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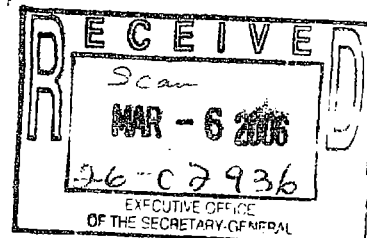
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ACTION KSK
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The Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations, S-3800
New York, NY 10017

Dear Honorable Kofi Annan,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the work you have done in advancing the UN Reform agenda. The undersigned organizations have initiated the attached letter on Women and UN Reform addressed to your office and to Member States. This has been endorsed by a number of non-governmental organizations worldwide.

The initiating organizations would like to request a meeting with your office to discuss the issues in the attached letter at the earliest possible time following this 50th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you and to hearing from you on the issues we have raised in your address to the CSW on International Women's Day.

Jill Sternberg, Director of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (UN Office) can be contacted on 212-682-1265 or jill@wilpf.ch to arrange a meeting or for further information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL)
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF)
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
The NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGOCSW)

MAY 24 2006

RC
pls. consult
Rachel's office
& get the
advise. Y/M 27/3

LD
do not forget
to send the letter
to the CSW
for the 50th session

ROUTING SLIP

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO:		
A: <i>Johannes Meugisha</i>		
FROM:		
DE:		
Room No. - No de Bureau	Extension - Poste	Date
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS - NOUS EN PARLER?
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

Johannes,

*This needs your
comments and
suggestions since you
are the guide focal
point*

Am Buel

23-03-06

COM.6 (12-78)

ROUTING SLIP

FICHE DE TRANSMISSION

TO:		
A: <i>Alvair Barrena</i>		
FROM:		
DE: <i>Am Pissini</i>		
Room No. - No de Bureau	Extension - Poste	Date <i>22/3</i>
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS - NOUS EN PARLER?
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

*Your advice please -
Should this be
recommended to
the SG?*

COM.6 (12-78)

**An Open Letter on Women & UN Reform to the Secretary General and Member States
from NGOs present at the 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

For more than six decades, women's groups and others from around the world have been strong supporters of the United Nations. We have actively shaped the UN's work on peace, human rights, development, security and environmental issues, and, of course, on gender equality. The UN is at a critical juncture. In the 2005 World Summit, women's organizations successfully advocated for greater commitments on gender equality and expected to see these commitments implemented in the UN reform follow-up.

We are disappointed and frankly outraged that gender equality and strengthening the women's machineries within the UN system are barely noted, and are not addressed as a central part of the reform agenda. Again, we must ask how it can be that more than ten years after the commitment to gender parity at the Beijing Conference, the UN is still offering only token representation of women on critical committees, high level expert panels and in senior positions within the organization.

Women welcomed Paragraph 59 in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, in which governments undertook to "strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender." This commitment made by world leaders will not be met unless gender equality issues and women's machineries are an integral part of the UN reform process. Mechanisms and processes dealing with UN reform have failed to display a consistent and visible commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. For example, the new High-Level Panel on UN system-wide coherence in areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment has only 3 women out of 15 members. We urge that additional women be added to the panel and that gender equality issues be explicitly considered under each theme. Furthermore, the panel should be mandated to hold consultations with civil society groups, especially those working on women's rights, in order to ensure consideration of the impact on women of any proposed reforms.

Women's groups call for serious consideration to be given to the implications of the current reforms on the women's equality agenda. We reiterate the call made at Beijing +10 and the 2005 World Summit for the Secretary General and Member States to significantly strengthen, upgrade and better resource the systems and mechanisms, including the UN women's machineries, through which gender equality can be advanced at the international and country level. This could be a lasting legacy.

In addition, we are deeply concerned that the position of women in high-level UN posts has stagnated. For example, the list of candidates for the position of the executive director of UNEP contains no women at all. This is unacceptable. At the very least, the UN should set an example of gender balance in all high-level decision making positions.

The pattern of publicly adopted commitments and statements followed by lack of implementation sets a disheartening precedent which retards the work and reputation of the United Nations and impedes the urgently-needed progress of gender equality worldwide. We urge you to take the opportunity in your address to the CSW on International Women's Day to announce concrete proposals for advancing gender equality and strengthening women's machineries in the context of UN reform. In addition, we urge Member States to explicitly address gender equality concerns in all aspects of UN reform.

