

Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

***Forty-seventh session
4 to 22 October 2010***

***Statement Welcoming the Establishment of UN Women
(Adopted on 20 October 2010)***

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the Committee) wishes to welcome the creation of UN Women as a new entity to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide. Its establishment is both timely and relevant for the strengthening and mainstreaming of gender issues in the United Nations system.

UN Women represents a clear recognition of the centrality of women's advancement and gender equality for the United Nations. It gives greater visibility to these key objectives and brings the integrated treatment of gender issues in the United Nations system closer to reality. Gender equality is not only a basic human right, its achievement is a key factor for socio-economic development, security and peace.

The Committee is very pleased with the appointment of former President of Chile Michelle Bachelet to lead UN Women. Her internationally recognized commitment to the substantive equality of women, and her personal and professional qualifications are an assurance that the new entity will be under the most competent and highest level leadership.

UN Women will have a key role in helping Member States to implement global standards and norms for the protection of women. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the Convention) provides a universal and comprehensive international human rights framework for the protection and advancement of women, and the Committee monitors its implementation by the States parties. Furthermore, the Committee through its Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the Optional Protocol) receives complaints from individuals or groups and undertakes inquiries with respect to grave or systematic violations of rights under the Convention.

The Committee trusts that the establishment of UN Women will serve to bolster the role played by the Committee and serve as an inspiration and an additional incentive for the universal ratification of the Convention and its Optional Protocol.

The Committee considers that it is crucial to create and develop strong links between UN Women and the Committee, and looks forward to establishing close cooperation with UN Women to contribute to furthering progress in achieving gender equality and women's advancement, thus both enhancing their work and strengthening synergies within the United Nations system.
