

CEDAW statement on strengthened cooperation with UN Women
Adopted by the CEDAW Committee at its fifty-fifth session
8 – 26 July 2013, Geneva

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women warmly welcomes the appointment of Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka as Executive Director of UN Women, considering her eminent position and experience.
 2. The Committee recalls that equality between women and men is a fundamental principle of sustainable development, peace and democracy, and considers that UN Women has a key role to play in supporting States parties in the implementation of their legally binding obligations under the Convention and other norms and standards for the protection and advancement of women.
 3. The Committee considers that the 2015 post-development agenda provides an opportunity to establish new links between human rights treaty bodies and development entities and to guarantee a more efficient use of financial resources. The empowerment of women and the effective realization of women's rights under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women should be a primary consideration in any of such efforts.
 4. The Committee highlights that within the on-going process of developing the 2015 post-development agenda, the Convention provides, through its holistic approach, a universal basis for the achievement of formal as well as substantive equality between women and men.
 5. The Committee appreciates the existing relations with UN Women and the Commission on the Status of Women, and welcomes the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP). It also looks forward to exploring ways and means to establish stronger cooperation between the Committee and the UN system, especially the gender entities, in order to contribute to a better synergy to achieve gender equality and to maximize the benefits for women on the ground.
 6. The Committee considers that its cooperation with UN Women needs to be consolidated through a formal and institutional partnership, which includes:
 - a) The Committee's participation in international, regional and national meetings on the advancement of women;
 - b) The reinforcement of its cooperation with UN Women and the entire UN system, especially in promoting and implementing the Convention, in line with the Committee's general recommendations and concluding observations;
 - c) The consolidation of the support for building national human and technical capacities on gender issues; and
 - d) The organization of a special event in 2014 in New York on women's rights and development.
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