This is a non-exhaustive list of the major milestones in the advancement of women over the last sixty years.

**1946 The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

Created by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946, the CSW is a functional commission dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. It is an important global policy-making body.

Forty-five Member States of the United Nations serve as members of the CSW at any one time. Members are elected by the Council for a period of four years on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

The Commission has systematically reviewed progress in the implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action (see below) at its annual sessions, and has adopted action-oriented recommendations, in the form of agreed conclusions, to facilitate increased implementation at all levels. The agreed conclusions are the principle output of the CSW on priority themes set for each year. They contain an analysis of the priority theme of concern and a set of concrete recommendations for Governments, intergovernmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local level. In addition to the agreed conclusions, the Commission also adopts a number of resolutions with reporting requirements on a range of issues, including the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; and women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS.

Source: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/

**1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the foundation of international human rights law. It is the first universal statement on the basic principles of inalienable human rights and a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. The Declaration is explicit in stating "equal rights of men and women" and also includes the "equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution". Since the Universal Declaration on Human Rights was adopted in 1948, human rights have become codified in international, regional and national legal systems.

Source: http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/udhr60/declaration.shtml
The declaration originated in the UN Commission on the Status of Women. It calls for States that are involved in armed conflicts, military operations in foreign territories or military operations in territories still under colonial domination to make all efforts to spare women and children from the ravages of war. All the necessary steps must be taken to ensure the prohibition of measures such as persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly against that part of the civilian population that consist of women and children.

The First World Conference on Women was convened in Mexico City in 1975. At this meeting, a new era was launched in the global effort to promote women’s equality. Three objectives were identified in relation to equality, peace and development: (1) full gender equality and the elimination of gender discrimination; (2) the integration and full participation of women in development; and (3) an increased contribution by women towards strengthening world peace. The conference also resulted in the establishment of several institutions, including the Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade of Women established in 1976 by the General Assembly Resolution 13/133 (later known as UNIFEM), the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the International Women’s Tribune Centre.


The United Nations Decade of Women

The United Nations Decade of Women was established in 1975 for 1976 – 1985. The intention was to increase global awareness of gender inequities with a focus on the themes of equality, peace and development.
**International Women’s Day Formally Established**

While an International Women’s Day (IWD) has been observed each year since the early 1900’s, it has been celebrated on March 8th since 1977 when a UN General Assembly Resolution officially designated the date. The United Nations and many other countries commemorate International Women’s Day as a holiday that honours women’s contributions, celebrates achievements, promotes the status of women worldwide and draws attention to current issues critical to achieving equality. The growing international women’s movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women’s conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point for coordinated efforts to demand women’s rights and participation in the political and economic process.

**Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979 and entered into force as an international treaty in 1981. By accepting the Convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms, including:

- to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women;
- to establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the effective protection of women against discrimination; and
- to ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises.

Countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are legally bound to put its provisions into practice. They are also committed to submit national reports, at least every four years, on measures they have taken to comply with their treaty obligations.

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/
1980

**Second World Conference on Women**

The Second World Conference on Women was held to explore progress on the Plan of Action created at the 1975 World Conference in Mexico City. The conference recognized that there was a disparity between women's guaranteed rights and their capacity to exercise them. Participants identified three spheres in which measures for equality, development and peace were needed: equal access to education; equal access to employment opportunities; equal access to adequate health care services.

Source:

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July 15-26, 1985

**Third World Conference on Women (Nairobi, Kenya)**

The Third World Conference on Women was held in Nairobi and reviewed and appraised the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. The data presented to the delegates revealed that achievements had benefited only a limited number of women. Therefore, the Nairobi Conference was mandated to seek new ways of overcoming obstacles for achieving the objectives of the Decade: equality, development and peace. Three basic categories were established to measure the progress achieved: (1) constitutional and legal measures; (2) equality in social participation; and (3) equality in political participation and decision-making. The Nairobi Conference recognized that gender equality was not an isolated issue, but encompassed all areas of human activity. It was necessary for women to participate in all spheres, not only in those relating to gender.

