

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

cc. Co-Chairs High Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence:
H.E. Mr. Shaukat Aziz
H.E. Ms. Luisa Dias Diogo
H.E. Mr. Jens Stoltenberg,
Secretariat: Mr. Adnan Amin, Mr. Koen Davidse

27 March, 2006

Dear Honorable Kofi Annan

During the 50th session of the Commission on the Status of Women we and other non-governmental organizations present wrote to you expressing our concerns regarding the current process of UN reform. In particular, we noted our disappointment that the UN reform process is proceeding without adequate attention being paid to gender equality and to strengthening women's machineries within the UN system.

In that letter of 6 March (Ref: 26-02936), we urged that: additional women be added to the new High-Level Panel on system-wide coherence; that gender equality issues be explicitly considered under each theme; and that the panel engage in consultations with civil society groups, including women's groups in order to ensure consideration of the impact on women of any proposed reforms.

We understand that the panel will be meeting the first week in April. As we believe it is critical that additional women be added to the panel, we have compiled an initial list of women who have made significant contributions to work on the themes under consideration by the panel or, to issues of gender and the United Nations more generally.

- Nafis Sadik – former Executive Director, UNFPA (Pakistan)
- Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka – Executive Director, UN Habitat (Tanzania)
- Mary Robinson – former President, Ireland; former High Commissioner for Human Rights (Ireland)
- Cecilia Lopez Montano – Senator (Colombia)
- Helen Clark – Prime Minister, New Zealand (New Zealand)
- Leticia Shahani–Philippine Senate (1992-1998) (Philippines)

Yours truly,

Charlotte Bunch, Center for Women's Global Leadership
June Zeitlin, Women's Environment and Development Organization
Jill Sternberg, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (UN Office)