

Network

The UN Women's Newsletter, Volume No. 16, Issue 1

January, February, March, April 2015

Letter from the Focal Point for Women

Dear Friends,

Greetings for the New Year to all our readers!

We are delighted to bring you the first edition of the Network newsletter for 2015! This issue covers the period January through April 2015 and includes news on a diverse range of worldwide events. This quarter we have exciting news to share with many high level events worldwide. This edition is chock full of news on the Beijing+20 Review activities – including the annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, Women's Day or the travels of the Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka to Chile, Africa and the Middle East, as 2015 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and landmark Beijing Platform of Action. We also highlight the *Planet 50/50 by 2030 Step It Up for Gender Equality Campaign* and the next stage of the *HeForShe Campaign* and engaging males to turn the tide for gender equality with the support of world leaders, celebrities and activists to galvanize global attention.



Also, we welcome warmly and congratulate the new Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women Mr. Yannick Glemarec of France as he takes up his new assignment with the UN Women. We also congratulate and acknowledge the support of the distinguished individuals who serve to advance gender equality and empowerment of women's rights in their various capacities representing the UN.

We highlight women's economic empowerment amongst others at the 59th Commission on the Status of Women where an unprecedented number of business leaders, UN Member States and civil society organizations gathered for the Women's Empowerment Principles event, *Unlimited Potential: Business Partners for Gender Equality*, to promote the business case for involving women at every level.

This issue brings, amongst other items, news on women and health such as dirty water a leading cause of female deaths, representation of women including the five facts about equal pay gap, women in technology such as mobile technology week in Paris. We conclude the issue with information on latest reports, publications and websites such as the UN Women flagship report *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016 - Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights* and the Summary of the Secretary General's Report: *The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Turns 20*.

As always, we highlight a diversity of news which we trust you will find inspiring enough to fuel your advocacy and generate momentum and urgency to support needed global actions for advancing gender equality and empowerment of women's rights. Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women is the imperative of our times and a goal to achieve in this century. There are many challenges ahead, however we must continue to work, systematically and relentlessly, to change the paradigm with bolder and renewed commitments.

Only with your continued support can we finish this agenda, and we look forward to your interest in 2015 and beyond!

In solidarity,

Aparna Mehrotra

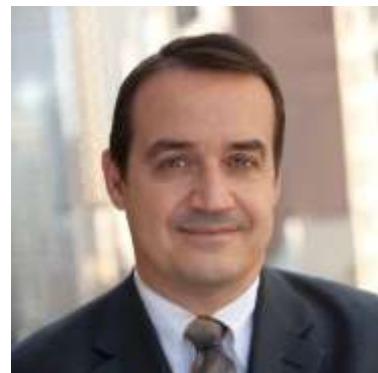
Focal Point for Women in the UN system &
Senior Advisor for Coordination,
Division for UN System Coordination
UN Women

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Congratulations

To **Yannick Glemarec** of France on his appointment on March 6, 2015 as Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme of UN-Women. He succeeds John Hendra of Canada who served as the first UN Women Deputy Executive Director from 2011-2014. Previously, Mr. Glemarec held the position of Executive Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (since 2013), after serving as UNDP Executive Coordinator for the Global Environment Facility in New York for six years, Mr. Glemarec brings over 25 years of experience in fund administration, programme management and leadership in development cooperation at the international level in developing countries and at Headquarters. He has held responsible positions notably as Assistant Resident Representative for the UNDP Country Office in Vietnam and Deputy Resident Representative for UNDP China and Bangladesh.



To **Bintou Keita** of Guinea as Ebola Crisis Manager for Sierra Leone for the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). She was appointed by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon on 5 February 2015. In her role as Ebola Crisis Manager, Ms. Keita will work with the host Government and key stakeholders to ensure rapid and effective international emergency response to Ebola continues in Sierra Leone.



Ms. Keita succeeds Mr. Amadu Kamara of the United States, who will return to the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia. Ms. Keita brings to the position a wealth of experience with more than 25 years of service in the United Nations including her most recent work as the Chief of Staff for UNMEER. Prior to that, Ms. Keita served extensively in various senior management and leadership functions with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Chad, Congo, Madagascar, Cape Verde, Rwanda, Burundi and New York. Ms. Keita also served as Deputy Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB). She has also worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Guinea.

Ms. Keita holds a master's degree in social economy from the University Paris II, Assas France and a post-master's degree in business administration and management from the University of Paris IX, Dauphine France.

To **Angelica Fuentes**, CEO and Managing Shareholder of Omnilife, and Founder and CEO of Angelissima on her appointment on March 6, 2015 to UN Women Private Sector Leadership Advisory Council (PSLAC). The Council is comprised of prominent private sector leaders, whose companies have a global footprint and who have demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting women and girls.

Ms. Fuentes is recognized as one of Mexico's five most influential women by Forbes magazine. In 2014, Ms. Fuentes formed The Angélica Fuentes Foundation, the first foundation in the world solely dedicated to empowering Latin American women and girls. The foundation focuses on advancing women's empowerment and gender equality through direct social investment, major partnerships, and public policy change.



Ms. Fuentes is a dedicated philanthropist and trailblazer on women's issues. She currently serves alongside Queen Rania as one of two Global Advocates for the United Nations' Girl Up campaign. She also co-chairs the World Economic Forum's Mexico Gender Parity Taskforce and serves on Secretary Clinton's International Council on Women's Business Leadership.

To **Cindy Smith** of the United States on her appointment as Director of United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. Dr. Smith succeeds Dr. Jonathan Lucas of Seychelles. Dr. Smith has a wealth of experience in the field of criminology and justice issues, policymaking and education. Previously she served as Senior Coordinator for International Programs in the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the United States Department of State. Prior to that, she was a Lead Foreign Affairs Officer at the Department of State (2011-2012), Associate Professor in Criminology at the University of Baltimore, United States (2008-2010), Chief of the International Centre at the National Institute of Justice in Washington, D.C. (2005-2008) and Associate Professor and Director of the Masters Criminal Justice Program at the University of Baltimore (2000-2005). From 2005 to 2006, Dr. Smith was a Fulbright Senior Researcher in Turkey. Her research has covered a wide range of topics related to criminal justice, including juvenile justice, corrections, human trafficking and gender issues in courts. Dr. Smith holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Social Ecology

from the University of California, Irvine, a Master of Science in Education Administration from National University, Irvine, and a Master of Science in Justice from American University in Washington, D.C.

Around the UN



From International Women's Day to the Commission on the Status of Women to the launch of a new initiative calling on governments to "Step It Up", March had many activities themed around Beijing+20.

The year, 2015, marks the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Adoption by 189 governments, the 1995 Beijing roadmap is the most comprehensive blueprint on advancing women's rights. However, 20 years on, the commitments made are only partially fulfilled. From 9 to 20 March, the 59th Commission on the Status of Women reviewed global implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and took stock of where women stand in the world today. From the political to the economic spheres, progress made is still inadequate.

Today, only one in five parliamentarians is a woman. Approximately 50 per cent of women worldwide are in paid employment, an increase from 40 per cent more than 20 years ago, with wage inequality persistent. At the present rate of progress, it will take 81 years for women to achieve parity in employment. The pandemic of violence against women and girls affects one in three women worldwide, despite recognized as a gross human rights violation and a barrier to global development. In 2000, the groundbreaking UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security recognized the need to increase women's peacebuilding roles in post-conflict countries. Yet, from 1992 to 2011, only four per cent of signatories to peace agreements and nine per cent of negotiators at peace tables were women.

Preparations for the upcoming meeting have been significant. UN Women launched a global campaign "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture It" last year, to reignite the gender equality debate through global events and engagement. In the lead-up to the Commission, a record-breaking 166 countries undertook national reviews on the status of women in their countries. Setting a new record, more than 1,100 NGOs and a total of 8,600 representatives registered to participate in this year's session. About 200 side-events hosted by governments and UN agencies occurred alongside the official meetings of the Commission, with an additional 450 parallel events by civil society.