Source:
1989  **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights—civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. In 1989, world leaders decided that children needed a special convention just for them because people under 18 years old often need special care and protection that adults do not. The leaders also wanted to make sure that the world recognized that children have human rights too.

The Convention sets out these rights in 54 articles (and two Optional Protocols). It spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere have: the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life. The four core principles of the Convention are non-discrimination; devotion to the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and respect for the views of the child. Every right spelled out in the Convention is inherent to the human dignity and harmonious development of every child. The Convention protects children’s rights by setting standards in health care; education; and legal, civil and social services.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified human rights agreement in the world.

1993  **UN World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, Austria)**

The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights resulted in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. The Vienna Declaration on Human Rights states “all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated” and no hierarchy exists within human rights. This means that different types of rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights – have equal status.

The Declaration also recognizes and states that women’s rights are human rights. The Convention further details the specific actions that States must take in key areas of education, employment, public and political life, legal relations, economic and social life, family relations, rural development, trafficking and prostitution. The Convention details the role of states as national partners in the human rights-based approach to programming.
The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW)

The issue of the advancement of women’s rights has been of concern to the United Nations since its founding. Yet the full extent of female-targeted violence was not explicitly acknowledged by the international community until December 1993, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. Until then the majority of Governments treated violence against women as a private matter between individuals, and not as a pervasive human rights problem that required State intervention. While the Declaration does not legally bind States it clearly lays out that “violence against women constitutes a violation of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women and impairs or nullifies their enjoyment of those rights and freedoms”.

The Declaration defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”. The Declaration stresses the States’ obligation to prevent and condemn violence against women and not to invoke custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations. They are also called up to investigate and punish all acts of violence regardless as to whether they are perpetrated by State or private persons.

Source: http://www.un.org/rights/dpi1772e.htm

International Conference on Population and Development (ICDP) (Cairo, Egypt)

The International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 affirmed the close links between sustainable development, reproductive health and gender equality. The Programme of Action, adopted at the conference, endorsed a new strategy that emphasized the integral linkages between population and development and focuses on meeting the needs of individual women and men, rather than on achieving demographic targets. The key to the new approach is empowering women and providing them with more choices through expanded access to education and health services, skill development and employment, and through their full involvement in policy- and decision-making processes at all levels. Indeed, one of the greatest achievements of the Cairo Conference was the recognition of the need to empower women, both as a highly important end in itself and as a key to improving the quality of life for everyone. Goals in the Programme of Action included family planning, education (especially for girls) and reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality. Countries were urged to include population factors in all development strategies, and to act to eliminate gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation.

Source: http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/icpd.cfm
Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (Beijing, China)

Beijing Platform for Action

Delegates to the fourth World Conference on Women confirmed priorities that were identified first at the Mexico conference in 1975 and the mid-decade conference in Copenhagen in 1980. The Conference resulted in the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), a document which reaffirms the fundamental principle that the rights of women and girls are an “inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights”. The BPfA provides a blueprint for gender equality and women’s empowerment through an analysis of the gender specific challenges and opportunities in 12 critical areas of concern. Mainstreaming Gender Equality was endorsed as a system-wide strategy for promoting equality between women and men.

The agreements and commitments laid out in the Beijing Platform for Action have been reinforced in every international conference convened by the United Nations through the late 1990s. Implementation continues on the measures to realize the BPfA commitments and they significantly inform specific and sectoral programming work.

The BPfA is considered to be the most comprehensive agenda for women’s empowerment. It contains strategic objectives and actions on 12 critical areas of concern: women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment, and the girl-child.

1) Beijing introduced the gender perspective into development.
2) Beijing was the foundation of the two-pronged approach to development programming
   • targeted programmes for women’s empowerment
   • gender mainstreaming in all programmes
3) The Conference surmised that Gender equality involves all areas of development.
4) Following Beijing, governments committed for the first time to the incorporating a gender perspective in all aspect of public policy formulation and implementation. They report annually to the CSW (see above) on progress in implementing these commitments.

UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

1996

The UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) was established by General Assembly resolution 50/166 in 1996 and is managed by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on behalf of the UN system. The UN Trust Fund is the only multilateral grant-making mechanism that supports local, national and regional efforts to end violence against women and girls. By the end of 2009, it had supported 304 initiatives in nearly 122 countries and territories with more than US$ 50 million. UN Trust Fund projects focus on supporting the implementation of national laws, policies and action plans that address violence against women.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted agreed conclusions on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system at its coordination segment as a follow up to the Beijing Conference. The agreement specifically calls on United Nations entities to undertake gender mainstreaming, defined as a process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.


In a landmark decision for women, the General Assembly, acting without a vote, adopted on 6 October 1999 a 21-article Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and called on all States parties to the Convention to become party to the new instrument as soon as possible. By ratifying the Optional Protocol, a State recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women -- the body that monitors States parties' compliance with the Convention -- to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction. The Protocol contains two procedures:

1) A communications procedure which allows individual women, or groups of women, to submit claims of violations of rights protected under the Convention to the Committee.

2) The Protocol also creates an inquiry procedure enabling the Committee to initiate inquiries into situations of grave or systematic violations of women's rights.

Source:
The Millenium Declaration and eight Millenium Development Goals (MDGs)

Building on the a decade of major conferences and summits, world leaders came together in 2000 at United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The Declaration committed each nation to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty. It set out a series of time-bound targets that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals.

The MDGs are a collective response to the world’s main development challenges, providing a common framework for coordination and coherence. They were agreed to by 189 nations, signed by 147 heads of state and governments, and are to be realised by 2015. Because the MDGs represent internationally agreed priorities and goals, they are a particularly important entry point for UN system coherence and coordinated support to national partners. Moreover, the MDGs provide a common platform for coordinated development assistance and support for gender equality as shared UN system priorities across agencies. Mid-point review of progress on the MDGs happened through 2007 and 2008, and is well documented in MDG-related sites.

The MDGs recognize the centrality of gender equality as a goal in itself (Goal 3) as well as the importance of the gender dimensions of each of the other goals.

Security Council Resolution 1325 (SCR1325)

Established in 2000, Security Council Resolution 1325 is the first resolution passed by the Security Council that specifically addresses the impacts of conflict on women and girls and supports women’s contributions and involvement in conflict resolution and peace processes. SCR1325 calls upon all parties to armed conflict to respect international law as it applies to women and girls, to respect the civilian and humanitarian charter of refugee camps and to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence and other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict. It calls upon States to put an end to impunity for those responsible for committing sexual violence against women and girls and to integrate the particular needs of women and girls into the design of refugee camps.
In June 2001, Heads of State and Representatives of Governments met at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session dedicated to HIV/AIDS. The UNGASS issued a Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS that included important language on addressing the gender dimensions of the pandemic. “Stressing that gender equality and the empowerment of women are fundamental elements in the reduction of the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS”. One critical achievement of the UNGASS was the inclusion of some language within the Declaration promoting the health and rights of women and girls in the context of HIV/AIDS. Although the Declaration fails to explicitly address the broader concept of reproductive rights or the need for governments to provide comprehensive reproductive health care services, the Declaration makes clear the inextricable link between gender equality, equity and empowerment and the ability of women and girls to protect themselves from HIV infection.


Two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 and entered into force in 2002. The First Optional Protocol restricts the involvement of children in military conflicts, and the Second Optional Protocol prohibits the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Both protocols have been ratified by more than 120 states.

Both of these protocols are extremely important for advancing the protection of girls from exploitation and abuse.
The 2002 *Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development* was the first major attempt by UN Member States and the international community to integrate trade, monetary and financial matters into a consolidated framework for achieving development results. The Consensus addresses financing for development (FfD) under six themes: domestic resource mobilization, mobilization of foreign resources, international trade, development assistance, external debt, and systemic issues. It links economic and human development objectives, including gender equality, and integrates all sources of development financing, with a strong emphasis on the need for developing countries to take the lead in determining the use of funds.