March 6, 2006

The following organizations have initiated the statement on UN reform and sign-on process:

Center for Women's Global Leadership

Women's Environment and Development Organization

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

NGO Committee on the Status of Women

Signatories to the Open Letter on Women & UN Reform

March 2006

NAME	ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY
June Zeitlin	WEDO	USA
Doris Mpoumou	WEDO	Congo
Charlotte Bunch	Center for Women's Global Leadership	USA
Cynthia Rothschild	Center for Women's Global Leadership	USA
Bani Dugal	Baha'i	USA
Samantha Cook	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	Intl
Ana Gilet	African Women's Advocacy Unit	Australia
Soap Gure	Women's Solidarity Foundation	Turkey
Eva Richter	Int'l Fed. of Business & Professional Women	
Behjat-Dehghan	Assoc. of Int'l Women for Human Rights	USA
Sayoko Kigamura	Japan Federation of Bar Association	Japan
Mayumi Tani	Japan Federation of Bar Association	Japan
Ingunn Birkeland	Assoc. Country Women of the World	Norway
Ursula Goh	Assoc. Country Women of the World	UK
Ruth Manorama	National Alliance of Women, India	India
Hiroko Hara	Japan Women's Watch Kitakyu Forum on Asian Women	Japan
Pawadee Tonguthai	Thai Women Watch	Thailand
	Asia Pacific Women's Watch	
Carole Shaw	Australian National Committee on Refugee Women	Australia
	Women's International League for Peace & Freedom	
Melanie Stuart	The Women's Equity Council	
Lydia Alpizar Duran	Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)	
Edite Usinina	European Women's Lobby	Latvia
Rosa Logar	WAVE Network (Women Against Violence Europe)	Austria
Mavic Cabrera Balleza	International Women's Tribunal Centre	
Patricia Lopez	Association de Mujeres Contra de Violencia	Portugal
Alina Zader	WAVE	Austria
Ceri Hayes	Womankind Worldwide	UK
Suzanne Kindervatter	Commission on the Advancement of Women/Interaction	USA
Mayumi Oka	Asian Women's Fund	Japan
Muriel Smith	National Council of women of Canada	Canada
Nayyar Javed	Fafia Canada	Canada
Camille Macdonald-Polsk	VGIF	USA
Dorothy Meyer	IFUW	New Zealand
Maria Anjvera	Femvision	Spain
Marianne Seger	EURAG	Austria
Hillevi Perraudin	IFUW	Switzerland
Marisa Paschand	IFUW	Switzerland
Lily Hutjen	Huairou Commission	USA/Netherlands
Joon Ferrier	E-Quality	Netherlands
Una Hourbrecher	World Council of .../Bread for the World	Germany
Anita Pulier	WILPF	USA
Tokiko Kato	Japanese Assoc. of Int'l Women's Rights	Japan

