

**Recommendations on the Proposed Structural Merger of UN Women and UNFPA:
Preserving the Independent Mandate of UN Women
While Advancing System-Wide Reform**

Constructive options raised through NGO CSW Geneva's consultations include:

- Strengthening UN Women's field mandate and operational capacity, enabling it to translate its normative mandate more effectively into country-level action.
- Ensuring meaningful and structured civil society participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of reforms, including civil society on any governance Boards.
- Strengthening national gender data systems, including the collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated and gender-responsive data to inform policy and investment.
- Establishing a standing joint UN Women - UNFPA board or coordination mechanism to identify shared priorities, improve strategic alignment and monitor joint delivery.
- Strengthening coordination without consolidation, including joint programming, shared services where appropriate, common procurement or administrative efficiencies, and stronger inter-agency accountability.
- Improving system-wide gender mainstreaming so that all UN entities integrate gender equality into their policies, programs, budgets and accountability frameworks.
- Establishing a standing committee with rotating civil society, government, and UN Women representatives to bridge differing priorities, align strategic visions, and foster institutional transparency and trust.

These approaches can deliver greater coherence and efficiency while preserving the distinct mandates, expertise and visibility of complementary entities.