two entities perform distinct but complementary functions, merging with UNFPA would likely subordinate a broad gender equality mandate to a highly specialized reproductive health agency.

Revisiting the UN Women Mandate

WFWPI would like to revisit the mandate of UN Women. It was created as an independent entity in 2010, through UN General Assembly Resolution 64/289, to give gender equality its own

visibility, and to provide coordinative, operational, and normative capacity, after years in which the issue was dispersed across several UN structures. UN Women works at the national, regional, and global levels with gender ministries and feminist and gender equality organizations.

The UNFPA, meanwhile, works mainly at the national level with ministries of health and planning, demographers, and sexual and reproductive health and rights organizations. It focuses on reproductive health services and data collection.

In the NGO CSW-Geneva information paper, it has been mentioned that “consolidating UN Women with a broader health-focused agency would erase its mandate to monitor, defend, and advance gender equality - leaving the UN without a dedicated voice to confront threats to women’s and girls’ rights.”

From WFWPI’s perspective, if UN Women disappears as an independent agency, the word “women” will no longer exist in any dedicated UN entity. Women’s equality stops being a visible institutional pillar and becomes just one component of a broader agenda.

Resolution 64/289 deliberately created UN Women because Member States concluded that previous fragmentation across four entities had weakened the UN’s ability to advance gender equality.

If UN Women is merged into a larger structure, it will derail ongoing mandated programs on women’s leadership and participation in public life, women’s economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, and women, peace, and security alongside humanitarian action.

Furthermore, UN Women is an integral actor in the achievement of 2030 Agenda of the Beijing Platform for Action and remains a comprehensive foundation for advancing women’s participation and well-being across education, economic life, decision-making, peace and security, protection from violence, health, environmental stewardship, and institutional development.

In this regard, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action should remain a principal anchor of UN Women’s mandate. Its twelve critical areas of concern: women and poverty; education and training; health; violence against women; armed conflict; the economy; power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms; human rights; the media; the environment; and the girl child - provided a comprehensive framework that brought strategic alignment and solidarity to women advocacy and partnerships.

Recommendations

- I. In the spirit of constructive reform, WFWPI proposes an alternative model of enhanced coordination without structural merger, including:
- II. Joint policy frameworks and coordinated country-level programming where mandates intersect; reducing duplication across departments;
- III. Shared administrative services, including facilities, procurement, information technology, human resources, and appropriate financial systems;
- IV. Integrated data collection, interoperable monitoring and evaluation, and shared evidence platforms; and
- V. Joint funding mechanisms for specific programs, while retaining separate mandates, governance, executive leadership, and institutional identities.

Institutional Renewal for UN Women

WFWPI respectfully encourages UN Women to ensure that its public communications and policy advocacy remain balanced, inclusive, and firmly grounded in intergovernmental agreed frameworks to empower women and girls.

To sustain its distinct entity, WFWPI seeks for UN Women undergo an institutional renewal. UN Women is encouraged to strengthen credibility, trust, and effectiveness through inclusive consultation with Member States and diverse civil society organizations and local communities; clear, consistent, and balanced communication; rigorous accountability; and programming responsive to differing national, cultural, and religious contexts.

Women must continue to be recognized as equal partners in all areas of society, while women's empowerment, family well-being, the education and protection of children, and constructive partnership between women and men are advanced as mutually reinforcing objectives.

Keeping UN Women as a distinct entity will ensure that women are not merely beneficiaries of policy or variables within demographic projections, but actors with inherent dignity as mothers, leaders, decision-makers, and equal partners in the development of society.

Affirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, the Beijing Platform for Action, and women's essential leadership for a culture of sustainable peace, WFWPI respectfully calls for preserving UN Women as an independent entity and commits to strengthening the institution.