



## Current UN structure

### Division for the Advancement of Women

DAW was designed to assist the UN system to advance women's rights worldwide. DAW has several specific responsibilities

- To support formulation of policy, global standards and norms on gender equality and women's empowerment at global level, including through analysis and research;
- To promote, support and monitor the implementation of international agreements on gender equality and empowerment of women, including the Beijing Platform for Action, at international and national levels;
- To support the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol;
- To promote the mainstreaming of gender perspectives across all sectors, both within and outside the United Nations system;

### OSAGI

The Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of the Women (OSAGI) was established in 1997 with the main objective of promoting and strengthening the effective implementation of the Millennium Declaration, the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) held in Beijing in 1995 and the Outcome Document of the special session of the General Assembly on Beijing+5. OSAGI relies on other UN agencies to implement its policy findings and shares a budget of \$13million with DAW.

### UNIFEM

UNIFEM was established in 1976 by the General Assembly Resolution 31/133, following in response to the demands of women's organization attending the UN First World Conference on Women in Mexico City in 1976. UNIFEM provides technical and financial assistance to programs run by governments and non-governmental organizations that advance women's rights. It focuses on 4 core areas:

- Reducing feminized poverty,
- Ending violence against women,
- Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, and
- Achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war.

UNIFEM is dependant on the UNDP for funding but does not have the power to sit as part of high level discussions like those held by UNAIDS. UNIFEM has no direct responsibility for implementing any gender legislation and is not a member of the UN Development Group executive committee

### INSTRAW

INSTRAW was established in 1976 as research and training institute dedicated to the advancement of women and is based in the Dominican Republic. INSTRAW works on research around the themes of peace

and security, migration, political participation and financing for development. The agency aims to disseminate all of its research widely through UN agencies, NGO's and the public. The agency also focuses on developing training and capacity building programmes.

### **Commission on the Status of Women**

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meets annually in New York, and monitors the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Each annual meeting considers a different priority theme, and a review theme in gender equality, for example the 2009 CSW will consider, the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. It is the principle global policy-making body on issues related to gender. It is given technical support by the OSPGI and DAW who prepare materials for the CSW. The CSW aims to “evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide” (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/>).