With the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform coinciding with the defining of the [post-2015 development agenda](#), expectations are high that it will generate momentum and urgency for global actions on women's rights and gender equality. The Commission adopted a political declaration on the opening day of session.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Hillary Clinton and Business Leaders Call for Women's Economic Empowerment and Rights

Largest Gathering of Private Sector at the UN Commission on the Status of Women Support Strategic Partnership to Deliver on Gender Equality

At the 59th Commission on the Status of Women an unprecedented number of business leaders, UN Member States and civil society organizations gathered for the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) event,

Unlimited Potential: Business Partners for Gender Equality. The purpose of the event was to promote the business case to involve women at every level and the need for all stakeholders, including business, to be strategic partners for gender equality and sustainable development

“Women and men who understand that gender equality is not just morally right, but is the smart thing to do are growing in number,” said Ms. Hillary Clinton at the event. “What we are doing here today is smart for companies and countries. That is the wisdom behind the Women’s Empowerment Principles.” “The progress of the past 20 years was not an accident. It took commitment, it took accountability, it took unity, it took a lot of hard work.” She later added, “I’m excited where we are and particularly that we have brought in so many businesses that understand the role that they can play...let’s keep working until we can finally say that the unfinished business of the 21st century is done.”

In his opening remarks, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted: “Now it is clear that achieving gender equality will require the concerted efforts of all actors. The Women’s Empowerment Principles provide a roadmap for businesses to play their role in respecting and supporting women’s rights,” he said. “Removing the barriers that keep women and girls on the margins of economic, social, cultural and political life must be a top priority for us all – businesses, Governments, the United Nations and civil society.”

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/3/press-release-secretary-general-ban-ki-moon-hillary-clinton-and-business-leaders#sthash.wW30F06a.dpuf>

For information on other key events in please visit <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/02/as-the-beijing-declaration-turns-20>

Governments Endorse New Roles for Women’s Commission

The UN Commission on the Status of Women revamps working methods to raise the stakes in advancing women’s equality, empowerment and rights.

The UN Commission on the Status of Women concluded its 59th annual session with an agreement by UN Member States on steps to boost its efforts to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment. Governments attending the meeting agreed on new working methods for the Commission to continue setting standards related to the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and strengthen its role in global policy-making and coordination of actions around implementation. They affirmed the Commission’s central contributions to shaping the landmark post-2015 sustainable development agenda slated for adoption by a global summit of heads of state and government in September 2015.

As the primary UN body for advancing intergovernmental commitments to gender equality and follow-up to the Beijing Platform, the Commission will further align its work to the Economic and Social Council and the new UN High-level Political Forum. This will strengthen efforts to integrate gender equality across all global debates and actions on sustainable development.

Since a large number of government ministers now attend the Commission, Member States agreed to create a ministerial segment starting at the next session in 2016. This segment intends to heighten the visibility of current concerns, and offer opportunities to demonstrate high-level political commitment to accelerated progress towards gender equality, empowerment and the full realization of women’s human rights.

Congratulating the Member States, civil society and the UN system for “a forceful, dynamic and forward-looking session”, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said in her speech, “We are all aware that there are no shortcuts to realizing gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls. Based on the road we have travelled, we know that there are more challenges ahead of us. We know we must continue to work, systematically and relentlessly, to bring about transformation

in our families, societies, economies, and political and public spaces,” she added.

Governments agreed to sharpen focus of the Commission’s annual review theme. Moving forward, case studies will demonstrate lessons learned in implementing commitments made in previous Commission sessions. The Secretary-General will issue a targeted report on progress on the theme, drawing on national data and other inputs. The process will help close gaps between promises made and measurable change, and offer concrete evidence of how international norms can be translated to make a major difference in the lives of women and girls.

The 59th session included a range of high-level roundtables and panels on critical topics ranging from scaled-up financing for gender equality, to responsibilities of men and boys, to improved gender-disaggregated data. Discussions on lessons from the Millennium Development Goals will further shape the post-2015 development agenda.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/3/press-release-governments-endorse-new-roles-for-womens-commission#sthash.bmxlkwDY.dpuf>

International Women’s Day 2015

PLANET 50-50 | STEP IT UP FOR GENDER BY 2030 | EQUALITY

The theme of this year’s International Women’s Day is the clarion call of UN Women’s Beijing+20 campaign, “Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!” Governments and activists joined across the world in commemorating the ground-breaking Conference of 1995. We celebrate the many achievements that have come since then and galvanize action to address the gaps that still remain in making gender equality a reality.

Launching on the occasion of International Women’s Day 2015, Step It Up showcases specific commitments that governments make, leading up to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. The initiative comes at a critical moment in time as a new development agenda is taking shape to replace the Millennium Development Goals. Galvanizing global attention, world leaders, celebrities and activists unveiled Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality As Beijing Platform for Action turns 20, bold actions urged for swifter, lasting progress



At a star-studded event today in New York City, high-powered speakers took the stage to put out a clarion call: a firm expiry date of 2030 for gender inequality, with real equality being nothing short of 50-50. The packed Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality event was a UN Women-hosted celebration for the 20th anniversary of the historic Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Speakers called for bolder actions from governments and louder mobilization from citizens to move forward the agenda on women’s rights and gender equality, saying progress in the last 20 years has been too slow. Keynote speeches from President of Liberia Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton opened the evening, which brought together politics, arts, philanthropy and activism in a powerful combination to support the rights of women and girls worldwide to an audience of some 2,000 people.



“Women’s and girls’ voices too often go unheard, their talents and initiative unused. This is to the detriment of the world’s prosperity and security,” said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. “Too often, leaders have used women to advance power. I believe we must use power to advance women.” At the 10 March celebration, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon proudly displayed a photo collection of the record number of women he has appointed to top UN leadership positions during his tenure.

Emphasizing the leitmotif of the evening, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka underlined the benefits of a gender-equal society, and the need for immediate concerted action, saying: “This evening celebrates women’s achievements since Beijing; it’s also a moment to gather up and focus our combined energy on the task ahead. Tonight, I am putting out an SOS to the world: let’s STEP IT UP. We can no longer leave behind half the world’s population. Women and girls are essential equal partners for real progress, for peace, for development and for a world in balance.”

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/3/press-release-galvanizing-global-attention-world-leaders-celebrities-and-activists#sthash.FckMXrvS.dpuf>

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/international-womens-day#sthash.b77ZMzwF.dpuf>

Stepping it up on the streets of New York City

Thousands sang, chanted and rallied for gender equality during a march to mark International Women’s Day.

Waving signs and holding banners bearing the slogan “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality and Women’s Rights”, thousands snaked through midtown Manhattan on 8 March in a collective show of solidarity for the global women’s movement.

“We need global action – Action!” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the energized crowd assembled in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, near the United Nations Headquarters. Reflecting on the 20 years since world leaders adopted the Beijing Declaration, he said “progress is too slow, too uneven.”



Co-organized by UN Women and the City of New York, with the UN Women for Peace Association, NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY (NGO CSW/NY), Man Up and The Working Group on Girls NGO, the event ended with a song and call to governments to step up efforts to achieve gender equality.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/3/iwd-march-coverage#sthash.ereCwE5J.dpuf>

Focal Point for Women in the UN - International Women's Day Panel

Reflecting on Beijing +20: Past, Present and Future - The Equal Representation of Women

A high-level panel discussion was organized by the Focal Point for Women in the UN system, UN Women on 17 March 2015 to review and reflect on the Past Present Future and the Equal Representation of Women 20 years after Beijing Platform was launched in 1985. Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women presented the opening remarks. Moderated by Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Senior Adviser on Coordination and Focal Point for Women in the UN System, UN Women, members of the panel included Ms. Deborah Gillis, President and CEO, Catalyst; Lt. General Maqsood Ahmed, Chief Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations; Ms. Dinah Musindarwezo, Executive Director, the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET); and Ms. Hind Al Owais, Senior Gender Advisor, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations.

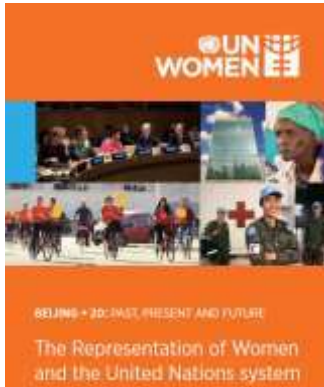
In her opening remarks Ms. Puri noted that we need to recap and evaluate on the implementation of Beijing platform 20 years later and look at the gaps and challenges and how do we get to planet 50/50 by 2030. She said that in 1995 there was 1 female CEO in fortune 500 companies and now there are 24 which is only 5 per cent or 24 out of 500 CEOs. There is a need to drive for every step, measure, law, programme in order to push the envelope on this issue.

Ms. Deborah Gillis emphasized that the world has failed to make the expected progress on gender equality and empowerment of women. She noted following four ways to effect change: 1) True Leadership Commitment - Tone at the top as change happens by people and by actions they take; 2) Accountability - leaders holding team members accountable; 3) Engagement of men - starting a dialogue and men advocating real change and being true advocates; 4) Inclusive leadership - redefine leadership to create an environment that is respectful of and encourages diversity of opinion. Catalyst's EACH (empowerment, accountability, courage, and humility) project shows that these are key leadership skills linked to inclusive successful teams and separate a successful leader from a mediocre one.

