

Network

UN Women's Newsletter Volume No. 18, Issue 2 May - August 2017

Letter from the Director, UN System Coordination Division

Dear Friends,

Welcome back from your summer adventures! We are here again with the summer issue of the NETWORK 2017 with updates on gender focused news and activities across the summer.

We are delighted to open this edition with news on the appointment of Phumzile Mlambo NgCuka as the Executive Director of UN Women for the second term by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, to steer the entity for the next four years alongwith news of other key appointments of women in leadership.



Next we bring news on the endorsement of UN Women's New Strategic Plan 2018-2021 which builds upon lessons learnt and inputs from Member States at the sessions of UN Women's Executive Boards held in June and August.

Other significant events include the High Level Political Forum on the SDGs where UN Women highlighted the interlinkages between gender equality and all the 17 SDGs through various forums. New York also witnessed the launch of the Network of Women Leaders platform to boost leadership in Africa and announcement of a first ever partnership with Shiseido group for promoting gender equality in Japan.

Key capitals worldwide were called upon to eliminate gender stereotypes in advertising at Cannes by UN Women's Executive Director, focus on gender inequality of risk in

partnership with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) to reduce the loss of lives and livelihoods, as well as address women's future role in energy sector, and take gender equality to new heights via sports by summiting Mount Everest amongst others.

This issue also puts a spotlight on technology and gender showcasing the Oslo hackathon which saw development of new technology to empower women in humanitarian crisis and reducing the gender digital divide.

Further, as has become customary for this newsletter, we highlight stories on women's representation ranging from historic increases to 28% in women's representation in Albanian parliament to the wage gap for women and minorities among corporate board members.

Additionally, this issue includes coverage on violence against women aspects which saw some positive trends like the abolishment of the infamous rape law in Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon to no longer allow the perpetrator to get away by marrying the victim, decision by the Indian Supreme court to ban instant divorce in a move to protect Muslim women's rights, as well as a new plan to end vaw in the Balkans and Turkey and calls to end the increasing cyberviolence focused on women.

Finally, as always, the newsletter in its last few pages includes information on publications including UN Women Annual Report and the CSW 61 briefing report and a briefing paper by ODI on care responsibility and women's leadership. We also have information on new interesting websites for your interest on women's equality and representation.

We hope the range of news and updates we bring through this newsletter impassions you, as promoters of gender equality and empowerment of women, to continue to break free from the sticky floors to beam yourselves through the glass ceilings with our unfettered conviction and belief. ***Let's Step It UP for Gender Equality!***

We look towards your continued support as we move on!

In solidarity,

Aparna Mehrotra
Director, UN System Coordination Division
UN Women



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Congratulations to

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka on her appointment in July 2017 by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres for a second term as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women for a period of four years.



Commenting on her second term appointment, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka emphasized that this renewed term would be an opportunity to reflect constructively, build our momentum, and surge ahead to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda with gender equality and women's empowerment.

Under Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women has played a significant role in ensuring that women were put front and centre of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that the responsibility of ending gender inequality became everyone's responsibility. She established game-changing movements such as HeForShe that engages men and boys. She has been influential in transforming conversations and knowledge on the most important issues affecting women's lives such as discriminatory laws, unequal pay and unpaid care work, violence against women, disenfranchisement, and conflict and humanitarian crises, through flagship programming that coordinates response through the UN system. Through this she has broadened the base of both state and non-state actors that influence transformative and irreversible change.

***Jayathma Wickramanayake* of Sri Lanka as UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth**



She succeeds Ahmad Alhendawi of Jordan.

Having represented and motivated global youth development on an international level since the age of 21 — notably during high-level United Nations initiatives including the declaration of World Youth Skills Day — Ms. Wickramanayake has also played a key role in transforming the youth development sector at the national level, notably through the creation of a large movement for civic and political engagement of young people named “Hashtag Generation”.

Presently working as an officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, Ms. Wickramanayake has previously served as Secretary to the Secretary-General of the Parliament of Sri Lanka (2016-2017), Project Officer — Youth, One-Text Initiative in Sri Lanka (2015-2016), Member and Youth Lead Negotiator, International Youth Task Force of the World Conference on Youth 2014 (2013-2014) and Official Youth Delegate to the United Nations, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, Sri Lanka (2012-2013). She was furthermore a Senator in the Sri Lankan Youth Parliament (2013-2015).

Born in 1990, Ms. Wickramanayake is reading for a Master of Development Studies at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and holds a bachelor degree in science, from the same university.

***María Soledad Cisternas Reyes* of Chile on her appointment as Special Envoy of UN Secretary General on Disability and Accessibility**



As Special Envoy, Ms. Cisternas will help promote the rights of persons with disabilities, with a particular emphasis on accessibility for all.

Ms. Cisternas was most recently Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations and recipient of the National Prize of Human Rights (2014-2015). Her activities with the United Nations have been numerous: she was an expert before the Ad Hoc Committee that developed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, for which she is also the rapporteur for individual complaints. She is the director of several legal and interdisciplinary projects, as well as author of various publications and exhibitor at national and international conferences.

***Ana María Menéndez* of Spain as Senior Adviser to UN Secretary General on Policy**



Ms. Menendez will succeed Kyung-wha Kang of the Republic of Korea.

Ms. Menéndez brings to the position more than 30 years of experience in diplomatic service involving bilateral, regional and global issues. She has participated in negotiations on the major United Nations development conferences and has been involved in the United Nations disarmament agenda, the Security Council agenda, and in various reform processes within the United Nations system. Additionally, she has worked in the humanitarian and human rights fields.

She is currently Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva, prior to which she was Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at Spain's Embassy in Tunisia (2009-2012). Ms. Menéndez began her career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1985, and has served in various capacities, including Deputy Director General for United Nations Technical Organizations at the Foreign Ministry in Madrid (2008-2009); Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission in Ireland (2006-2007); Special Adviser on Latin American and Trans-Atlantic relations to the Secretary of State for the European Union (2005-2006); Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations in New York (2002-2004); and Counsellor at the same Permanent Mission (1998-2002).

She holds a law degree from Complutense University, Madrid, and has one son.

Martha Helena Lopez of Colombia as Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management



Ms. Lopez brings with her a wealth of senior-level international experience in human resources management. Since 2015, she has served as Director of Human Resources at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Previous to that, she was Director of the Strategic Planning and Staffing Division, Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Management at the United Nations. She also held the positions of Chief of the Human Resources Policy Service (2006-2009) and Chief of the Staff Development Service (2004-2007) at the United Nations.

Ms. Lopez previously served with UNDP as Chief of the Policy Unit, Office of Human Resources, Bureau of Management (2001-2004) and with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Division of Human Resources, as Human Resources Officer, Policy (1997-2001), and Human Resources Officer (1994-1997).

Ms. Lopez began her career as a national staff member in her native Colombia where she worked with both UNICEF (1989-1994) and the World Food Programme (WFP) (1984-1989). Ms. Lopez holds a Law Degree with specialization courses in socioeconomics from Xaveriana University in Bogota, Colombia.

Around the United Nations

UN Women endorses new Strategic Plan 2018-2021 Holds Annual and 2nd Regular Sessions of the Executive Board

The UN Women Executive Board convened for this year's -
-Annual Session from 27 - 28 June, New York.
-Second Regular Session, from 29 – 30 August, New York

UN Women Executive Board endorsed the new Strategic Plan, 2018 – 2021 at the second regular session which was earlier presented by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcukal at the annual session held in June 2017. She emphasized that the new plan will, in accordance with member-states suggestions focus on clarity of impact and output, and reflect their valuable inputs. The Strategic Plan outlines UN Women's strategic direction, objectives and approaches to support efforts to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030.

