



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

BY

**Her Excellency Ms. M. Patricia Durrant
Permanent Representative of Jamaica
to the United Nations**

**on behalf of the
UNIFEM Consultative Committee**

to the

**46th Session of the Commission on the
Status of Women**

New York, March 4, 2002

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Introduction

The 42nd session of the Consultative Committee to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)¹ met from 25 - 26 February 2002 to review the Fund's progress in implementing its Strategy and Business Plan 2000 - 2003. Amongst the Committee's recommendations was an agreement to circulate and present, on an annual basis, a statement on UNIFEM's work to the Commission on the Status of Women.

UNIFEM's founding General Assembly Resolution 39/125 (December 1984) identified a key role for the Consultative Committee (par 13) in advising the Administrator of UNDP on all matters of policy affecting activities of the Fund. The Resolution also recommended that cooperation be established for the sharing of information with the Commission on the Status of Women (par 14).

UNIFEM's work is directly relevant to the themes being address by this session of the CSW: eradicating poverty and environmental management. In response to the CSW's focus on these themes and its ongoing interest in gender mainstreaming and women's rights in all aspects, I offer the following highlights from the recent CC meeting.

UNIFEM's progress in working for women's empowerment and gender equality

The overarching framework for UNIFEM activities remains focused on supporting implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW).

The CC recognizes that the Fund has an ambitious dual mandate -- investing in activities at the national and regional levels, and being a catalyst for gender mainstreaming in the UN system -- while its financial and staff resources are limited. As such, it endorsed the Fund's commitment to being strategic and focused on priority thematic areas. A summary of the report provided to the CC, as well as its recommendations, will be made available on UNIFEM's website by end-March (www.unifem.undp.org)

Below are some of the key findings and recommendations made by the CC for each of the thematic areas in which UNIFEM works:

¹ Members include Dr. Dubravka Simonovic, Croatia; H.E. Ambassador Patricia Durrant, Jamaica; H.E. Ambassador Madina B. Jarbussynova, Kazakhstan; H.E. Ambassador Marin Andjaba, Namibia; Dr. Geertje Lycklama, Netherlands.

- **Strengthening women's economic security and rights**

The CC particularly welcomed UNIFEM's ongoing efforts to develop national capacity of governments and NGOs to undertake Gender Budget Analysis. It recognized the partnership between UNIFEM and the Government of Belgium to call upon every country in the world to undertake Gender Budget Analysis by 2015. The CC also welcomed the growing partnership between UNIFEM and UNDP in this area and hopes that it will be further strengthened.

The CC particularly appreciated UNIFEM's focus on bringing a gender dimension to the Financing for Development (FfD) Conference as relevant to the CSW's consideration of women's poverty. The CC encouraged UNIFEM to be involved in follow up to FfD, as well as to contribute to gender mainstreaming in the World Summit for Sustainable Development process.

- **Engendering governance, peace and security**

The CC welcomed UNIFEM's expanded efforts on women and peace and security, taking note of GA Resolution A/54/136 (1999) asking the Fund to strengthen its work in this area. The CC welcomed UNIFEM's work in supporting an Independent Expert Assessment on the impact of war and armed conflict on women and women's roles in peace-building. The CC recommended that the assessment be made available to relevant UN bodies, including the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, ECOSOC, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women. The CC encouraged UNIFEM to strengthen its work on gender issues related to prevention and early warning, particularly by providing regular information to relevant political and decision-making bodies.

- **Promoting women's human rights -- including in HIV/AIDS programmes -- and the elimination of violence against women**

The CC noted with concern the growing gap between an ever-increasing volume of grant requests submitted to UNIFEM's Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and the Trust Fund's relatively constant annual resource base. For instance, in 2001, \$17 million in requests were received with only \$1 million available. The CC encouraged UNIFEM to highlight 25 November (International Day on the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to make specific appeals to donors to pledge their support to increase the Trust Fund.

The CC also noted the growing importance and impact of UNIFEM's work on HIV/AIDS and promoting implementation of CEDAW. The CC urged UNIFEM to use information in CEDAW reports as the basis for programming at the national level.

UNIFEM's efforts to build inter-agency collaboration and partnerships for gender equality were also considered by the CC. The CC noted significant progress in strengthening synergetic partnerships with UNDP, UNFPA and UNAIDS. It encouraged strong collaboration with UNDP in tracking the gender dimensions of the Millennium Development Goals. With reference to this session of the CSW, the CC emphasized that progress to achieve and track the gender dimensions of Goal #1, Eradicating Poverty could benefit enormously from a strong partnership between UNDP and UNIFEM.