Lt. General Maqsood Ahmed, Chief Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations noted that increasing the number of women in peacekeeping operations is a basic necessity. Peacekeeping cannot occur without female peacekeepers, especially due to the cultural aspects in most countries in Africa where a majority of the current 16 UN peacekeeping missions are located. Lt. General Maqsood Ahmed appointed the first female force commander and the first female services chief since accepting his position in 2014.

Ms. Dinah Musindarwezo a gender equality expert from Rwanda and Executive Director of FEMNET (African Women's Development and Communication Network a Pan-African Women's Rights Organization that works to advance the rights of women and girls talked of what is happening to boost to women's rights and equal representation in Africa. She noted the importance of special measures as a tool for advancement of women representation.

Ms. Hind Al Owais, Senior Gender Advisor, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the United Nations shed light on the UAE's role leading the Gulf countries to advance gender equality and women empowerment.



Ms. Aparna Mehrotra commented on the usefulness of UN special measures for gender equality as given in the CEDAW article 4, the International Human Rights Treaty. Humility is a fantastic aspect of leadership and humbleness is central to many successful leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa who all had more power and yet no title, noting that these are the leaders we need to be. Ms. Mehrotra added that UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon is the strongest voice on gender, however the system impedes progress. Ms. Gillis agreed that hidden biases exist and these limit women's opportunities. She noted that for so long men benefitted from privilege and gained from their male sponsors; now women need to be given fair access to sponsorship and this should be an expected characteristic of the redefined leadership model.

To mark the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, UN Women prepared a special report on the *Representation of Women and the United Nations System – Beijing + 20 Past Present Future*, presented by the Executive Director to participants at the 14th annual session of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) held in March 2015 in New York.

This report analyzes past trends, the present picture and future projections on women's representation within the UN system. Past trends of the UN system taken as a whole indicate slow and uneven progress. Depending on the professional level, parity can be expected by 2025 at the earliest for the P-4 mid-level and 2043 for the highest decision making level. The UN achieved parity at the lowest professional levels (P-2 and P-3). The report also suggests a set of action points to accelerate progress. These include strong temporary special measures and a multi-pronged approach articulated in a comprehensive policy, backed by the active, consistent and sustained support of executive heads and senior officials.

Access the full report at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/03/the-representation-of-women-and-the-united-nations-system>

Executive Board to look at UN Women's work with men and boys

UN Women Executive Board met on 9 February for its first regular session of 2015. The meeting comes at an historic moment, when gender equality, women's human rights and women's empowerment are high on the international development agenda, and coincides with major intergovernmental processes. This year marks the 20-year anniversary and review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+20), the 15-year review of Security Council resolution 1325 on women peace and security, the negotiations on financing for development, as well as the adoption of a post-2015 development framework and of universally agreed Sustainable Development Goals. An engaged and committed Executive Board is crucial to ensure that gender equality and women rights are strengthened in the post-2015 agenda. Member States explored UN Women's strategy around working with men and boys, examples of country-level work, and efforts to promote women's rights and gender equality by engaging men. A briefing on the HeForShe campaign was a highlight of the session, and focused on portraying men and boys as advocates and stakeholders in breaking the silence, raising their voices and taking action for the achievement of gender equality. Lunchtime briefings touched on UN Women's work responding to the Ebola humanitarian crisis, focusing on the entity's work with the UN system, governments and civil society to integrate gender sensitivity into Ebola response programming and policies.

The Executive Board discussed and evaluated the assessment of the Report of the UN Women Evaluation Function, the organization's strengths, areas to be reinforced and recommendations. They also resumed

discussions on funding the Strategic Plan 2014-2017, an essential matter for UN Women to implement fully its mandate and to ensure its success in bringing meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of women and girls on the ground.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/02/executive-board-meeting-feb-2015#sthash.xRUuBbcl.dpuf>

Around the World

“HeForShe” Campaign Moves to the Next Stage

UN Women launches HeForShe IMPACT 10X10X10 Initiative

Five months on from the launch of U.N. Women’s groundbreaking *HeForShe* campaign, the real work is well underway with *HeForShe* arguably being already one of the most recognized gender equality campaigns to ever exist. The campaign, designed to recruit men and boys as key players in the gender equality movement, burst into life in September 2014 with a passionate speech from British actress Ms. Emma Watson on the floor of the United Nations in New York City. Viewed by millions, the Harry Potter star’s speech launched the *HeForShe* campaign.

On January 23, 2015 At the World Economic Forum in Davos, UN Women, unveiled the ***HeForShe IMPACT 10X10X10*** pilot initiative to galvanize momentum in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment. The *HeForShe* campaign’s IMPACT 10X10X10 initiative is a one-year pilot effort that aims to engage governments, corporations and universities as instruments of change positioned within some of the communities that most need to address deficiencies in women’s empowerment and gender equality and that have the greatest capacity to make and influence those changes. Each sector will identify approaches for addressing gender inequality, and pilot test the effectiveness of these interventions for scalability.

The IMPACT 10X10X10 initiative launched at a press conference attended by H.E President Paul Kagame of Rwanda; H.E. Prime Minister Stefan Lofven of Sweden; UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka; UN Women Global Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Emma Watson; and Mr. Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever.

At the press conference, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted that “*HeForShe* has signed up fathers who want to raise empowered daughters; leaders who know their societies will be stronger when there are as many women in parliament and in business as men; and ordinary people who are fed up with violence and discrimination against women – and want to be part of a global force for change.” He also noted the alliances the campaign is building. “This is a partnership campaign involving individuals and corporations, government leaders and grass-roots activists, great celebrities and



Emma Watson launching the *HeForShe* IMPACT 10x10x10 Initiative at the end of January in Davos for UN Women global citizens. *HeForShe* is the United Nations in your countries and communities,” he added. In her speech Ms. Emma Watson said, “It is time that we all see gender as a spectrum instead of two sets of opposing ideals... How can we effect change in the world when only half of it is invited or feel welcome to participate in the conversation?”

Announced at the launch were the inaugural global leaders who will serve as IMPACT 10X10X10 founding Champions. They will steer the initiative, providing leadership in mobilizing their communities and include: H.E. Prime Minister Mark Rutte of the Netherlands; H.E. President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone; H.E. Prime Minister Stefan Lofven of Sweden; Mr. Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever; Mr. Rick Goings, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Tupperware Brands Corporation; and Mr. Dennis Nally, Chairman, PricewaterhouseCoopers International Ltd. JPMorgan Chase is also proud to be a Title Sponsor of the HeForShe campaign.

IMPACT 10X10X10 prioritizes legislative bodies and corporations in view of the gender inequality that exists in these areas, confirmed by findings from the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2014. "HeForShe exemplifies UN Women's groundbreaking leadership on gender equality. We know where change is proving hardest. The HeForShe IMPACT Initiative puts responsibility for change right where it matters- and spotlights leaders who can make it happen. The founding Champions from industry and government will pave the way for others to join in, using the pilot initiatives to streamline decision-making on relevant and successful activities," stated UN Women Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. "Ultimately we need everyone to get involved if we are to turn the tide."

HeForShe is a solidarity movement that calls upon men and boys to stand up against the persisting inequalities faced by women and girls globally. The campaign strengthens the support for women's rights as human rights by enlisting the support of men and exhorting them to put themselves forward as advocates for gender equality. To date, more than 200,000 men and boys signed their commitment to gender equality through the "HeForShe Commitments API" (a geo-located website app allowing men to register and visualize the real-time number of men activated on the map globally). HeForShe reached by more than 1.2 billion people via social media.

See more at: <http://www.ibtimes.com/press-release/20150123/un-women-launches-heforshe-impact-10x10x10-initiative-1792432>
For more information, visit: <http://www.heforshe.org/>

Prominent Male leaders from Africa and Ireland join HeforShe Campaign Become 'champion' for women's rights accept UN invitation to be involved in HeforShe equality campaign

President Michael D Higgins accepted the United Nations' invitation to be a global champion for the rights of women and girls. Addressing a conference in Dublin in February 2015 to mark the 20th anniversary of the UN



Beijing Platform for Action on women's rights, the President said he was to be one of ten world leaders involved in the UN HeforShe campaign that seeks to engage men in the campaign for gender equality.