Building upon the lessons learned from the previous Strategic Plan and the recommendations from the 20-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the new Strategic Plan envisions bold steps to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities, and to ensure that all women and girls benefit equally from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UN Women's new Strategic Plan outlines five main outcome areas that will guide the organization's efforts to tackle the structural barriers to gender equality, for example, through the repeal of discriminatory laws; the transformation of discriminatory social norms and stereotypes, and the strengthening and support of institutions so that they can deliver equally for women and men.

Through the new Strategic Plan, UN Women will:

- Continue to support efforts to strengthen and implement a comprehensive and dynamic set of global norms and standards; and ensure that
- Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems;
- Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy;
- All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; and
- Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action

The Strategic Plan leverages UN Women's strengths, including the largest pool of expertise in gender equality and women's empowerment in the UN and its longstanding relationship with women's organizations, to guide the implementation of UN Women's mandate of normative support, UN coordination and operational activities. It outlines key approaches for greater impact, such as the engagement of youth and men and

boys, leveraging technology and innovation for women, and promoting South-South Cooperation.

UN Women estimates that approximately USD 1.7 billion over four years will be required to fully implement the new Strategic Plan.

At the annual session in June the meeting took a closer look at UN Women's work at the country level, and on the operational response in Somalia. UN Women is working in Somalia in a context of significant security deficits, striving to address gender disparities, with a focus on improving women's access to justice and increasing women's leadership and political participation.

The Executive Board also reviewed the findings of the 2016 evaluation function and an evaluation of UN Women's strategic partnerships for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Furthermore, the reports on internal audit and investigation activities 2016, the report of the Audit Advisory Committee 2016, as well as UN Women's management response to the Joint Inspection Unit reports and management letters 2016 were addressed at the Annual Session.

Further briefings focused on the draft integrated budget estimates for the biennium 2018-2019 and an update on the cost recovery.

The detailed agenda as well as all official documents of the Annual Session 2017 and 2nd regular session can be accessed on the [Executive Board webpage](#) or the PaperSmart-portal of the United Nations.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/6/announcer-executive-board-annual-> <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/8/news-un-women-executive-board-endorses-the-new-strategic-plansession-2017>



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2017

Takes Place in New York

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, United Nations' central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, was held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, from Monday, 10 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2017. This included the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from Monday, 17 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2017.

This year, 44 countries presented voluntary national reviews on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Under the theme, *“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”*, the HLPF reviewed the following SDGs: SDG 1, end poverty in all its forms everywhere; SDG 2, end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; SDG 3, ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; SDG 5, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; SDG 9, build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; SDG 14, conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; and SDG 17, strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Women and the SDGs

With the new global 2030 roadmap and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approved by UN Member States, we take a look at how women are affected by each of the 17 proposed goals, as well as how women and girls can—and will—be key to achieving them. [Read more](#)

Featured video



[SDG 5: Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls](#)

The sustainable development goals seek to change the course of the 21st century, addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence against women. This animated video outlines the key targets of the stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment, also a precondition for achieving all goals.

Learn more about the [HLPF and UN Women's role](#).



Join the conversation on social media using #HLPF and #globalgoals. A social media package with graphics and suggested messages on women and the Sustainable Development Goals is available [here](#).

For more details, please [click](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf)
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

UN Women at the 21st Annual Webby Awards

On 15 May, UN Women was among the winners and honorees of the 21st Annual Webby Awards, celebrated at a star-studded ceremony in New York. UN Women's timeline, Women's Footprint in History, won the prestigious award under Activism category for Websites.

"Step Up for Gender Equality," said Jaya Jiwatram, UN Women's Digital and Interactive Media Specialist, in her five-word acceptance speech.



The Webby Awards, a prize for excellence on the Internet, is presented annually by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences. This year, the Webbys received 13,000 entries from 70 countries worldwide.

The timeline showcases trailblazing women throughout history, from Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz to Raich Hiratsuka and Unity Dow, from countries such as New Zealand to Zimbabwe and many others, who have made extraordinary contributions to their societies, and highlights the gender equality gaps that still exist today.

See "Timeline: Women's footprint in history"

at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2016/3/timeline-womens-footprint-in-history>

UN Women Launches Global Innovation Coalition for Change

As part of UN Women's innovation strategy to drive industry-wide action in this area, UN Women is creating a Global Innovation Coalition for Change (GICC). The GICC is a dynamic partnership between UN Women and key representatives from the private sector, academia and nonprofit institutions focused on developing the innovation market

to work better for women and to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Specifically, the GICC will focus on the following actions:

- Build market awareness of the potential for innovations developed by women that meet the needs of women and girls.
- Identify the key barriers to women and girl's advancement in innovation, technology and entrepreneurship;
- Work collaboratively to identify and take actions to address these barriers and needs at an industry-wide level;

The inaugural meeting of the GICC is to take place within the margins of the UN General Assembly on 14 September 2017 in New York.

New platform launched to galvanize and boost women's leadership of Africa

Forum organized by African Union Commission and UN Women, with the support of Germany, outlines roadmap for women in governance, peace and security

UN Women, the African Union Commission, and the Permanent Mission of Germany today launched the **African Women Leaders Network**, a ground-breaking initiative that seeks to enhance the leadership of women in the transformation of Africa with a focus on governance, peace and stability. The Network was launched following the three-day High-Level Women Leaders Forum for Africa's Transformation, which took place at



The launch of the African Women Leaders Network on 2 June, in New York. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

The meeting served as a platform and space to garner the leadership experiences of the speakers, make critical linkages between Africa's political, peace and security context, and women's effective leadership and participation for the continent's transformation.

The Network aims to harness the wealth of African women's experiences of leadership, build on other existing and emerging networks of women leaders, as well as develop new partnerships to strengthen the capacity of women. It intends to support the advancement of more women leaders on the continent, through peer learning and mentoring, to enhance their contributions to building and sustaining peace, security and political processes for sustainable economic and social transformation, towards the realization of Africa Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Network aims to reconvene in February 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Until then, a task force will work on the details of the Network and fine-tune a roadmap, including the purpose, structure and activities, as well as draft strategies for sustainability, funding and intergenerational partnerships.

Shiseido partners with UN Women to promote gender equality in Japan



Shiseido and UN Women announced in April 2017 a partnership to promote gender equality in Japan. Grounded in UN Women's universal mandate to advance gender equality and Shiseido's commitment towards women's advancement, the partnership aims to raise awareness of gender inequality and develop capacities of young women and men to act as agents of change.

Shiseido, one of the oldest Japanese multinational personal care companies, commits to strengthen its management focus on diversity, and in particular, on women's advancement, as a critical area of action. In 2010, Shiseido was among the first Japanese companies to sign the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), a set of practical guidelines for companies on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community developed by UN Women and the UN Global Compact. Shiseido has been internationally acclaimed for its efforts receiving the "1st WEPs Leadership Award" in 2013.

Under the framework of the new partnership, Shiseido will be developing and launching an educational programme on gender equality for the younger generation and promoting UN Women's HeForShe initiative.

See more at: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2017/04/shiseido-becomes-the-first-japanese-company-to-partner-with-un-women>

Around the World

Eliminate gender stereotypes in advertising

Says UN Women Executive Director in Cannes


Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women joined industry leaders at the Cannes Lions Festival of Creativity in July and called on the industry to strengthen their commitment to gender equality and collectively eliminate gender stereotypes in advertising. “The global advertising industry brings a sophisticated science of influence, finely honed creativity and deep pockets to shaping audiences’ choices of products and services. A by-product of this powerful process has been the shaping or reinforcing of negative stereotypes of both women and men. These persistent images feed into cultural norms and are a serious barrier for gender equality. We need to recognize and change them,” she said. “I call on leaders in the industry to reflect critically on the role they play in this, examine their portfolios with this specifically in view, collectively establish metrics and together, drive change,” she added, signaling the central role of businesses and their leaders’ responsibilities in shaping modern societies.