Total number of signatories: 205

Total number of countries: 52

Signatories to the Open Letter on Women & UN Reform

March 2006

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>
Rosangela Oliveira	WFMCUW	USA
Rosy Weiss	Int'l Alliance of Women	Austria
Bonnie Diamond	Match International	Canada
Teresita Hennegan	Medical Mission Sisters	USA
Elisabeth Riedl	WFWPI	Austria
Julianne C. Traylor	Human Rights Advocates	USA
Am Hasity	Peace Linkage	USA
Peg Linneham	The Grail	USA
Aningine Tshefu	Congolese Women's Caucus	Dem. Rep. Of Congo
Christine Wiith	FOKUS	Norway
Anje Wiersinja	Vronkwenbelangen	Netherlands
Renee Gerard	CLEF	France
Monique Bouaziz	CEFW	France
Levy Danielle	CEFW	France
Henrotte Forsberg	EWL	Belgium
Shannon Kowalski	Family Care International	USA
Annelie Wensing	World Population Foundation	Netherlands
Faysal Elkak	Family Planning	Lebanon
Pinar Ilkkaacan	WWHR-New Ways	Turkey
Mabel Poianco	Foundation for Studies & Research on Women	Argentina
Marisa Atchison	International Women's Health Coalition	Brazil
Zonny Woods	International Women's Health Coalition	Canada
Grace Sedlo	Int'l Comm. Of Women Living with HIV/AIDS	Botswana
Wanda Nowicka	Fed. For Women & Family Planning	Poland
Sepali Kottegododa	The Women & Media Collective	Sri Lanka
Jean Gallon	Maryknoll office for global concerns	USA
Clare Nolan	Congregation of our lady of charity of the good Shepard	Intl
Anamah Tan	International Council of Women	Intl
Iryna Kurowyckyj	International Council of Women	Intl
Adilia Caravaca Zumiga	WILPF	Costa Rica
Joan DeQuattro	Sisters of the holy names US Ontario	USA
Catherine Ferguson	Unanima International	Intl
Ling Ling Chang	Angelican Consultative Council	Taiwan
Elizabeth D Budaden	Angelican Consultative Council	Philippines
Gloria Mills	Public Services International	France
Young-ram Han	Angelican Communion	Korea
Lily Hutjes	Huairou Commission	Netherlands
Mathilde red Breuich	Netherlands Council for women	Netherlands
Elizabeth Vanaldenne	International Federation Business professional Women	USA
Marta Scarpato	Education International	Belgium
Mary Wendeln GPPS	Loretto Com NGO	USA
Alyson Beck	Human Rights Advocates	USA
Julianne C Traylor	Human Rights Advocates	USA

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>
Mavic Cabrera-Balleza	World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters	Philippines
Annie Serrano	Southeast Asia Women's Watch	Philippines
Shobha Gautam	Institute of Human Rights Communication-Shanti Malika	Nepal
Sayre Sheldon	Women's Action for New Directions	USA
Vicki Semler	International Women's Tribune Center	USA
Allison Boehm	Peace Boat	USA
Valerie T. Evans	National Council of Women	UK
Julie Jacobs		UK
Audrey Jones	Wales Assembly of Women	UK
Pauline Field	UNA USA	USA
Helga Serrano	World Alliance of YMCA's	Ecuador
Chris Conybeare	Press Council Turkey	Turkey
Arzu Özyol	IFBPW	Turkey
Zoe Neirizi	Black swan films	UK
Nurgu Dzanerava	Forum of women's NGO's	Kyrgyzstan
Yergenia Kozyreva	Feminist League	Kazakstan
Beimet Stakeeva	Forum of women's NGO's	Kyrgyzstan
Birgitte Triems	Nat. council of women's org.	Germany
Birgit Dederichs-Bain	NGO women's forum	Germany
Chuel Chary	Women's federation for mental health	Taiwan
Elizabeth Vanasdenne	International federation of business	USA
	Professional women	
Kathy Deasy	ACC	USA
Sizakele Shongwe	ACC	South Africa
Sophie Fin	IAVE	Taiwan
Ruth Lee	Mother's Union	UK
Roberta U'kelsey	Mother's Union	UK
Helen Longworth	Mother's Union	UK
Mathilda Van den Brink	Netherlands council of women	Netherlands
Vavdana Lobo	Sisters of the good Shepard	India
Engwase B. Miwale	NGO-coordinating council	Zambia
Tsung Su	Int. Pen, women's writers community	USA
Margot Heskelt	Women's European Platform	UK
Kaudjhis Offoumou	AID-Afrique	Cot D'Ivoire
Beryl Mae Jones	Congress of black women of Canada	Canada
Marlene Patenzau	IFBPW	Austria
Lena Hokfelt	Swedish Women's Lobby	Sweden
Louise Brade	Danish Council of Women	Denmark
Chao Yuan Tsen	Awakening foundation	Taiwan
Ann Skamp	Angelican Consultative Council	Australia
Verna Rapp Uthman	United Church of Christ	USA
Bernadette Sangma	UIDES International	India
Tokiko Kato	Japanese Association of Int. women's rights	Japan