The President said all men should be feminist. Quoting Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Mr Higgins said: "We should all be feminists. A feminist is a person who believes in the

social, political and economic equality of the sexes. A feminist is a man or woman who says, 'Yes, there's a problem with gender as it is today and we must fix it and we must do better'."

Mr Higgins said the suppression of the realization by women of their full potential - whether in education or employment, whether due to violence or sexist thinking - was bad, not only for women, but for men and the whole of society too. Current economic analyses of society too often reinforce the oppression of women, treating women as “invisible”. Mr Higgins said these views must be challenged.

Male leaders from Africa to join the HeForShe campaign include Paramount Chief Kyungu of Malawi, an influential cultural leader; Ron Archer, a renowned transformative leadership coach from the United States of America; and Gilberto Macuacua, a media personality in Mozambique, who is also a member of the UN Women Regional Civil Society Group (RCSAG).



These three men signed up online during a HeForShe gala dinner in Nairobi, Kenya on 10 February, the first regional event of its kind in Africa. Promising to harness the power of cultural leaders to bring about change, Paramount Chief Kyungu promised to embark on a campaign to encourage all men in his country to become champions of gender equality and women’s empowerment. “The cultural leaders in Malawi have been on the forefront of discouraging cultural practices that infringe on the rights of women, such as early marriages, and will continue to do so,” he said. In addition to the online sign-up during the event, men signed a banner pledging their solidarity in advocating for gender equality and wore HeForShe badges.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/02/male-african-leaders-join-the-heforshe-campaign#sthash.hOkInyDW.dpuf>

UN Women co-hosts Mobile Learning Week 2015

Mobile Power for Girl Power - UNESCO UN Women celebrate Mobile Learning Week 2015

Leveraging technology to empower women and girls like Azra and her friends is the theme of this year’s Mobile Learning Week, which will be celebrated from 23 to 27 February. UNESCO marked the week with a symposium, forum and research seminar at its Paris Headquarters, with a lineup of experts, policy-maker and private sector leaders. Members of the United Nations Broadband Commission for Digital Development met at UNESCO at the same time.

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka opened the packed weeklong agenda organized by UNESCO and UN Women. Ms. Cherie Blair, who launched the Foundation for Women in 2008 to support women entrepreneurs in developing countries, gave the keynote address.

Despite growth of mobile technology globally, too many women and girls still miss out on education and access to new technologies, and the opportunities they provide.

UNESCO’s statistics show that two out of three of the world’s 781 million illiterate adults and 126 million illiterate youth, are women. At the same time, research by Intel shows that nearly 25 per cent fewer women than men have internet connectivity in developing countries, and this gap rises to 50 per cent in some regions. In low to middle-income nations, 300 million more men than women own mobile phones, and men are far more likely to use them to connect to the internet and download applications that increase economic, professional and educational opportunities.

Although not a panacea, mobile technology is a promising vehicle for improving education, due to a proliferation of educational content tailored for use on widely owned mobile devices. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) estimates that of the seven billion people on Earth, over six billion now have access to a working mobile device, meaning that mobile technology is now common in areas where women are underserved and educational opportunities are limited.

The success and enthusiasm generated by projects such as the UNESCO project in Pakistan mentioned above, supported by Nokia, bear powerful testimony to the fierce desire of girls to learn, the ease with which they adapt to education via new technologies, and the benefits that are reaped. Other UNESCO-led projects with Nokia in Mexico and Nigeria show how these technologies can improve the quality of teaching in remote areas, or with indigenous communities.

UN Women presented digital innovations for women, including the Knowledge Gateway for Women's Economic Empowerment, UN Women online Training Centre, and two grantees of the Fund for Gender Equality who have developed software or are using mobile technology to raise women's issues in their rural communities in India and Costa Rica. The weeklong event included a series of workshops, symposia, a high-level policy forum and research seminar. Discussions focused on the themes of equitable access, gender-sensitive content and pedagogy, literacy, and skills development for women and girls. This was one of several global events as part of UN Women's Beijing+20 campaign.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/02/un-women-cohosts-mobile-learning-week-2015#sthash.FPMM83nQ.dpuf>

See more at: <http://reliefweb.int/report/world/mobile-power-girl-power-unesco-celebrates-mobile-learning-week-2015>

Emma Watson tops AskMen's list of 'Top 99 Most Outstanding Women of 2015'

Ms. Emma Watson topped men's lifestyle magazine, AskMen list of 'Top 99 Most Outstanding Women of 2015'. James Bassil, the publisher of the magazine, said that the list was a shift in modern male thinking and highlighted women who had demonstrated a sheer influence in their industry, and were doing something to demonstrate their versatility and raw talent, E! Online reported.

The 24-year-old 'Harry Potter' actress, who ranked fifth in 2014, topped this year's list due to her work as a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador, involvement in the HeForShe pro-gender equality campaign, participation in a Facebook chat on International Women's Day and her British Artist of the Year honor at the Britannia Awards.

Other prominent women include UFC fighting champ Ronda Rousey (2), Kim Kardashian (3), Taylor Swift (4), Lindsey Vonn (5), Beyonce (7), Amal Clooney (8), Jennifer Lawrence (9) and Michelle Obama (12).

See more at: http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/emma-watson-tops-askmen-s-list-of-top-99-most-outstanding-women-of-2015-115032800273_1.html

Sweden's Foreign Minister Explains Feminist Foreign Policy

When Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström announced last year that her government would pursue a "feminist foreign policy," the idea "met with considerable derision," she says. "We call it the giggling factor." "No one knows what this means" for Sweden's approach to conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war, a Foreign Policy headline declared in December.

Ms. Wallström filled a hall at United States Institute of Peace (USIP) to explain. “A feminist foreign policy seeks the same goals as any visionary foreign policy: peace, justice, human rights and human development”, she said. “It simply acknowledges that we won’t get there without adjusting existing policies, down to their nuts and bolts, to correct the particular (and often invisible) discrimination, exclusion and violence still inflicted on the female half of us.”

“Whether the day’s work is planning aid programs or hiring diplomats or drafting treaties or running peacekeepers’ checkpoints in a war zone, we need to do it differently, changing the habitual practices that have allowed women to be ignored, silenced, abused or even attacked”, the minister said.

Ms. Wallström acknowledged that Sweden’s coinage of a “feminist foreign policy” has received “a fair share of skepticism, to put it kindly,” comparing the response to men’s dismissals of suffragettes campaigning a century ago for women to have the right to vote. She takes strength, she said, from the progression described by India’s independence leader, the Mahatma Gandhi: “First, they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.”

While bloggers and critics posited that a feminist foreign policy must mean surrendering or minimizing the use of military force or other “hard power,” Ms. Wallström cites Harvard University political scientist Joseph Nye in saying that “the tools of foreign policy can, in varying degrees, be hard as well as soft. The situation at hand determines this.” As an example, her government announced last fall a decision to increase Sweden’s military budget amid the growing tensions between Russia and the West.

Discrimination against women not only accompanies, but enables threats to peace and security within and between countries, Ms. Wallström said. “Striving toward gender equality is therefore not only a goal in itself, but also a precondition for achieving our wider foreign, development and security policy objectives.”

In a panel discussion with Ms. Wallström, Mr. Donald Steinberg, a former deputy administrator of the US Agency for International Development, said he has found that men’s eyes “glazed over” when he cited human rights or morality as reasons for preserving women’s rights amid international conflicts. He has learned, instead, to explain to men in authority that their peacekeeping missions were doomed to fail unless women amid the conflict were involved in its resolution.

“We who are advocates in this area have not done a good enough job” at showing the connection between women’s rights and the United States’ national security, said Steinberg, who now is president of the development organization World Learning.

While the United States has applied no feminist brand to its policy, a decidedly more feminist approach has evolved within USAID and the State Department in the past decade, said Mr. Steinberg and Ms. Catherine Russell, the US ambassador-at-large for global women’s issues. After years of growth in the number of women in key positions at the State Department, “most of [its] assistant secretaries are women,” Russell noted. US diplomats understand that “their peace negotiations will be more successful, their economic efforts will be more successful, if women and girls are included from the beginning, rather than as an afterthought,” she said.

After years of pushing for a focus on women within both the Swedish and US foreign policy establishments, Ms. Wallström and Russell said a current task is now to institutionalize the practice -- not only within their own departments but also within international bodies, notably the United Nations. The UN formally pushed for women’s rights and participation for years, especially since 2000, when the UN Security Council passed its first resolution (UNSCR 1325) pushing governments to see and prevent the particular violations of women and their rights that take place amid conflicts. Still, “to this day, there still hasn’t been a peace negotiator who has led a peace process that the U.N. was involved with, that was a woman,” said Ms. Wallström.