With the initial support of industry leaders such as Unilever, P&G, WPP, Johnson & Johnson and AT&T, and the commitment of dozens of industry leaders to engage, UN Women is galvanizing collective action to accelerate change and scale up individual initiatives to a true, transformative movement for the industry, with a view to alter perceptions in advertising and drive cultural change.

Attitudinal change toward gender equality has been identified as a key driver of progress for societies around the world. The report of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment, released in March 2017, identified “Breaking stereotypes: Tackling adverse social norms and promoting positive role models” as the first of seven drivers of change to increase women’s economic participation worldwide. A 2016 McKinsey Global Institute report on gender parity revealed that an equal share of women in the global labour market could increase global GDP by as much as USD 28 trillion annually by 2025. Despite this, efforts to affect such change are still limited and under-resourced.

UN Women-led collaborative initiatives announced in Cannes include the convening of key players in advertising for the inaugural session of the Unstereotype Alliances—to proactively address and eliminate stereotypes in advertising globally as well as the first Tracking Study on Gender Equality Attitudes, to be conducted by UN Women with support from WPP on a biennial basis and sponsored by P&G, AT&T, Johnson & Johnson and Unilever and a growing list of other companies.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/6/press-release-in-cannes-un-women-ed-calls-to-eliminate-gender-stereotypes-in-advertising>



Joint UN–African Union high-level delegation to Nigeria and the DRC

Spotlight on Women, Peace and Security agenda

In July 2017 the UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed led a first-of-its-kind visit to Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), joined by the Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, and the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, Bineta Diop.

During the visit, the three senior UN officials sought to raise awareness on a range of gender equality issues, including on the importance of women's participation in peace and security processes, and to ensure that women's voices are heard in all aspects of the society.

Evidence shows that women's meaningful participation helps with the conclusion and implementation of peace agreements, contributing to sustainable peace. Women are powerful agents of change and from time and time again, they have driven community recovery after conflict through their contributions to the society and the economy. Yet, women are almost completely missing from peace negotiations. The Principals will stress on the engagement of women in peace and security discussions, as a key aspect of violence prevention.

The visit will be an opportunity to discuss ways to help the country advance the gender equality agenda, as a precondition for sustainable development, for instance, through the full implementation of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill in Nigeria. The bill, approved by the Senate and waiting for the public hearing, would bring about the advancement of all persons in Nigeria, protecting their rights and eliminating harmful cultural practices, and would also enhance prosecution and punishment for rape perpetrators.



The UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, leading the UN-AU delegation, along with UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-NGcuka, at a special exposition showcasing products made by women beneficiaries of income-generating initiatives. Photo: UN Women

Speaking at the Women's Centre, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said: "Without changing the mentality of men, gender equality will never happen...we must help them understand that we are sisters, mothers, and voters! We are equals...Sustainable peace is about women in decision making."

First meeting of Network of Women, Peace and Security focal points convenes

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) National Focal Points Network, launched on 23 September 2016, to strengthen the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, met for the first time on April 26-27, in Alicante, Spain.

The National Focal Point Network facilitated exchange of experiences and best practices to advance women's participation in national-level peace and security policies and programmes. The meeting focused on how to integrate existing international commitments into domestic policies and normative frameworks and to address challenges in their implementation.

The Network will meet once a year in one of its Member States. Following the first in-country meeting in Spain, Germany has offered to host the second one in 2018. The WPS National Focal Points Network was announced as one of Spain's national commitments in relation to the women and peace and security agenda at the high-level review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which took place in October 2015.

Gender equality at new heights: Kanchhi Maya Tamang summits Mount Everest for gender equality in sports



Kanchhi Maya Tamang on Mount Everest. Photo courtesy of Kanchhi Maya Tamang

After an 11-hour-climb from Camp 4 on Everest's South Col route, Kanchhi Maya Tamang, together with Pemba Dorje Sherpa, and their Sherpa teammates reached the 29,035 feet (8,848 metres) summit of the world's highest peak on 20 May. It was the first time someone has climbed Mount Everest for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Tamang emphasized the importance of supporting and motivating more women and girls to try mountaineering and all sports.

"For many Nepali women and girls there is an invisible Everest between their homes and the sports field. I have climbed Everest to empower women who are climbing their own mountains," she said.

Ganesh Gurung, a member of UN Women's Nepal Civil Society Advisory Group, which supported Maya's mission said: "Kanchhi Maya has proven to the world and to Nepali society that women possess the capacity to reach any height."

[Read the full story](#) on UN Women's regional website for Asia and the Pacific.

UN Women launches new programme to address the gender inequality of risk

The fifth [Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) was held from 24-26 May in Cancun, Mexico, convening more than 5,000 delegates to discuss how to prevent

disasters and reduce the loss of lives, as well as economic and infrastructure losses. In particular the different ways they affect women, girls, boys and men. Research shows that women and girls are most vulnerable to disasters and more likely to die than men in disasters—for instance, at the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, women and children made up 77 per cent of the victims in Indonesia.

During the event, UN Women launched its new flagship programme “Gender Inequality of Risk”, in partnership with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) to reduce the loss of lives and livelihoods and to enhance the resilience of communities to natural hazards in a changing climate. The launch event was opened by the UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohamed.

Women are often absent from the development of disaster risk reduction strategies and decision-making processes and when present, their voices are seldom heard. The new partnership will open channels for women’s leadership and participation in disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

The programme will also aim to support women’s access to recovery services and products such as micro insurance, disaster compensation and social protection; help them adapt to alternative livelihoods that can withstand hazards; and ensure that women are better prepared when disaster strikes by increasing their access to early warning instruments and protection systems.

The new programme will also aim to increase availability and quality of gender disaggregated data.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/5/announcer-new-programme-addressing-gender-inequality-of-risk>

Women’s Representation

In Albania, elections herald historic increase in number of women MPs

Albania has reached a new milestone with women’s representation in politics. Following the national elections held on 25 June, the Albanian Parliament will soon welcome a record number of women parliamentarians. The results indicate that women’s representation has reached 28 per cent—a marked improvement compared to 2013 elections, when around 18 per cent women were elected.

Women candidates benefited from the gender quota and public forums organized by UN Women and partners that enabled them to outreach to the public. Efforts continue to boost women’s political participation nationally and to secure gender balance in local elections. In 2008, Albania passed the law on Gender Equality, which among other measures, established a minimum 30 per cent quota for women and stipulated that one of the first three names on the political parties’ candidate lists must be that of a female candidate. UN Women provided technical support to the development of the law, and has been working with civil society, government and elected women at national and

local levels, to boost women's political participation and to advocate for gender balance in local elections.