The second workshop sought to move forward the agenda of interagency cooperation on human rights mainstreaming, focusing on CCA/UNDAF processes and examining examples of how UNCTs are dealing with human rights in the context of PRSP and MDG processes. The workshop arrived at the “Statement of Common Understanding” that specifically refers to a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to development cooperation and programming by UN agencies. The Statement singles out three major components of the HRBA, which should guide all efforts to integrate human rights into development work:

1) All programmes of development co-operation, policies and technical assistance should further the realisation of human rights as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.

2) Human rights standards contained in and principles derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and in all phases of the programming process.

3) Development cooperation contributes to the development of the capacities of “duty-bearers” to meet their obligations and/or of “rights-holders” to claim their rights.
The 2005 World Summit, held from 14 to 16 September at United Nations Headquarters in New York, brought together more than 170 Heads of State and Government: the largest gathering of world leaders in history. The agenda of the World Summit was based on an achievable set of proposals outlined in March by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report *In Larger Freedom*. It referred to the centrality of gender equality to human security and human development and affirmed that that achieving gender equality goals depends on the full implementation of the Beijing Platform and its 5 year review, and led to the adoption of additional targets and indicators under the MDGs – including reproductive health and rights and sex-disaggregated data on informal employment. The outcome document was issued as General Assembly resolution /60/1

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

The Paris Declaration, endorsed on 2 March 2005, is an international agreement by which over one hundred Ministers, Heads of Agencies and other Senior Officials organizations agreed to continue to increase efforts in harmonisation, alignment and managing aid for results with a set of monitorable actions and indicators. The five main principles of the Paris Declaration relate to:
1. National ownership
2. Alignment
3. Harmonisation
4. Managing results
5. Mutual accountability
While there are concerns that the Paris Declaration does not address specifically gender, the five principles are seen as entry points to advance attention to gender priorities in national development planning.

Security Council Resolution on Children and Armed Conflict 1612

Security Council Resolution 1612 established a comprehensive monitoring and reporting mechanism on children affected by armed conflict. The monitoring and reporting mechanism is coordinated by UNICEF in cooperation with the Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG). The resolution also established a Security Council Working Group to review data submitted and make concrete recommendations on child protection in country-specific situations. Violations to be monitored include:
- killing or maiming of children
- recruiting or using child soldiers
- attacks against schools or hospitals
- rape or other sexual violence against children
- abduction of children
- denial of humanitarian access for children
Established in 2006, UN Action is a coordination body that unites the work of 12 UN entities in the goal of ending sexual violence in conflict. The initiative is a concentrated effort by the UN system to improve coordination and accountability, amplify programming and advocacy, and support national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors. UN Action has three main pillars:

1) Country Level Action: support joint strategy development and programming by UN Country Teams and Peacekeeping Operations, including building operational and technical capacity.

2) Advocating for Action: action to raise public awareness and generate political will to address sexual violence as part of a broader campaign to Stop Rape Now.

3) Learning by Doing: creating a knowledge hub on the scale of sexual violence in conflict, and effective responses by the UN and partners.

Source:
http://www.stoprapenow.org

The resolution on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective into All Policies and Programmes in the United Nations System was adopted at the substantive session of ECOSOC. The mandate for gender mainstreaming across the UN system was set as clear and unequivocal.


It was followed up the next year by ECOSOC Resolution 2007/33.


In an effort to combat Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by UN and Non-UN personnel, a High Level Conference was held on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and Non-UN Personnel. The resulting Statement of Commitment on eliminating SEA was signed by UN and non-UN entities and reaffirms their determination to prevent future acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 61/143, calling upon Member States and the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. The resolution stressed the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence punishable by law and highlighted States’ obligations to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and to provide protection to complainants/survivors of such violence.