"Of 585 negotiated peace agreements negotiated from 1990 to 2010, only 92 contained references to women," she said. "From [19]92 to 2011, fewer than 4 per cent of signatories of peace agreements and less than 10 per cent of peace negotiators were women." Yet the numbers of capable women diplomats are many and growing. "I do not want anyone to ever say again that there are no competent women around to involve," Ms. Wallström said.

Ms. Wallstrom's appointment as foreign minister is her fourth cabinet position in Sweden. She also has held senior posts in the European Commission and served from 2010 until 2012 as the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Ms. Wallström, who was invited by the Gender and Peacebuilding Center at USIP, has worked with the Institute often. She spoke in 2013 at the at the inaugural Sheikhha Fatima lecture on women as peacebuilders, and in 2010 as part of a USIP conference on the experiences of women in war.

See more at: <http://www.usip.org/olivebranch/2015/02/09/sweden-s-foreign-minister-explains-feminist-foreign-policy>

Adjusting the frequency: Women on the airwaves

The radio story is part of *On the road to Beijing+20*, an international radio campaign of 20 stories, born out of UN Women's long-standing partnership with the Association Mondiale des Radio diffuseurs Communautaires (AMARC), also known as the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters. The campaign features an audio series offering a comparative perspective between 1995 and 2015. Many of AMARC's producers reported from the historic Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Today they are part of AMARC's Women's International Network and are steering the joint productions with UN Women.



Globally, over two billion people live on less than USD\$2 a day, and for them radio is a vital source of communication. Community radio expands dialogue from the villages to the cities, offering opportunities to community members to participate in programming, managing and ownership of stations, using technology appropriate for local producers.

UN Women's long-standing partnership with AMARC focuses on expanding the conversation on women's rights at the grass-roots level. Founded in 1983, AMARC, an international NGO, has almost 4,000 members in 130 countries. As the only international

organization of community radio broadcasters, AMARC leverages its platform to bring women across the world to share their stories via radio.

Broadcasting a new production through community radio stations and online every Monday morning, in its original language, *On the road to Beijing+20* will be on-air across the world through AMARC's broadcasting partners, expected to reach over 47 million listeners over the campaign period.

"Radio is ever-present. It gives a voice, educates, allows you to share knowledge," explains Ms. Karine Poirier, Montreal-based Project Officer at AMARC. She says involving women in radio is crucial. "It's a question of diversity and women need to be given that place too."

The goal of this series, running from January to July 2015, is to enhance the understanding of the main issues laid out in the Beijing Platform for Action and to mobilize community members to refocus the discussion around these themes, which play a vital role in their everyday lives. "The uniqueness of this radio series is that it is based on the voices of grassroots women, speaking on issues that people grapple with every day from economic opportunities to the importance of education to young girls. It provides an important contribution to the debate, articulating a reality check on what is taking place on the ground," says Ms. Nanette Braun, Chief of Communications and Advocacy, UN Women.



Through documentaries, interviews, commentaries and personal features, this series ensures that women are at the centre of the narrative, addressing a breadth of topics, including domestic violence; professional and economic empowerment; gender diversity; participation in media; access to education; preserving the environment; among others.

World Radio Day 2015 focuses on youth. Newscaster Lady Belinda Juaw at the community radio station Spirit FM 99.9 Yei in South Sudan, spreads information about the importance of voting, particularly for young women.

See more at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/un-women/adjusting-the-frequency-w_b_6679436.html

UN Climate Talks Advance Link Between Gender and Climate Change

A week of climate negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland from February 8 to 13 set the stage for what promises to be a busy year. To reach agreement in Paris by December, negotiators must overcome contentious issues that continue to overshadow the talks. One issue is gender and climate change negotiations. Women and girls are differentially affected by climate change and more importantly, they contribute towards climate solutions, especially at the community level.

While gender mainstreaming is now standard practice in development circles and was a critical aspect of the Millennium Development Goals, it remains on the fringes of the UN climate discussions. Recent developments forced gender back into the spotlight thanks to concise action in 2015 from the representatives of a number of countries, including the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Sudan, Mexico, Chile and the EU.

Ms. Anniete Cohn-Lois, head of gender affairs under the Dominican Republic's vice presidency, has been one of the most vocal proponents of gender equality in the negotiations. According to the Germanwatch Long-Term Climate Risk Index, the Dominican Republic was the eighth most affected country in terms of the impacts of climate change over the past two decades.

However, as Ms. Cohn-Lois explained, her passion for gender rights in Geneva was inspired by a particularly localized experience of marginalized women in Jimani, on the southern border with Haiti. She called not only for gender equality in relation to climate change, but also gender-sensitivity, particularly and the value of community-based approaches to climate mitigation and adaptation programmes. However, as Ms. Verona Collantes of UN Women argues, the task is not only to recognize that women are affected more by climate change, but to ensure they are a large part of the solution.

Climate change affects the poorest and most vulnerable people the most, and according to UN figures, women comprise 70 percent of the world's poor. Ms. Collantes also noted that women, especially indigenous women, are the majority of those involved in agriculture and sustainable forest management, which is why it is critical they be represented in discussions on reducing forest-related emissions, at the UN climate negotiations.

"When the man goes to earn a living, it's the woman who becomes the chief of the household. It's tied to the management of natural resources and livelihood, using fuel to warm their houses or cook their food, and fetching water – all of those have implications on climate change which, more and more, the parties to the UNFCCC [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change] are increasingly recognizing," she added.

See more at: http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/02/u-n-climate-talks-further-link-between-gender-and-climate-change/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=u-n-climate-talks-further-link-between-gender-and-climate-change

UN Women launches South African Civil Society Advisory Group

This week UN Women's South Africa Multi-Country Office officially launched its Civil Society Advisory Group (Advisory Group), which will use its expertise to advise UN Women on its work in South Africa. The formation of the group is testament to the important role civil society plays in the campaign to achieve gender equality. The 11-member committee — a group of nine women and two men — is comprised of members from non-governmental organizations, academia, research institutions and the private sector. Members will share their experiences and support UN Women in developing strategies to improve advocacy for gender equality and women's empowerment in South Africa.

"This Advisory Group will be an important consultative body in regard to our programmes and work in South Africa," said Dr. Auxilia Ponga, UN Women Representative, South Africa Multi-Country Office. "The launch is particularly timely with awareness of the gender equality movement currently gaining momentum ahead of the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women next month," highlighted Dr. Ponga.

The 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at UN Headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 March 2015. Representatives of the Government of South Africa and accredited South African non-governmental organizations attended the session. The focus of the session was the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption. Despite the commitments made, the Platform's envisioned gender equality in all dimensions of life is still an unfinished agenda. Member States, including South Africa, have submitted National Reviews ahead of the session that highlight achievements to date as well as remaining gaps and challenges and how they plan to accelerate implementation.

Following the launch of UN Women's South African Civil Society Advisory Group this week, the Advisory Group and UN Women held a consultation with a broader group of representatives from gender-focused South African civil society organizations. This session was designed to ensure a range of voices are heard and multiple organizations were given the opportunity to provide input. The National Review submitted by South Africa ahead of the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women was one of the topics discussed at the meeting, including how the issue of violence against women remains a critical area of concern.

See more at: <http://www.afrik-news.com/pressrelease-apo9313.html>

UN Women Executive Director Travels

Community groups interact with Executive Director during her first visit to Egypt

In Cairo from 1-3 February, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka visited a Cairo Safe City Programme site, and met with key officials, after attending a comprehensive Beijing+20 regional review.

The visit to one of the flagship programmes in Egypt that is part of UN Women's Global Safe Cities Initiative came as part of Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka's first official visit to Egypt as Head of UN Women. Interacting with the children afterwards, who called her "mama", UN Women's Executive Director said she was impressed by their performance, and urged them to keep up their efforts to prevent violence against women and girls.