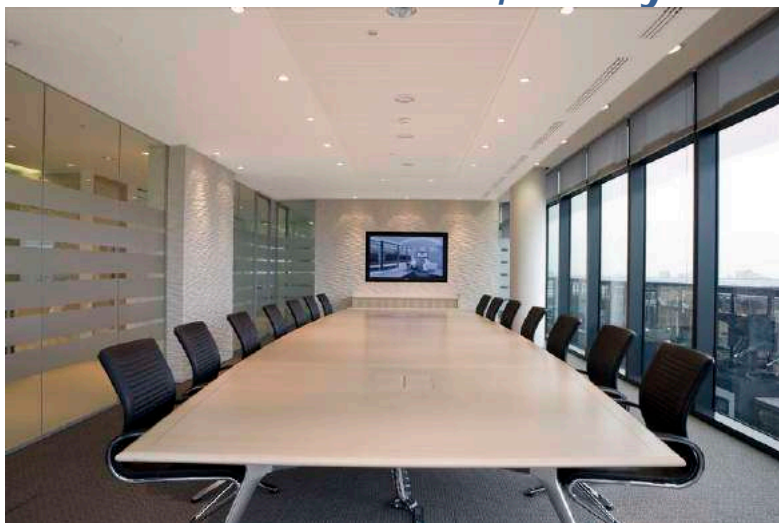


Women candidates of different political parties in open forums with young students at the public forum in Durres, Albania. Photo: UN Women/Yllka Parllaku

Around 52 women candidates from different political parties took part in a series of open public forums to promote equal participation of women and men in elections, organized by Equality in Decision Making, UN Women's partner.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/7/feature-in-albania-elections-herald-historic-increase-in-number-of-women-mps>

Women and Minorities Serving on Corporate Boards Are Paid Less, Study Finds



The gender and race pay gap goes all the way to the top

Beyond diversifying their boards, corporations across the United States now have another issue: Paying women and minorities the same as their white male peers. A new study by researchers in 2017 at the University of Missouri and the University of Delaware finds that “diverse” people (women and minorities) on the boards at more than 1,800 companies are paid about 3% to 9% less than their “non-diverse” (white and male) counterparts. The researchers also concluded that it’s uncommon for women and minorities to chair or serve on important committees, too. To conduct the study, the academics reviewed the compensation of 70,000 directors serving on the boards of more than 1,800 companies and members. They also measured how well directors monitored the CEO, the vote totals that directors received to retain their seats on the boards, and each director’s qualifications, according to the study.

Interestingly, the researchers found that, on average, both minority and female directors earned a “significantly higher compensation” when compared to their non-diverse peers. That’s largely because they tend to sit on the boards of larger, more visible companies, which pay their directors more, according to the study. However, when the lens is narrowed, comparing the female and minority directors only to their counterparts serving on the same board, they are actually paid less than their white and/or male peers—despite the fact that, on average, the diverse directors have “superior qualifications” and received higher vote totals during director elections.

When it comes to positions of authority on boards, women are also less likely to serve: According to the study, diverse board members are 3% less likely to serve as chairman or lead director, and are 5% less likely to serve as the chair of a standing committee. Failing to take part in roles in key leadership positions also results in lower pay for these women and minorities, according to the study.

Diversity on boards is important for ensuring both equity and balance when directors provide perspective for their companies, the study notes. Currently, though, of the entire pool of directors across all firms, researchers found that only 7% are minority directors, and only 12% are female—a far cry from the 40% female participation goal that Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) chief Mary Jo White set in 2015.

See more at: <http://fortune.com/2017/01/11/women-minorities-boards-pay-gap/>

In Kenya, women gear up for county elections

Kenya’s 2010 Constitution guaranteed equal rights and opportunities for women in the political, social and economic spheres through affirmative action. However, a gender audit supported by UN Women in 2016 found that in practice, women still faced persistent institutional barriers to political participation and not many women were being nominated or elected within the political parties. Based on the findings, the Political



Parties Bill was passed, stipulating that no more than two-thirds of elected or appointed candidates on a party list would be of the same gender.

Now, under the same project, and in collaboration with various local partners, UN Women is working with community elders to break the cultural barriers to women's political participation.

Kenya has seen an increase in women's representation in the Parliament from 9.8 per cent to 19 per cent in recent years (2007 – 2013). As the country moves closer to the general election, the State Department of Gender Affairs, with the support of UN Women, is conducting a series of county-wide civic education to strengthen the capacity of women to participate in the electoral process, both as candidates and as voters. The trainings raise public awareness on the need for more women in elective positions and show examples of how women have led in the past. They also sensitize the participants about their legal rights vis-a-vis the electoral process, and teach campaign management skills to women aspiring to run for office at local levels.

For the general elections on 8 August, a total of nine women are competing for Governors, 115 as members of the National Assembly, 25 as senators' and 261 as members of the County Assemblies.

Technology and Gender

Oslo Hackathon explores new technology to empower women in humanitarian crisis

With a focus on innovative ways to empower women in humanitarian crisis, UN Women in partnership with Innovation Norway organized a Hackathon at the Katapult Future Fest in Oslo, Norway in July 2017. The hackathon provided a unique opportunity for technological innovators and humanitarian workers to come together and build technology-driven solutions to complex humanitarian problems, aligned with the commitment made by UN Women and Innovation Norway earlier this year. Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Innovation Norway, the Norwegian Refugee Council and UN Women served as mentors and judges at the hackathon.

The hackathon served as the beginning of new partnerships with innovators, social entrepreneurs and business leaders. In the following months, UN Women plans to identify and pilot a blockchain solution to empower women in humanitarian context, with the support of Innovation Norway.

The event brought together technology innovators to address day-to-day challenges faced by refugees and displaced persons. Blockchain is a technology that offers decentralized and secure online database, records and money transfer systems. A number of technology led social startups were developed during the hackathon which would enable women to address humanitarian challenges. One team developed 'VIPI Cash', an app that uses blockchain technology to enable secure money transfer among women entrepreneurs, so that they can have access and control over their own money, independent of the male members of their family. Another innovation developed was the

Digital Grab Bag - an app that collects and records identification data of refugees and provides an easy verification process among peers. In times of crisis, as people are on the move, they often cannot carry their identification and credentials on their person. The app makes it easier to prove their identity in order to access jobs and services.

Another application designed that assigns “Diwala tokens” with which women can buy and sell services, instead of using cash, or verify and endorse their skills.

For the winning teams, as well as the other participating teams with innovative ideas, the hackathon has opened potential investment opportunities. For example, VIPI Cash has already secured support from a leading Swedish company for branding and business development of their prototype.

UN Women highlights women’s role in the energy of the future during EXPO 2017 in Astana

This summer, UN Women energy projects and initiatives that benefit women and fight climate change took centre stage at EXPO 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan held from 10 June to 10 September 2017. UN agencies, governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and technology companies from more than 100 countries at the expo explored strategies, programmes and technologies aimed at sustainable energy development, promoting energy security and efficiency, and encouraging the use of renewable energy.

Energy plays a crucial role in global economic growth and underpins all areas of development. Around the world, more than one billion people lack access to electricity and 2.9 billion use solid biomass for cooking and heating homes. Women disproportionately bear the burden of energy poverty. When modern sources are not available, they spend hours each day collecting fuel to cook and heat their homes. They also face significant health and safety risks from household air pollution, from carrying heavy fuel loads, and from the lack of lighting. At the same time, women are largely absent in the industries that produce modern sources of renewable energy, comprising only 20 per cent of the workforce.

UN Women works to extend energy access and enable women to bring electricity to their communities, as well as to empower women as agents of change in promoting sustainable energy technologies. Through the Barefoot College in India, UN Women has helped train illiterate older women from Africa as solar engineers, who then provided their communities with access to electricity. Also, the Government of India and UN Women are implementing a large-scale, transformative Women’s Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Energy (WESE) programme that will directly reach 100,000 disadvantaged women. In Central Asia, UN Women worked to train rural women to build greenhouses and solar installations.

Together with UNEP, UN Women has also recently launched a Flagship Programme Initiative on Women’s Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Energy that aims to increase women’s entrepreneurship, leadership and access to, and productive use of, sustainable energy.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/6/press-release--un-women-at-expo-2017>

UN Women Executive Director calls for bridging the gender digital divide at Transform Africa Summit

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was in Rwanda to participate in the Transform Africa Summit (10 – 12 May), which has become a landmark forum on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the continent, gathering around 4,000 participants annually.