In December of 2007, the General Assembly successfully adopted resolution 62/208 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR). The main purpose of the TCPR is to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations development system’s support to national efforts of developing countries to pursue their priorities and meet their needs in the context of the UN development agenda that emerged from the Millennium Declaration and other global conferences and summits. It reiterated the call for the United Nations system, within its mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality and the empowerment of women in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes, and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this field in accordance with national development strategies. Also, it called on the UN system to articulate institutional accountability mechanisms and to include inter-governmentally agreed gender equality results and gender-sensitive indicators in their strategic frameworks, to strengthen coordinated action on gender equality and to include information about gender in the Resident Coordinators annual reports. It also calls on UN system to avail themselves of UNIFEM expertise on gender.

Source:
In February of 2008, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched his campaign, “UNiTE to End Violence against Women,” a focused effort between 2008-2015 aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. The campaign calls on governments, civil society, women’s organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls. It builds on existing programmes and international legal and policy frameworks and harnesses the strong momentum around the issue, reflected in a growing number of initiatives by UN system partners, Governments and NGOs.

Ministers from more than 100 countries, heads of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, donor organizations, and civil society organizations from around the world gathered to help make development aid more transparent, accountable and results-oriented. Participants reviewed progress in improving aid effectiveness, broaden the dialogue to newer actors, and chart a course for continuing international action on aid effectiveness. The Accra Action Agenda recognizes gender equality as one of ‘the cornerstones for achieving enduring impact on the lives and potential of poor women, men and children’ (para 3). It also commits that developing countries and donors will ensure that their respective development policies and programmes are designed and implemented in ways consistent with their agreed international commitments on gender equality; in countries in fragile situations donors and developing countries will work and agree on a set of realistic peace and state-building objectives that address roots of conflict and fragility and help ensure the protection of women.


In June of 2008 the Security Council passed SC Resolution 1820 on Women, Peace and Security. The Resolution reinforces SCR 1325 and explicitly links sexual violence as a tactic of war self-standing security issue, linked with reconciliation and durable peace. Parties to armed conflict are expected to adopt concrete protection and prevention measures to end sexual violence.
Security Council Resolutions 1888
(30 September 2009)

Provides concrete building blocks to advance the implementation of SCR 1820. SCR 1888 signals a robust political commitment to addressing conflict-affected sexual violence as a peace and security issue. The resolution provides for an ambitious platform for action, along with high-level leadership in the form of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict, to ensure UN leadership and coordination to respond to sexual violence. This represents a significant change in the UN protection of civilians’ architecture.

Security Council Resolutions 1889
(5 October 2009)

Builds on the historic SCR 1325. It pays particular attention to the implementation of SCR 1325 in the immediate post-conflict peacebuilding period. It notes with concern women’s exclusion from peacebuilding planning and the consequent lack of prioritization or adequate funding for responding to women’s needs, including their safety and access to services.

Importantly, SCR 1889 commits the Security Council to developing an agreed set of global indicators to track and monitor the implementation of SCR 1325. It calls for recommendations in 2010 on how the Council will receive, analyze, and act upon information on 1325, which goes a step further in building accountability to women and their needs in conflict and post-conflict situations. Finally, the resolution calls for a report on gender and peacebuilding, and makes specific reference to the need for input from the Peacebuilding Commission to this report.

This resolution marks a significant engagement with the UN’s new peacebuilding architecture and is an opportunity for women, peace and security advocates to engage over the next year in providing recommendations for how best to build women’s leadership and to respond to women’s needs in all peacebuilding contexts.
Establishment of New UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created a UN Women to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide. UN Women will be the lead driver and lead voice advocating for gender equality and women’s empowerment globally. UN Women merges and will build on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system which focus exclusively on gender equality and women’s empowerment:

- Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW, established in 1946)
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW, established in 1976)
- Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI, established in 1997)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, established in 1976)

UN Women — which will be operational by January 2011 — will be a strong champion for women and girls, providing them with a powerful voice at the global, regional and local levels. It will enhance, not replace, efforts by other parts of the UN system (such as UNICEF, UNDP, and UNFPA) that continue to have responsibility to work for gender equality and women’s empowerment in their areas of expertise.

www.unwomen.org/