The Executive Director's visit also included a number of bilateral meetings with several public figures, governmental officials, and the Head of the National Women's Machinery, civil society organizations, partners and religious leaders. She also visited staff at UN Women's Regional Office for the Arab States and Country Office for Egypt. The Executive Director's field visit came on the heels of her participation in the Arab States high-level regional review meeting to assess progress on the landmark Beijing Platform for Action, 20 years on. During her time in Cairo, she stressed UN Women's commitment to promote women's leadership and political participation, economic empowerment especially in marginalized areas, national planning and budgeting, as well as the need to end violence against women.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/02/community-groups-interact-with-executive-director-during-her-first-visit-to-egypt#sthash.RC4RUNp6.dpuf>

UN Women Executive Director visits Chile and takes part in high-level Beijing+20 event



Foundation

During her first official visit to Chile, starting February 25 UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka met with key officials and activists to discuss the women's rights and women's empowerment agenda, and co-hosted a high-level event on "Women in power and decision-making: Building a different world," with Chilean President Michelle Bachelet. Held on 27-28 February in Santiago, the event is one of the major Beijing+20 events organized around the world. She also met with representatives of Chilean grassroots and civil society organizations, and with the Mary Robinson

“It’s time to step it up for gender equality. We have waited long enough!” With this call to action, they urged governments and the private sector to take stronger measures to close the gap of inequalities in order to achieve the goals established 20 years ago during the Fourth World Conference on Women that resulted in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.



In her opening address, the Executive Director urged bolder action to fulfill the commitments made at the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 to increase women’s representation in leadership positions in all important sectors of society.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/02/ed-in-chile#sthash.4GvAkDTt.dpuf>

UN Women Executive Director travels to Sierra Leone in solidarity over the impact of Ebola

From 22-24 March, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (pictured) visited Sierra Leone, meeting with the President, high-level government officials, women leaders and other stakeholders to discuss the gender dimensions of the Ebola virus. The Executive Director’s mission also reiterated UN Women’s commitment to the country’s national development agenda and third poverty reduction strategy, the Agenda for Prosperity.



Meeting with UN Women’s Executive Director on 23 March, Sierra Leone’s President H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma (pictured) stressed his desire to re-engage with programmes focused on addressing women’s issues. He reiterated the need for his country to implement new legislation for gender equality, put in place relevant structures and run sensitization campaigns. He pledged his full support to UN Women in all fora, saying: “You can count on me. Whatever I will be required to do to advance the cause. You will no longer be preaching. I am already converted.”

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/3/press-release-united-nations-under-secretary-general-and-executive-director-of-un-women#sthash.uchM02HK.dpuf>

UN Women executive Director Visit to Ghana

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka paid an official visit to Ghana from 24 to 26 March, to engage with key stakeholders and participate in the international programme by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on the theme “Ebola: What next?” (pictured) at the University of Ghana, alongside distinguished panelists including Liberian activist and Nobel Peace prize laureate Leahmah Gbowee. She met with key stakeholders in the capital, Accra, including a high-level meeting with the President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. John Dramani Mahama, on 25 March.



Throughout the visit, Dr. Mlambo-NGcuka shared a clear message: “Coming out of the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, we know that many countries around the globe and in Africa, including Ghana, have passed laws to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment. However, while laws are passed, we know that women and girls are continuing to suffer great inequality and discriminatory practices. We must fully engage to make our commitments a concrete reality for women, and we know that it is possible,” said Dr. Mlambo-NGcuka.” During her

meeting with the President of the Republic, the Executive Director mentioned UN Women’s Step It Up campaign and called for renewed commitments on advancing gender equality, while encouraging progress achieved. “Women’s leadership at all levels in the Ebola response is critical to getting to zero and in the recovery phase. When you effectively include them in the decision-making process you will see change,” she reiterated. “Change will happen.”

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/3/un-women-executive-director-calls-on-stakeholders-to-step-it-up#sthash.5B4iN5Wi.dpuf>

UN Women Executive Director takes part in the African Summit in Addis Ababa

African Union Summit ends with strong call for women’s empowerment

Gender was in the spotlight at the 24th Session of the African Union Heads of States’ Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30 to 31 January, focused on the “Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063”.

“There can be no sustainable progress without progress for girls and women”, said UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-NGcuka, who took part in the UN Secretary-General’s delegation to the Summit. “They are the change agents of our future. We are still struggling to remove the structural foundations of inequality. Until new foundations are laid, we will not be able to count on gains being irreversible.” “Women must be at the centre and front of all our lives,” said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his opening speech. “I applaud your proposal at this summit: Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063. Africa is home to Parliaments and Cabinets with the world’s highest percentage of women members.”

As a member of the Secretary-General’s delegation to the AU Summit, UN Women’s Executive Director took part in the official press briefing as well as meetings with Head of States and delegations, where she advocated for stronger leadership to support women’s empowerment and support for a stand-alone gender goal within the new UN development framework being hashed out this year. She also reiterated during her interactions that tackling early child marriages and barriers to girls’ education was central to addressing the root causes of poverty in Africa

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/02/executive-director-at-2015-au-summit#sthash.S57FWyNW.dpuf>

Women and Health

Beijing+20 Focus April 2015



Melinda Gates on women's health and its consequences

Over the last two decades we have seen that incredible progress is possible. But progress in the aggregate doesn't change the life or the future of a girl who is on the wrong side of those statistics, says Melinda Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. That girl is why I'm impatient—and the potential she already holds within her is why I'm optimistic.

See more at: http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2015/4/oped-health-melinda-gates?utm_source=UN+Women+Beijing%2B20+Campaign+Updates&utm_campaign=dd7dc84f0a-Monthly+Updates+Health&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d77dffad2d-dd7dc84f0a-#sthash.vEI9q4iN.dpuf

[gates?utm_source=UN+Women+Beijing%2B20+Campaign+Updates&utm_campaign=dd7dc84f0a-Monthly+Updates+Health&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d77dffad2d-dd7dc84f0a-#sthash.vEI9q4iN.dpuf](http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2015/4/oped-health-melinda-gates?utm_source=UN+Women+Beijing%2B20+Campaign+Updates&utm_campaign=dd7dc84f0a-Monthly+Updates+Health&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d77dffad2d-dd7dc84f0a-#sthash.vEI9q4iN.dpuf)

Infographic on women and health: a lifecycle of health risks

Women and girls can face a number of health risks, some even before they are born. Here's a glimpse at just some of the many and often intersecting factors impacting women. [View infographic](#)

Asel Sartbaeva, a pioneer on vaccine preservation


At the age of 36, Dr. Asel Sartbaeva, one of the first internationally recognized female scientists from Central Asia, focuses on creating a way for vaccines to be transported without the expensive and challenging aspects of keeping them at lower temperatures. Her ground-breaking research if successful could potentially save millions of lives around the world, and drop the prices of vaccinations to make them more widely available in developing countries. Short listed for the illustrious L'OREAL-UNESCO Women in Science Fellowship for her work, Dr. Sartbaeva has also drawn public attention as one of the 175 Faces of Chemistry by the Royal Society of Chemistry in the UK.

See more at: http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2015/4/woa-kyrgyzstan-asel-sartbaeva?utm_source=UN+Women+Beijing%2B20+Campaign+Updates&utm_campaign=dd7dc84f0a-Monthly+Updates+Health&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d77dffad2d-dd7dc84f0a-#sthash.nDrt612W.dpuf

UN-hosted Forum opens in New York, seeks to identify aims on women's health for post-2015

United Nations Headquarters in New York hosted the inaugural World Women's Health and Development Forum on February 12, 2015, bringing together world leaders, representatives of UN system entities, scientists, healthcare professionals, and members of civil society, the media and the private sector to discuss how best to advance the health, wealth and empowerment of women worldwide.

The two-day High Level Forum was organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT), focusing on the outcomes desired from the Post-2015 development agenda and identifying the main challenges facing countries in developing and enhancing women's health. Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite, the Forums founder and Executive Director of RASIT, said that the Forum would aim to identify the main challenges facing countries for developing and enhancing women's health. It will reflect practices, information-sharing mechanisms and concrete actions for the health



and development of women and girls, taking into consideration different needs of different societies and cultures. In an interview with UN Radio after she delivered her welcome message, Dr. El-Hashemite noted that there is currently insufficient knowledge within academia and the health care industry about women's health, including non-communicable diseases and mental illnesses. It is important to realize that women and men have different medical needs, she said. As a doctor and a scientist, and as a woman, I call on ministries of health to establish office of women's health, wish a mission of protecting and advancing the health of women broadly. The Executive Directors of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Babatunde Osotimehin, and the Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, were also expected to address the opening session of the event.

See more at: <http://www.sify.com/news/un-hosted-forum-opens-in-new-york-seeks-to-identify-aims-on-women-s-health-for-post-2015-news-health-pcmrjXffiegfb.html>

What kills more women than AIDS and breast cancer? Dirty water

Diseases spread through dirty water and poor sanitation are the fifth biggest killer of women worldwide, causing more deaths than AIDS, diabetes or breast cancer, researchers say. Nearly 800,000 women die every year because they lack access to safe toilets and clean water, said the development organization WaterAid, which analyzed data from the Seattle-based Institute of Health Metrics research center.