The Executive Director highlighted the great potential of leveraging technology solutions to make cities safer for women and girls and the need to bridge the gender digital divide as a critical means to empower African women and girls.

UN Women has been supporting the country's efforts in ensuring women's empowerment and inclusion is a hallmark of national recovery and reconstruction, supporting programmes on women's leadership, economic empowerment, and ending violence against women, as priority areas. In prior years, UN Women's efforts have also focused on facilitating Rwandan women's inclusion in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and peacebuilding efforts.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/5/announcer-ed-phumzile-to-visit-rwanda>

Women and Media

New films on SDGs Goals spotlight women's journeys of resilience

On 12 June, the Leave No One Behind Coalition, together with UN Women launched four new films that show how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—a set of 17 global goals unanimously adopted by governments worldwide—can truly transform the lives of women and girls. The films were intended to raise awareness and spark dialogues in the lead-up to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held in July 2017, in New York.

The films show that notwithstanding the barriers, women and girls are finding ways to forge ahead. In *Juddy's story*, Juddy talks about overcoming her disability to become an entrepreneur. She is now a leader in her community, teaching other women how they can empower themselves and overcome poverty. Her story shows what's possible when we tackle inequalities.

Similarly the other films show the importance of education and tackling harmful practices as well as women's economic empowerment.



The Leave No One Behind Coalition is urging governments to put the women and girls who are furthest behind first, to make sure that they have the same life chances as everyone else.

Violence Against Women

The Supreme Court of India bans instant divorce in a move to protect Muslim women's rights

The Supreme Court of India gave a landmark judgment on 22 August, declaring the practice of unilateral and instantaneous triple *talaq* under the Muslim personal law unconstitutional by a 3:2 majority. The triple *talaq* is a practice under which a Muslim man can instantly divorce his wife by uttering the word "*talaq*" three times. The five-member bench delivering the historic judgement comprised of judges from different major faiths in India—Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Zoroastrianism.

The Supreme Court judgment has been welcomed by women's groups and hailed as being historic by the Government. The vulnerability and suffering of Muslim women caused by the triple *talaq* has been a part of the public debate for many years. The judgment comes two years after Shayara Bano approached the Apex Court after her husband of 15 years sent her a letter with *talaq* written thrice. Bano's husband also took away her two children. Petitions of four other women were tagged with this case: Ishrat Jahan, the second petitioner from the state of West Bengal, was divorced over phone by her husband, who called from Dubai and uttered *talaq* thrice and disconnected. Gulshan Parween, the third petitioner from the state of Uttar Pradesh was divorced through a *talaqnama* or a divorce notice and rendered homeless after being allegedly subjected to domestic violence over dowry. Aafreen Rehman, also allegedly abused for dowry, received a speed post announcing the divorce. Atiya Sabri, another petitioner, was divorced on a piece of paper.

UN Women welcomes the judgment and its plausible positive impact on the lives of Muslim women in India. Immediately prior to the judgment, on 1 August, UN Women had facilitated a Roundtable Consultation with representatives from civil society, academia, government and religious leaders, for the Muslim Women's Forum. The discussions focused on issues concerning the socio-economic status of Muslim women and the personal law framework, including the infamous triple *talaq*.



UN Women India Multi-Country Office Representative Rebecca Tavares speaks at the Muslim Women's Forum round table. Photo: UN Women/Deepak Malik

UN Women is committed to promoting equality and the rights of women from marginalized communities, including minority women in India. In 2016, UN Women initiated a needs assessment study for the Indian Ministry of Minority Affairs. The study brought to light the development priorities of minority women in select "Minority Concentration Districts" in six states of the country—Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan.

UN Women partnered with a civil society organization, CSJ IDEAL, for an action research on 'Assessing the Rights of and Entitlements of Women from Minority Communities', involving the Rehnuma Centres. The Rehnuma Centres are socio-economic entitlement centres set up in Minority Concentrated Districts following the recommendations of the Sachar Committee, a committee set up by the former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to report on the latest social, economic and educational conditions of Muslims in India

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/8/news-supreme-court-of-india-bans-instant-divorce>

A new initiative to end VAW in the Western Balkans and Turkey launched by UN Women and the EU

The European Union (EU) and UN Women launched in July 2017 a three-year regional initiative to end discrimination and violence against women in six Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia) and Turkey. The Programme "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds" is one more effort within the framework of the EU Year to End Violence

against Women, and the EU-UN Women partnership to empower and protect the rights of women and girls.

Taking place at the premises of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the event brought together EU and UN representatives, governments and civil society from the Western Balkans and Turkey as well as representatives from the Council of Europe, European Institute for Gender Equality and Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe to discuss the way forward for eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls.

“In the European Union year to end violence against women, the European Commission is pleased to partner with UN Women to step up efforts to end violence against women in Western Balkan countries and Turkey. We will work together to support national governments and civil society, to accelerate protection, prevention and response to violence against women,” said Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, Director for the Western Balkans at the Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission.

“The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) is our anchor for this important initiative. Our goal is to work with governments and civil society in the region to implement legislation and policies in full compliance with the Convention,” said Alia El-Yassir, UN Women acting Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia.

The 3-year EU-UN Women programme, financed by the European Commission to the tune of 5 million euros, builds on the momentum created by the Istanbul Convention.

Visit UN Women [Europe and Central Asia website](#) for the full press release and more information on the [programme](#).

Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon Parliament abolish infamous rape law



UN Women, in collaboration with the Jordanian National Commission for Women, hosted a round table discussion at the Jordanian Parliament between Jordanian and Moroccan Members of Parliament to exchange good practices on Penal Code amendments, with a specific focus on article 308 on 9 May 2016. Photo: Jordanian National Commission for Women.

Until now, the law in the Kingdom of Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon allowed a rapist to avoid prosecution by marrying his victim for a minimum period of five years. In a historic move, on 3 August, the Parliament of Jordan voted to abolish the infamous “rape law”—article 308 of the Penal Code.

In recent years, the advocacy to abolish Article 308 in Jordan has been growing into a strong front, led by national and international organizations, justice sector professionals, journalists and women’s rights activists. Emphasizing the continued trauma, fear and abuse that rape survivors endure when forced to marry their rapists, civil society, parliamentarians and other actors formed a dedicated coalition in 2015. Together, they demanded the adoption of better legal measures to protect survivors of rape, sexual assault and harassment, and to punish the perpetrators to end impunity.



Salma Nims, Secretary-General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women, launched a petition to collect signatures demanding the amendment of national laws that discriminate against women, during the joint press conference organized at Jordanian National Commission for Women on 22 November 2016, at the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign in Jordan. Photo: Jordanian National Commission for Women.

UN Women has been a steadfast supporter of the Jordanian National Commission for Women and Jordanian civil society in their advocacy efforts. In 2016, UN Women also organized a dialogue on the issue between Jordanian and Moroccan parliamentarians,

since Morocco had successfully abolished similar discriminatory provisions from its laws.

Following the recommendations issued by the Royal Committee for Developing the Judiciary and Enhancing the Rule of Law, an advisory body to the King of Jordan, in February 2017, the reform of Jordan's Penal Code also included the amendment of other provisions, notably, Articles 98 and 99, resulting in increased sentences for perpetrators of so-called 'honor crimes'. Upon ratification by King Abdullah II, Jordan will be the third country in the region, after Morocco and Lebanon, to abolish the use of marriage to avoid rape prosecutions.

