

Swiss Committee for UNIFEM

Media release

UN Women – more jobs, more funding, more effectiveness

Two core goals will be reached thanks to the fusion of four separate organisations – among them UNIFEM – to form the organisational entity UN Women. Firstly, our global commitment to foster equal opportunities and combat discrimination against women is strengthened. Secondly, the reform process at the United Nations continues apace. Concurrent to the reorganisation, the financial contributions made by UNO member states are due to be significantly raised. Switzerland's engagement is also sought for.

The creation of the new organisational entity UN Women is part of the process of reform at the United Nations that Switzerland also strongly backs. UN Women should be up and running at the start of 2011, tackling discrimination against women and helping strengthen women's standing in a reinforced and targeted way. The fact that the post of head of operations is filled by a person of the rank of under general secretary emphasises the organisation's heightened importance within the wider UNO system.

UN Women in Switzerland

UNIFEM, the UN Development Fund for Women, is the largest of the four organisations to bring its practical expertise to UN Women. Previous UNIFEM projects will be continued under the new organisation. For years now, UNIFEM has also been represented in Switzerland through its national committee, which deals with information work and supports projects combating violence against women in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

More funds needed – also from Switzerland

So that UN Women can fulfil its many various tasks, its budget is being raised as part of the reorganisation progress. Both direct UNO funding and higher contributions from member states are due. The Swiss Committee for UNIFEM hopes that Switzerland will also top up its previously humble contribution to the fund.

www.unwomen.org | www.unifem.ch

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