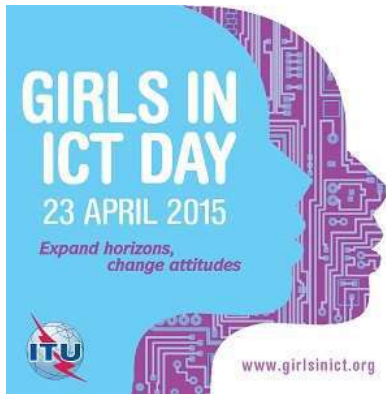
"This completely unacceptable situation affects women and girls' education, their health, their dignity and ultimately, in too many cases, results in an early and needless death," WaterAid CEO Barbara Frost said in a statement. The only conditions more fatal for women than the lack of decent sanitation are heart disease, stroke, lower respiratory infections and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, according to the report. More than 1 billion women, or one in three women around the world, do not have access to a safe, private toilet, while 370 million - one in 10 - do not have access to clean water, according to WaterAid. More than 2 billion people gained access to clean water between 1990 and 2012, but nearly 750 million remain still lack what the United Nations recognizes as a human right. Dirty water and poor sanitation are at the root of problems such as maternal and child mortality, and sexual violence.

Many women in developing countries give birth at home without access to clean water, exposing themselves and their babies to infections. Without safe toilets, women and girls have to venture outdoors to relieve themselves, often at night, putting them at risk of sexual harassment and assault. Moreover, in many poor countries fetching water is considered a the responsibility of women and girls, who spend hours each day trekking to and from wells, keeping them from attending school or caring for their families.

See more at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/06/us-global-women-water-idUSKBNOM20B520150306>

UN Women and Technovation announce strategic partnership to support young women entrepreneurs in technology

On this Girls in ICT Day, April 23, 2015 UN Women and Technovation announced a new partnership to expand young women's technological innovation around the globe. Both organizations committed to actively supporting young women to develop their talents and interest in using technology to solve problems and unleash opportunity.



UN Women and Technovation will engage partners in leadership, technology and entrepreneurship skills development to strengthen the abilities of young women to build relevant local technology solutions to real problems, pursue careers in technology as well as to increase their confidence and opportunities. Through joint efforts, the two organizations will promote the expansion and strengthening of the Technovation annual challenge and club model, including by extending its reach to new regions and giving more prominence to national-level competitions. They will promote the theme of gender equality and women's empowerment, engaging young women with less access to resources, and working with both women's and technology communities to create a supportive environment.

UN Women will provide seed funding for the expansion of the Technovation challenge and both organizations will build and leverage partnerships and networks to achieve this common vision.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/4/un-women-and-technovation-announce-strategic-partnership-to-support-young-women-entrepreneurs#sthash.ZL42Ypaz.dpuf>

Women's Representation

Why do so few women occupy elective office?

Uncovering the Origins of the Gender Gap in Political Ambition

If you want to increase the number of women in elective office in the United States, perhaps the biggest problem is the well-documented gender gap in political ambition. When women run, they tend to do about as well as men. But they aren't as likely as men to want to run in the first place. A new research report released in January 2015 entitled "*Uncovering the Origins of the Gender Gap in Political Ambition*" by Dr. Richard Fox and Dr. Jennifer Lawless, two scholars of gender and political ambition, shows that the gap in political ambition in the US emerges very early, even by age 18. By identifying when and why gender differences in interest in running for office materialize, the origins of the gender gap in political ambition can be uncovered, which until now had been elusive, says the report. The results cast a cloud over prospects for gender parity in US political institutions, and suggest that concerns about substantive and symbolic representation will likely remain serious for generations to come.

Based on a large survey of high school and college students, Dr. Fox and Dr. Lawless found that young men were more likely than young women to say they would consider running for office. But this gap was not evident among the high school students, just the college students. Among the high school students, the gap is small, but it grows substantially at age 18 and, if anything, continues to grow until age 25.

What is driving this? The analysis reveals that parental encouragement, politicized educational and peer experiences, participation in competitive activities, and a sense of self-confidence propel interest in running for office. But on each of these dimensions, women, particularly once they are in college, are at a disadvantage. Dr. Fox and Dr. Lawless find that college-age women report having important socializing experiences at a lower rate than college-age men — and even than high school girls. It is critical to note, however, that [the gender gap in political ambition] is not because young women have less of a sense of civic duty or different aspirations for the future than do men. In fact, when respondents were asked about their priorities and life goals, few gender differences were found; young women and men were equally likely to want

to get married, have children, earn a lot of money, and achieve career success. Male and female respondents were also equally likely to aspire to improve their communities.

The difference is just that young women are less likely to want to effect change via political office. Ultimately, men and women come to have political ambition because of similar kinds of experiences. It is just that women have them less frequently, especially once they reach college age. This has quite negative implications for increasing the number of women in elective office.

See more at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/01/19/the-gender-gap-in-political-ambition-starts-at-an-amazingly-young-age/>

See report at: http://polisci.duke.edu/uploads/media_items/jennifer-lawless-duke.original.pdf

The (slow) rise of women-oriented political parties

Since 2001, at least 14 political parties with a women-oriented political agenda have emerged across India, according to an analysis of an official list of political parties from April 2001 to January 2015. Five of these parties contested either a general election or a state assembly election in the past 15 years, according to statistical reports of elections to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. The number of such parties increased from two in 2001 to 14 in 2015. Despite a low success rate (with 100% deposit forfeited in all cases), most of these parties survived, and the trend of registration of women's issues-based parties has increased over the years, in a country where women comprise no more than 11.4 per cent of the parliament.

The outlook for women is uniformly bleak across India's political landscape. The Bhartiya Janata Party won 282 of 543 Lok Sabha seats and fielded only 38 women out of 428 candidates, or 8.9 per cent. The Indian National Congress had 60 women of 464 candidates, or 12.9 per cent. Yet, the fact that 93.6 per cent of female candidates were unable to save their deposit from being forfeited in the 2014 general elections suggests that neither political parties nor the electorate are prepared to seriously consider women as their representatives.

Yet, the rise, however small, of women-oriented parties is encouraging. Equal representation, however, is no guarantee for better representation of female agendas in mainstream politics. As Professor Shirin M. Rai, of the University of Warwick observed, "Those women who have played leading roles in political parties have rarely addressed women's interests and questions of gender inequality."

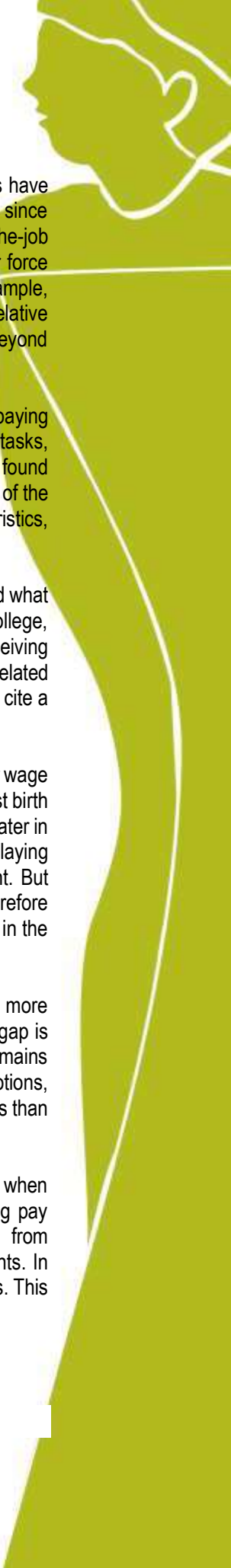
See more at: <http://scroll.in/article/717516/the-slow-rise-of-women-oriented-political-parties>

Five Facts about the Equal Pay Gap

Equal Pay Day

Over the past century, American women made tremendous strides in increasing their labor market experience and their skills. On Equal Pay Day, however, focus is on a stubborn and troubling fact: despite women's gains, a large gender pay gap still exists. In 2013, the median woman working full-time all year earned 78 per cent of what the median man working full-time all year earned. A new issue brief from the Council of Economic Advisers examines what is known about the pay gap.

1. The pay gap goes beyond wages and is even greater when we look at workers' full compensation packages. Women are less likely to have an offer of health insurance from their employer, have retirement savings plans, or have access to paid leave, and perhaps as a result, they are more likely to take leave without pay. These broader measures of compensation show that the pay gap is not just about differences in earnings or wages.