Tunisia made historic strides by passing its first national law to combat violence against women on 26 July, 2017. The long-awaited legislation, which passed with 146 votes out of 217 and zero abstentions, takes a comprehensive approach by combining measures for prevention of violence and support for survivors. The passing of the law follows several years of advocacy efforts led by Tunisian civil society and national institutions, in collaboration with international organizations, including UN Women.

On the heels of Jordan and Tunisia scrapping discriminatory rape laws, the Lebanese Parliament agreed on 16 August, to abolish the Penal Code Article 522, the infamous "rape law" or "rape-marriage" law. In Lebanon this major legal step is a direct outcome of several national initiatives, including a successful nation-wide advocacy campaign led by ABAAD Institution for Gender Equality, in partnership with UN Women Lebanon, to remove existing discriminatory legal provisions related to article 522 of the Lebanese Penal Code. The campaign, funded by the Government of Japan and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, mobilized public awareness to strengthen legislations to protect women and girls from sexual violence and exploitation in Lebanon, and to spur social norms change to adequately respond to sexual violations.

The UN Women/ABAAD campaign to repeal law no. 522 also included a national concert in November 2016, to engage men and boys as advocates and agents of change for the achievement of gender equality and women's rights. The concert drew an audience of more than 400 people and popular Lebanese composer and singer, Mike Massy, produced a song dedicated to the issue.

The rape clause remains on the books in Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Bahrain, Palestine and Syria.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/8/news-jordanian-parliament-abolishes-law-that-allowed-rapists-to-avoid-prosecution>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/8/news-tunisia-law-on-ending-violence-against-women>

New progressive law on domestic violence adopted in Kyrgyzstan

Recently adopted law on domestic violence in Kyrgyzstan aims to improve protection measures for survivors, simplifies reporting procedures and introduces behaviour correction for perpetrators.

A father raped his daughters for several years...An uncle abused his two-year-old nephew...A husband battered his wife to death in front of their children...In recent years, stories of such abuse have dominated the daily news in Kyrgyzstan.

On 28 April, Kyrgyzstan adopted a new law "*On Safeguarding and Protection Against Domestic Violence*", which culminated from three years of joint advocacy by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, civil society partners and the UN Gender Thematic Group, which consists of representatives from UN agencies in the country.

The law improves protection measures for survivors and addresses implementation gaps in the previous domestic violence legislation.

Globally, domestic violence remains a problem of enormous magnitude, across the world. It is estimated that 35 per cent of women worldwide experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime. In Kyrgyzstan, 23 per cent of women aged 15 – 49 years report having experienced physical violence, and only two in five women report physical or sexual abuse to police or local authorities.

Some fast facts on domestic violence in Kyrgyzstan (National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, [2010-2014](#)):

According to the new law, anyone who is aware of domestic violence occurring can now report it and the police will be obliged to respond and take all necessary actions to address the violence. Previously, only survivors could report to the police, and since survivors might be pressured by perpetrators and the relatives, many of them either did not go to the police or withdrew their complaint the next day.

UN Women provided technical support to the Forum of Women Parliamentarians on drafting the new law and UNDP supported the costing and budget formulation for its implementation. UN Women also coordinates the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign around the world.

The new law draws upon reports of implementation gaps of the previous law on domestic violence, CEDAW Concluding Observations of 2015 [1], UN Women report on "Access to Justice" (2015) and Human Rights Watch Report "Call me when he tries to kill you" (2015), which include experiences of survivors and service providers. It provides concrete mechanisms for implementation, which was lacking in the previous law.

For example, now under the new law, protective orders will be issued by the police for all the survivors in a mandatory basis, whereas before, rarely would survivors get this order due to lack of awareness and complicated procedures.

Currently the national government, together with the UNiTE campaign, is drafting an Action Plan and budget to support the implementation of the new law, to be included in 2018 national budget.

Combatting cyber violence - UN Women hosts Facebook Live

On 25 July, UN Women broadcast a [Facebook Live conversation](#) on combatting cyber violence with experts and survivors.

On the 25th of every month, UN Women and the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign commemorate [Orange Day](#), a day to take action to raise awareness and prevent violence against women and girls.

This Orange Day focused on [cyber violence](#). In the 21st century, women's and girls' access to Internet and Communications Technology is a core indicator for women's empowerment. It is therefore vital that the internet is a safe place that allows all women and girls to fulfil their potential as valued members of society and live their lives free from violence and fear. However, a [2017 study](#) found that while more men than women in the U.S. report having experienced some form of online harassment, the types of violence and the gravity differ a lot.

Some 21 per cent of women ages 18 to 29 have been sexually harassed online, a figure that is again more than double that of men in the same age group.

Moderated by Emily Mahaney, Features Director at Glamour Magazine, the Facebook Live conversation highlighted strategies to combat cyber violence with panelists sharing different approaches from their professional and personal experiences.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/7/announcer-orangeday-cyberviolence-fb-live>

In your Interest

UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board calls for equal representation of women and men

The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) has called for equal representation of women and men in all PCB delegations, at its latest session, taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 27 to 29 June.

Tabled by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and seconded by Ghana, a decision point inviting delegations to continue to encourage and support equal representation of women and men in delegations to the PCB was adopted by consensus. The decision point came in response to a report by the UNAIDS Executive Director, Michel Sidibé, in which he highlighted gender equality and the empowerment of women as one of the core pillars of the Fast-Track approach to ending AIDS and a key priority in the repositioning of the Joint Programme.

The PCB members reflected that governing bodies are central to embedding gender equality in organizations and noted that this is an area in which UNAIDS can again demonstrate its commitment to gender equality.

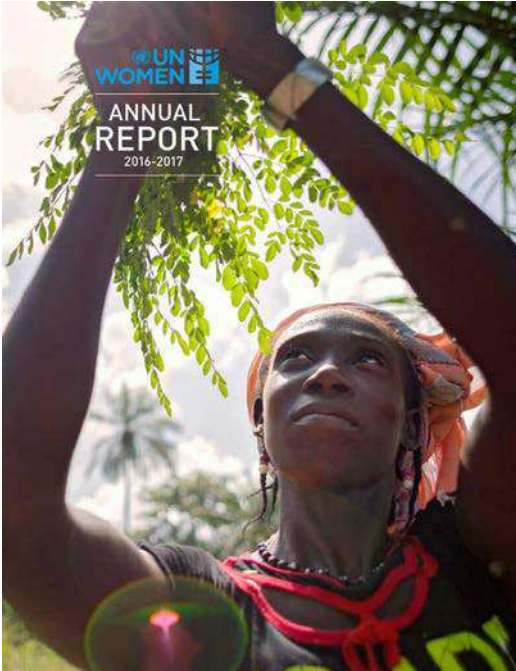
The UNAIDS Executive Director noted how fostering a culture that empowers women within organizations leads to progress in parity. He shared results from the UNAIDS Secretariat Gender Action Plan, including an increase in women in country director positions (from 27% in 2013 to 48% in 2017) and an increase in the percentage of women in middle management and higher levels, from 44% in 2013 to 48% in 2017.

Gender parity on delegations of governing bodies has been strongly advocated by the International Gender Champions. UNAIDS and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Co-Chair the International Gender Champions impact group on change management, which aims to identify and overcome institutional barriers that prevent women's influence and advancement.

Recommended Reading and Watching

UN Women Annual Report 2016–2017





The Annual Report documents UN Women's work to foster women's empowerment and gender equality around the world. It highlights some of the organization's initiatives during the year and provides summary financial statements, a list of new programmes and projects, and contact information.