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March 2006

NAME	ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY
Juliette Kamper	European women's Lobby	Belgium
Lucina Kathman	International Pen	Mexico
Swati Sawe	IYPN	USA/India
Pann Rajfin	IWW	India
Sari Wooster	Plan International	UK
Magda Ghannia	Plan International	Egypt
Patricia Yankus	Anglican Consultative council	USA
Merge Christie	Anglican Consultative council	USA
Karen Chane	Anglican Consultative council	USA
Karin Desik	Anglican Consultative council	USA
Kristy Hsu	Int. association of education for peace	Taiwan
Chian Hua Su	Int. association for voluntary effort	Taiwan
Shang Luan Yan	Int. research foundation for development	
Adila Cararaca Zunipa	WILPF	Costa Rica
Gillian Gilhool	WILPF	USA
Ruth Manorama		India
Charlotte Bunch	Center for Women's Global Leadership	USA
Cynthia Rothschild	"	
Mary Anne Reilly	"	"
M. Kinose	"	"
Lois A. Herman	Women's UN Report Network-WUNRN	Intl
Judy Lear	Gray Panthers	USA
Jasmine Waddell	WCW	USA
Alice Dahle	Member, Amnesty International	USA
Sumon VangChuay	UU-UNO	USA/Global
Malgorzata Tomaszewska		USA/Poland
Kathryn W Hansen	Iowa UNA	USA
Sealing Cheng	Wellesley College	USA
Jane Atkinson	IFBPW	Australia
Joan Woods	Christian Life Committee	USA
Noywa Nouliri	Lebanese Council of Women	Lebanon
Mizuho Tsuchino	IFBPW	Japan
Pobitna Manda	Tebtebba Foundation	Bangladesh
Kit Messin	The Grail	USA
Jennifer Messner	"	"
Nang Lao Noan Uo	Women's League of Burma	Burma
Jenniger Quigley	Shan Women's Action Network	Burma
Andrea Friedman	Global Justice Center	USA
Golnar Bahar	WILPF	Sweden
Graceia Lai	WRAT	Taiwan
Chueh Chang -	WFMH	USA/Taiwan
Nancy E. Wallace	World Federation for Mental Health	USA
Sharon Lee	NY Asian Women's Center	USA

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Signatories to the Open Letter on Women & UN Reform March 2006

NAME	ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY
Joanne Lee		USA
Pamela Goldberg		USA
Regina Dlimba	Womn's Coalition	Zimbabwe
Mary Peter Bruce	Loretto Community	USA/Bolivia
Cynthia Doudle	Anglican Consultative Council	UK
Elizabeth Power	"	UK
Emily Carnes	UNA-USA	USA
Kathryn Houst	Anglican Consultative Caucus	US
Marta Scarpato	Education International	Belgium
Sachina Yamamoto	BPWI	Japan
Mari Usami	"	Japan
Rebecca J. Zahiruddin	ACC	Pakistan (42)
Rev. Chloe Breyer	ACC (Episcopal Church/USA)	USA
Sakeena K Bonsu	Evergreen Club of Ghana	Ghana
Bohong Liu	Women's Studies Institute of China	China
Donovan Palmer	Youth With a Mission	UK
Nanci Hogan	"	UK
Jackie Shapiro	Zonta International	USA
Sharon Attendorf	IPA	USA
Marianne Sennick	Congregation of St. Joseph	USA
Caroline Themm	Soroptimist International	USA
Princesse Happy	CADEF Africa	Cameroon
Sara Greengrass		USA
Bani Dugal	Baha'I International Community	
Jolly Babirukamu	Anglican Conservative Council	
Gina Vellani	International Women's Tribune Center	USA
Cai Curin Blom	IFUW	Netherlands
Marielie Sanders-Helfe	Netherlands Council of Women	Netherlands
Marian Mauta Blyham	"	Netherlands
Johanna Sterbin	International Federation of Women in Legal Careers	USA
	Federation of Women Lawyers	USA
Dahlia Goldenberg	GROOTS International	USA
Monique Bouaziz	CEFW	France
Danielle Levy	"	France
Jonina Sutton	WIZO	Israel
Brigitte Polonovski	ICW_CIF	Switzerland
	FEFAF	Bruxelles
Irene Goldberg	WIZO	Switzerland (66)
Gina Torry	NGO working group-Women, Peace & Security	USA
Jill Sternberg	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	Intl

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