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Date: June 15th, 2026

Subject: Urgent Call to Safeguard UN Women and Address the United Nations Financial Crisis

Excellency,

On behalf of Soroptimist International, we are writing to share the attached briefing, ***"The United Nations Liquidity Crisis and the UN80 Reform / UNFPA–UN Women Merger: Consolidated Findings."***

We do so with a sense of urgency.

The United Nations is facing one of the most serious financial crises in its history.

The Secretary-General has warned of the risk of an "imminent collapse" resulting from unprecedented arrears, severe cash shortages, and growing constraints on the Organization's ability to deliver its mandates. At the same time, discussions under the UN80 reform process have raised the possibility of a merger between UNFPA and UN Women.

As an international organization dedicated to advancing the human rights of all women and girls, Soroptimist International is deeply concerned that, in a period of financial instability, structural reforms may be pursued without sufficient evidence that they will strengthen the UN system, improve outcomes, or preserve existing mandates.

The attached analysis underscores that no decision on a merger of UNFPA and UN Women has been taken. At the General Assembly's informal session on 28 May 2026, the Secretary-General did not recommend the merger; he reserved his position and asked Member States to weigh any structural change on its merits. No Member State affirmatively championed it. On the financial question, the assessment's own figures — one-time transition costs estimated at USD 56–110 million against uncertain annual savings of USD 32–38 million, with no dedicated source of transition financing identified — do not establish a compelling financial case. Rather, they point to significant implementation costs, uncertain savings, and the absence of a dedicated funding source.

More importantly, the proposed merger carries substantial risks for the global architecture supporting women's rights and gender equality.

UN Women is the **only** United Nations entity with the exclusive mandate to advance gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Since its establishment by the General Assembly in 2010, it has become the principal institutional champion for women and girls within the UN system, providing leadership, coordination, normative support, and operational assistance across all regions of the world.

At a time when women's rights are facing increasing challenges globally, weakening or diluting this dedicated mandate would send a troubling signal. The international community cannot afford to lose a strong, visible, and independent institution focused exclusively on gender equality.

Furthermore, concerns have been raised that reopening the institutional arrangements surrounding UN Women could create risks for hard-won international commitments, including those contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Such commitments must be protected and strengthened, not placed in jeopardy through a reform process that has yet to demonstrate clear benefits.

Soroptimist International therefore respectfully calls upon Member States to:

- Take urgent action to address the United Nations liquidity crisis through the timely and full payment of assessed contributions.
- Ensure that any reform proposals are guided by evidence, transparency, and demonstrated improvements in effectiveness and impact.
- Preserve and strengthen the existing mandate of UN Women as a distinct and independent entity within the United Nations system.
- Safeguard international commitments on gender equality and women's rights; and
- Ensure that women and girls do not become unintended casualties of financial or institutional restructuring.

The challenges facing the United Nations require decisive action. However, financial pressures should not be used to justify reforms that risk undermining one of the most important institutional advances for women's rights achieved within the UN system over the past generation.

We respectfully invite your careful consideration of the attached briefing and urge your delegation to support measures that both restore the financial health of the United Nations and preserve a strong, independent UN Women capable of fulfilling its vital mandate.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Renata Trottmann Probst
Soroptimist International President
2026 – 2027

Berthe De Vos Neven
Soroptimist International Director Advocacy
2026-2027