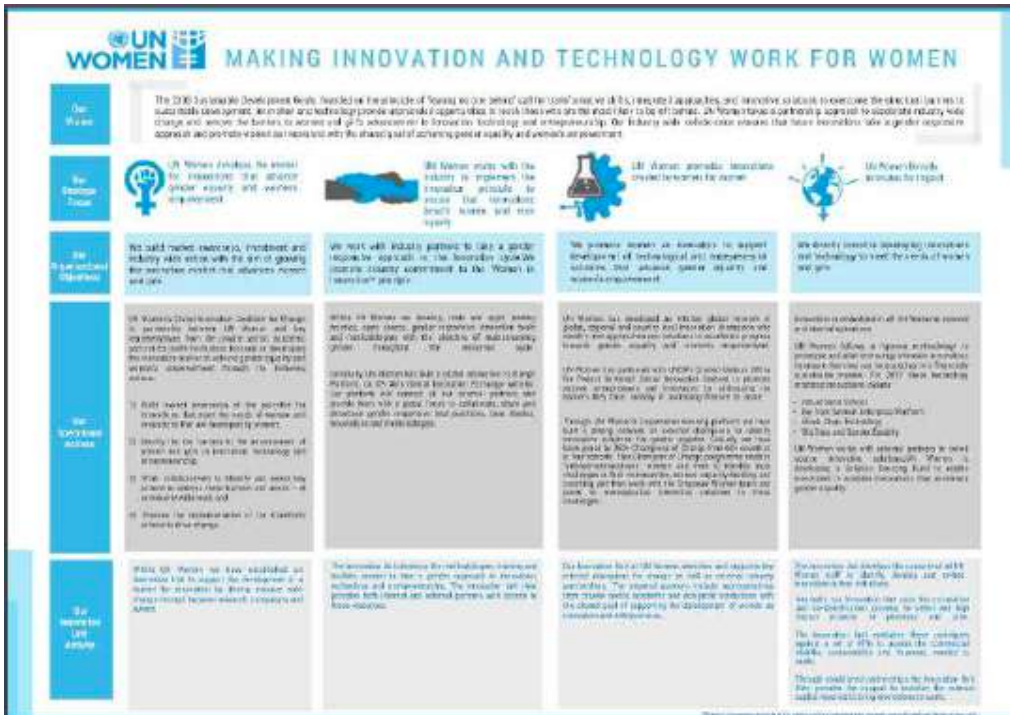
This year's report showcases the many ways in which we support work at country and global level to turn the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into results for women and girls worldwide, working closely with Member States and a wide range of partners to realize rights and build resilience. In 2016, the first year of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, we supported women to claim their right to equal treatment under the law, to gain elected office, to draw on the power of innovation and technology, and to become leaders through sports, among many other initiatives. We also supported civil society and women's rights activists to inform and influence crucial policy discussions.

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- PDF version: [English](#)
- Online version: [English](#)

Access at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/6/annual-report-2016-2017>

Making innovation and technology work for women



The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, founded on the principle of 'leaving no one behind' call for transformative shifts, integrated approaches, and innovative solutions to overcome the structural barriers to sustainable development. Innovation and technology provide unprecedented opportunities to reach those who are the most likely to be left behind.

UN Women takes a partnership approach to accelerate industry wide change and remove the barriers to women and girl's advancement in innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. Our industry wide collaboration ensures that future innovations take a gender responsive approach and promote women as innovators with the shared goal of achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

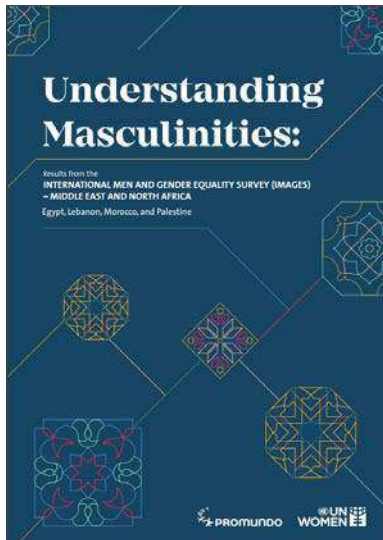
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[English](#)

Understanding masculinities

Results from the International Men and Gender Equality Study in the Middle East and North Africa

One-quarter of men in Middle East and North Africa support gender equality



The International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) is the first multi-country study of its kind and size in the Middle East and North Africa. Coordinated by UN Women and Promundo, in collaboration with local research partners, the report takes a never-before-seen look at what it means to be a man in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine today. Exploring key issues at home and at work, in public and private life, and their attitudes towards gender equality; It also provides women's perspectives on the same issues.

The first-ever study on men and masculinity in the Middle East and North Africa by UN Women and Promundo surveyed 10,000 men across Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon and Palestine. While unequal attitudes dominate, a significant minority support some forms of equality between men and women, especially if they saw their fathers doing the same.

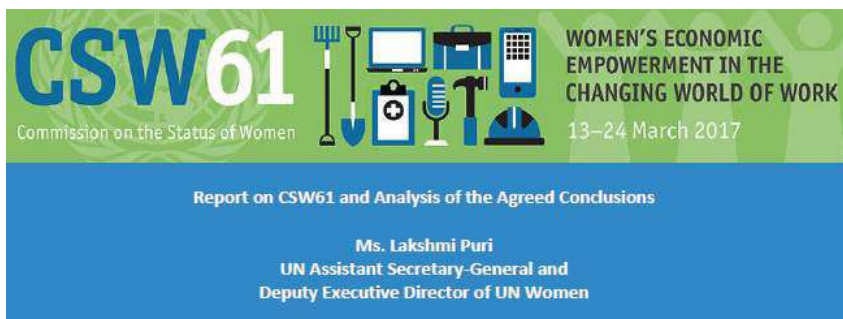
This publication was produced under the Men and Women for Gender Equality Programme, UN Women Regional Office for Arab States, and was generously funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

View online/download

Full report: [English](#)

Executive summary: [English](#) | [Arabic](#) | [French](#)

Report of CSW61 and analysis of the agreed conclusions



I. Introduction

The 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 13 – 24 March 2017, at a critical juncture in the changing political landscape and realignment of forces mobilized around the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda (GEWE). Champions of GEWE, human rights and the women's movement saw this CSW as a litmus test of the strength of international political commitment in the face of fresh challenges to the historic and hard won normative gains of the gender equality compact secured especially between 2012-2016.

They were concerned whether the international community would hold on to these precious gains and make further progress on all fronts. They also wanted Member States to re-commit to forge ahead on implementing the GEWE promises of the Beijing plus 20 Political Declaration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and the Quito New Urban Agenda, and with specific reference to the priority theme of CSW61 on 'women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, and its focus area on 'the empowerment of indigenous women'.

The review theme of MDGs (Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls -agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session) also provided a platform for countries to present their experience and success in implementing and achieving the MDGs for women and girls and how they are now adapting and creating necessary laws, policies, measures and institutions for the gender-responsive implementation of agenda 2030 and its GEWE compact more broadly.

Expectations were also high because CSW61 came on the heels of the landmark Agreed Conclusions of CSW60 which set out a detailed normative roadmap for the gender responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. There was a keenness to affirm the relevance for GEWE of the universality, multilateralism, global solidarity, partnership and development cooperation around the three pillars of the UN's mission of sustainable development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian response.

