



MESSAGE FROM THE IFUW PRESIDENT

Gender Architecture reforms have passed!! Remember at the IFUW Conference in Manchester, we adopted an emergency resolution to support the GEAR (GENDER ARCHITECTURE) proposal? The GEAR campaign was calling for the creation of a single women's agency within the United Nations. Our resolution stressed the need both for the creation of the agency and for regular sustainable funding and the resources and mandate to initiate and operate programmes at the country level. It has taken the UN and governments three years to move forward this reform process. Finally on the 14th of September 2009 the General Assembly passed a resolution enabling the creation of one new gender equality entity and giving the UN Secretary General the power to appoint an Under Secretary General to lead the new body. No doubt at the next Commission on the Status of Women [CSW] in March 2010 there will be more talk and encouragement to get on with making the necessary changes. Ongoing participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society will be essential to make sure there are good governance mechanisms and oversight, a reasonable budget agreed to by donor countries to support a strong field operation and a clear outline plan of progress to be made within time frames. It is certainly appropriate that the Beijing +15 review takes place at the same time as many governments and other sectors have to improve their progress in areas of gender equality and human rights for women and girls. IFUW NFAs should urge their governments to support the next steps in the GEAR process, including pledging the necessary funds.

Louise Croot, IFUW President

To view the full message: <http://www.ifuw.org/memcorner/2009messagepresident1111.shtml>

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE IFUW BOARD AND COMMITTEES - DEADLINE 5 FEBRUARY 2010

IFUW national federations and associations (NFAs) are invited to nominate qualified candidates for the IFUW Board of Officers and Standing Committees for 2010-2013. IFUW seeks a diverse leadership representing different ages and geographic regions to fill key roles implementing policy, developing programme and giving direction to the Federation. Members with vision, energy and commitment are encouraged to stand. Elections will take place at the 30th IFUW Conference in Mexico City in August 2010. If interested, please contact your national president or CIR.

For full details of the positions available and the nomination process -

<http://www.ifuw.org/nominations/index.shtml> or see the separate documents below

Call for Nominations - <http://www.ifuw.org/nominations/call.pdf>

Nomination Form - http://www.ifuw.org/nominations/form_distributed.pdf

Candidate Instructions - <http://www.ifuw.org/nominations/candidates.pdf>

Board and Committee Descriptions - <http://www.ifuw.org/nominations/descriptions.pdf>

Candidate Biodata Forms - <http://www.ifuw.org/nominations/candidates.shtml>

Flyer: <http://www.ifuw.org/nominations/flyer.pdf>

IFUW BLOG: WOMEN AND PEACE-BUILDING

The new IFUW Blog is looking at Women and Peace-Building. Nearly nine years have passed since Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security was adopted, but to date only 16 countries have developed national action plans: Austria, Belgium, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Liberia, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has urged all Member States to adopt national

action plans before the 10th anniversary of the resolution next year. He also urged Member States to address a wide range of women's needs, for greater physical security, better socio-economic conditions through education, income generating activities, access to health services and access to justice. What steps have been taken in your country towards implementing resolution 1325? What are the barriers to promoting women's role as peace builders?

To view the full blog or comment: <http://www.ifuw-forums.org/blog/2009/11/11/women-and-peace-building/>

UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE ELECTS FIRST WOMAN DIRECTOR-GENERAL

In October the UNESCO General Conference elected Irina Bokova, of Bulgaria to the head the organization. In her opening statement she spoke of responsibilities in a world conditioned by an economic, social and environmental crisis. She stressed that she does not believe in the clash of civilisations and will favour multicultural dialogue and tolerance. In her vision statement, UNESCO in a Globalized World: New Humanism for the 21st century, she states that "the greatest challenge is to lead the world into a new era of peace and humanism, to create more inclusive, just, and equitable societies through sustainable economic and social development, based on science, innovation and new technologies that will serve mankind and will preserve the environment." Gender equality and education for sustainable development are both high on her agenda. In a speech to the UNESCO Executive Board's Committee on Non-governmental Organizations, IFUW's representative Françoise Sauvage called for greater NGO involvement in helping to define UNESCO's policies and priorities. IFUW has congratulated Ms Bokova and looks forward to continue and strengthen our close partnership with UNESCO under her mandate.

Françoise Sauvage, IFUW Representative to UNESCO

Full article on New Director General - <http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/archive/2009/2009-irina.shtml>

Irina Bokova's personal website - <http://www.bokova.eu/>

Full report on the UNESCO General Conference - <http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/reports/2009-UNESCO-General-Conference.pdf>

Statement to the UNESCO Executive Board's Committee on NGOs (English) -

<http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/statements/2009-UNESCO-Intervention-Sauvage-eng-Sept09.pdf>

Statement to the UNESCO Executive Board's Committee on NGOs (French) -

<http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/statements/2009-UNESCO-Intervention-Sauvage-Sept09.pdf>