It was also the first CSW after the new Secretary-General took office and proclaimed his determination to put the UN at the forefront of the global movement for the achievement of GEWE. He said at the

1

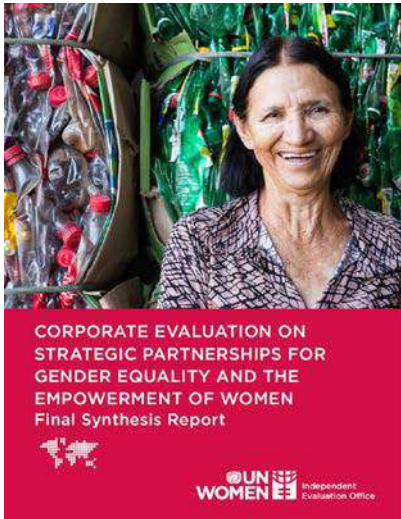
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In this report, learn more about CSW61 and read analysis from UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri.

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[English](#)

Corporate evaluation of UN Women's strategic partnerships for gender equality and the empowerment of women: Final synthesis report



Partnerships are an essential aspect of UN Women work but are often overlooked when we evaluate the results of our work. The skill set, time and resources necessary for ensuring truly effective strategic partnerships are often underestimated.


In 2015–2016, the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office undertook a corporate evaluation of UN Women's strategic partnerships for gender equality and women's empowerment. The evaluation is intended to enhance UN Women's approach to strategic partnerships with the aim of ensuring that gender equality is reached by 2030. It was also expected to contribute to an understanding of how UN Women's strategic partnerships can facilitate a strong position for gender equality and women's empowerment within the current global development context and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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- [Evaluation report](#)
- [Brief](#)
- [Management response](#)
- See also: [TRANSFORM, Issue 10: The strategic partnerships evaluation issue](#)

No more business as usual: UN seeks to raise women's participation in intergovernmental forums

UN Women launched a publication titled "Shaping the international agenda: Raising women's voices in intergovernmental forums" at a high-level event in New York on 2



May, 2017. The publication, first of its kind, is based on responses from a survey of 23 UN entities in 2016, and presents an overview of intergovernmental and UN inter-agency frameworks, trends in women's participation in national governments and intergovernmental forums, and good practices in promoting women's participation at the national, regional and multilateral levels. The research also demonstrates effective measures taken by international organizations and highlights the importance of explicit policies and mandated targets related to gender balance; tracking and reporting on the number of women participating in their governing bodies, including as chairs; training and capacity-building; targeted financial support; and advocacy and communication strategies towards expanding women's participation.

Women's participation and leadership make for better policies. Yet, as of April 2017, in only 16 countries did a woman hold the position of Head of State and/or Government and, as of January 2017, women held only 18.3 per cent of ministerial posts. Underrepresentation of women in government trickles down to the intergovernmental forums—only three women have served as President of the United Nations General Assembly in the past 71 years [1]; and in 2016, women made up only 20 per cent of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York, and 27 per cent in Geneva [2].

Business as usual is no longer an option, was the consensus emerging from 8th annual meeting of the United Nations Governing Bodies Secretariat (UNGBS) held in June 2016. UN Women, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the International Gender Champions have jointly produced the publication, ["Shaping the international agenda: Raising women's voices in intergovernmental forums"](#), which gives concrete recommendations to increase women's participation and leadership in international organizations' governing bodies.

Two years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the publication is particularly timely. Concrete actions to improve women's participation and representation at all levels of decision-making is crucial for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, human rights and justice.

Access all the [publication](http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications) on UN Women's website: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications>

Feminism in Times of War and Peace

UN Women-produced documentary pays a tribute to the feminist movement in Colombia and is a testament of women's commitment to a peaceful society

Feminism in Times of War and Peace, a documentary produced by UN Women, tells the story of the game-changing work of Colombian women that ushered the country towards peace at last. The film captures the personal stories of UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) members in Colombia, who were participants in the peace process, and explores their lives as women and as gender equality advocates.

Access at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/7/news-feminism-in-times-of-war-and-peace>

MODERN GUIDE TO EQUALITY-Advancing equality in the workplace

Female Quotient, Catalyst and Atlantic Media Studies June 2017

The Female Quotient has created The Modern Guide to Equality to accelerate the change in the workplace we want. In partnership with Atlantic Media Strategies and Catalyst, the study addresses the problem holistically, combining generational insights, workplace trends and interviews with industry leaders to develop a toolkit and corporate workshops with next-step actions for change. The mission is clear: to advance equality in the workplace. In January of 2017, the first issue of The Modern Guide To Equality was released. This current issue (Vol II) provides new research on generational and workplace trends, insights and strategy from business leaders and new next step solutions to activate change. Within this issue, a closer look is taken at the values and characteristics associated with leadership today. Why? Because it is leadership that moves the world. Leaders start the discussions around issues that matter the most and then model and champion the change needed. Leaders drive change by improving processes, operations and communication. "Change is certain. Leadership ensures that change is intentional."

See at:

http://www.catalyst.org/system/files/the_modern_guide_to_equality_volume_2_june_2017.pdf

For all UNW publications please visit:

Care responsibilities and women's leadership

ODI Briefing papers

Rebecca Holmes, Emma Samman, Pilar Domingo and Nicola Jones

A 'hidden' childcare crisis is having severe implications on generations of women across the world, often constraining them from realising their full potential in different political and economic activities. While women are increasingly represented in political institutions, albeit with limited access to leadership positions, a lack of access to childcare may impede their greater involvement and limit prospects for advances in care-related policies.

This ODI Insights policy brief brings together two key areas of research by the Overseas Development Institute: childcare, and women's voice and leadership.

The authors' aim is to explore the overlap between these two areas and to identify the policy implications that stem from this joint focus. This is important for easing care-related constraints to enable the fuller participation of women in public life and to expand the opportunities and incentives for women (and men) to advance a care-related agenda, particularly one that supports poor and marginalised women and girls.

Access at: <https://www.odi.org/publications/10668-care-responsibilities-and-womens-leadership>



Websites

Women's Equality Party

Women's Equality (WE) The Women's Equality Party is a new collaborative force in British politics uniting people of all genders, ages, backgrounds, ethnicities, beliefs and experiences in the shared determination to see women enjoy the same rights and opportunities as men - so that all can flourish.

Equality for women isn't a women's issue. When women fulfil their potential, everyone benefits. Equality means better politics, a more vibrant economy, a workforce that draws on the talents of the whole population and a society at ease with itself.

WE are pushing for equal representation in politics, business, industry and throughout working life. WE are pressing for equal pay and an equal opportunity to thrive. WE are campaigning for equal parenting and caregiving and shared responsibilities at home to give everyone equal opportunities both in family life and in the workplace. WE urge an education system that creates opportunities for all children and an understanding of why this matters. WE strive for equal treatment of women by and in the media. WE seek an end to violence against women.

Access at: <http://www.womensequality.org.uk/>

The Representation Project

Using film and media as catalysts for cultural transformation, The Representation Project inspires individuals and communities to challenge and overcome limiting stereotypes so that everyone – regardless of gender, race, class, age, religion, sexual orientation, ability, or circumstance – can fulfill their human potential.

In response to overwhelming public demand for ongoing education and social action in support of the film's message, Newsom founded the organization that has become The Representation Project in April 2011. A 501(c)3 non-profit organization, The Representation Project inspires individuals and communities to create a world free of limiting stereotypes and social injustices.

Jennifer Siebel Newsom's first film Miss Representation premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival and exposed the ways in which mainstream media and culture contribute to the underrepresentation of women in positions of power and influence.

Written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, *Miss Representation* exposes how mainstream media and culture contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America.

The film draws back a curtain to reveal a glaring reality we live with every day but fail to see – how the media’s limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls makes it difficult for women to feel powerful and achieve leadership positions.

Access at: <http://therepresentationproject.org/film/miss-representation/>

UN Women Info

Employment opportunities

You can find a monthly list of vacancy announcements at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/about-us/employment>

You can read Network online at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/fpnetworks.htm>

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