2. In the past, men had greater levels of both education and experience than women, but these gaps have closed since the 1970s. While men were more likely to graduate from college in the 1960s and 1970s, since the 1990s, women graduated from the majority of undergraduate and graduate degrees. While on-the-job experience is also an important determinant of wages, and in the past, women typically left the labor force after marrying or having children, women today are more likely to work throughout their lifetimes. For example, economists found that one-third of the decline in the pay gap over the 1980s was due to women's relative gains in experience. Today, more of the pay gap is unexplained, leaving a greater role for factors beyond differences in education and experience.

3. Although occupational segregation has fallen, women are still more likely to work in lower-paying occupations and industries. Even when women and men are working side-by-side performing similar tasks, however, the pay gap does not fully disappear. Economists Dr. Francine Blau and Dr. Lawrence Kahn found that differences in occupation and industry explain about 49 per cent of the wage gap, but 41 per cent of the wage gap is not explained by differences in educational attainment, experience, demographic characteristics, job type, or union status.

The real question, however, is why men and women end up in different occupations in the first place and what we can do to make it easier for women to succeed in high paying occupations. For instance, from college, women are under-represented in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, receiving only 35 per cent in STEM bachelor degrees. However, even among women who begin a science-related career, more than half leave by mid-career, double the rate of men. Forty per cent of those who leave cite a "macho" culture as the primary reason.

Motherhood is associated with a wage penalty and lower future career earnings. One reason the gender wage gap has narrowed faster among younger women is that between 1980 and 2013, the median age of first birth rose from 22.6 to 26.0. Because motherhood is associated with a wage penalty and lower wage gains later in a woman's career these delays in childbirth have helped narrow the pay gap. Research shows that delaying child birth for one year can increase a woman's total career earnings and experience by 9 per cent. But research shows that a lack of paid leave is one reason mothers with infants leave the labor force and therefore earn less later in life. So policies providing paid sick and family leave encourage women to participate in the labor force and therefore bolster their lifelong earnings.

5. In general, the pay gap grows over workers' careers. Young people tend to start their careers with more similar levels of earnings and over time the gender gap grows. While some of the growth in the pay gap is because women are more likely to take time out of the labor force and work fewer hours, a pay gap remains even after accounting for time out of the workforce and job tenure. Women get fewer raises and promotions, partially because they negotiate less. But even when women do negotiate, they are likely to receive less than men or be penalized for violating social norms.

While the gap in negotiated salaries are small in situations where bargaining expectations are clear, when expectations and norms are not clear, women receive less than men. On this dimension, increasing pay transparency can help ensure non-discrimination, since even though employers are prohibited from discriminating, in cultures of pay secrecy, it is more difficult to enforce non-discrimination requirements. In addition, other work has also found that women are more likely to be penalized for initiating negotiations. This type of implicit bias leads to gaps that grow over a woman's lifetime.

See more at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/04/14/five-facts-about-gender-pay-gap>

Accor supports UN's Women Empowerment Principle

Promises equal treatment for men and women, and professional development opportunities.

Accor, the world's leading hotel operator and market leader has signed up to the United Nations' Women's Empowerment Principles, describing it as a part of efforts to get more women in its top positions. The programme is an initiative of the UN Women and the United Nations Global Compact and features seven principles, designed to foster the empowerment of women in the workplace.

The embracing of the principles builds on Accor's own Diversity Charter, which was introduced in 2011. "By signing the Women's Empowerment Principles, Accor is reasserting its commitment to fight stereotypes and encourage an increase in the percentage of women in decision-making positions," explained Accor chairman and CEO Mr. Sébastien Bazin. "I am convinced that diversity is an asset that stimulates performance and innovation within our teams."

The company created Women at Accor Generation (WAAG) two years ago, forming a network of women working for the Group, which aims to support their personal and professional development in both head offices and hotels. WAAG has 2,500 men and women members worldwide and notably promotes a mentoring program, dialogue with role models, career progress and the forging of ties with other networks.

MoMA to Host Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon to Repair Art World Gender Imbalance

Women receive half the Master of Fine Arts granted in the US, but female artists account for just 25 per cent of solo exhibitions in New York galleries. At museums with budgets of more than \$15 million, 24 per cent of directors are female—and they earn 71 cents for every dollar male directors earn, according to a study from the Association of Art Museum Directors.

Art+Feminism aims to balance the scales a little more. According to a 2011 Wikipedia Editors Study, just 8.5 per cent of Wikipedia editors are women. On March 7, 2015, the group hosted its second annual Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon at the Museum of Modern Art, where participants will create and edit articles about female artists, feminist art scholarship and feminist art movements. The event aspires to improve female representation among editors so articles about female artists get more exposure.

An additional 55 satellite locations—including the Brooklyn Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Fondation d'entreprise Galeries Lafayette in Paris—also hosted edit-a-thons between March 7 and 9, coinciding with International Women's Day weekend. At last year's event, participants at 31 locations created more than 100 new articles and added content to another 90.

Many other popular sites pull in content from Wikipedia, including Google search. So it is important to improve Wikipedia's gender bias because absences there are the ones that really matter," said event organizers Ms. Siân Evans, a member of the Art Libraries Society of North America's Women and Art Special Interest Group, and Ms. Jacqueline Mabey, curator and owner of failed projects, in a statement.

See more at: <http://observer.com/2015/02/moma-to-host-wikipedia-edit-a-thon-to-repair-art-world-gender-imbalance/#ixzz3ZMOLXwJi>

Young Palestinians push for a gender-equal Constitution

More than 700 young Palestinians have received leadership and gender-sensitivity training and several have collectively drafted an alternative constitution that challenges the status quo.

A group of 26 young women and men representing 25 community-based organizations from rural and urban Palestine formed a coalition called the Constitutional Shadow Committee. Drawing on the knowledge gained through UN Women Training Workshops, they drafted an alternative constitution that challenges the lack of gender equality in the current third draft, prepared by the official Constitutional Committee comprised of only men.



To reach as many people as possible, the Shadow Committee established a Coalition of Organizations for Constitutional Equality in early 2014, spearheading an advocacy and lobbying campaign that engaged 117 political leaders from across the political spectrum in six roundtable discussions, and reached another 118 high-ranking officials (governors, ministers, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, municipal leaders, political party leaders, lawyers and representatives of national NGOs). The coalition also used television and radio ads, newspaper articles, billboards, leaflets and

social media messaging to garner support for its recommendations.

Many young women who played a leading role in drafting the Shadow Constitution were at the forefront of the campaign, placing them in leadership roles they never imagined. Ms. Layali Bedawi, 23, from Tulkarem in the West Bank, says she rarely participated in activities outside her community prior to the UN Women-supported training, because she felt unsafe doing so as a woman.

See more at: http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/4/young-palestinians-push-for-a-gender-equal-constitution?utm_source=UN+Women+News&utm_campaign=a6a29a2574-RSS_EMAIL_WEEKLYUPDATES&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d4a1831698-a6a29a2574-66108281#sthash.qArzeafT.dpuf

See related video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aujTGKq9cPs&feature=youtube>

See more at: http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/4/young-palestinians-push-for-a-gender-equal-constitution?utm_source=UN+Women+News&utm_campaign=a6a29a2574-RSS_EMAIL_WEEKLYUPDATES&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d4a1831698-a6a29a2574-66108281#sthash.qArzeafT.dpuf

See more at: http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/4/young-palestinians-push-for-a-gender-equal-constitution?utm_source=UN+Women+News&utm_campaign=a6a29a2574-RSS_EMAIL_WEEKLYUPDATES&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d4a1831698-a6a29a2574-66108281#sthash.qArzeafT.dpuf

Timeline: Gender equality, 2014 year in review

From the passing of one of the Arab region's most progressive constitutions enshrining women's rights to changes in legislation to provide long overdue redress to wartime survivors of sexual violence, this timeline is a selection of some of the gender equality achievements, milestones and noteworthy moments from around the world this year.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/12/timeline-gender-equality-2014-year-in-review#sthash.CFRuvwDM.dpuf>

Violence against women

President Obama delivers critical message on violence against women at the 57th Grammy Awards

During the 57th Grammy Awards on Sunday, President Obama used the annual celebration of the music industry as an opportunity to deliver a critical message about violence against women. As part of "It's on Us," an anti-domestic violence campaign the Obama administration launched last year, the President shared a powerful video showing who's really responsible for preventing sexual assault: all of us. The Grammys' audience of 28.5 million people were leveraged to spread the important message.

The choice of venue for delivering this message was not a coincidence. Rape culture is deeply ingrained at every level of our society, and the music industry isn't immune to it. Even the Grammy Awards have a history of tolerance when it comes to abusers: Grammy producers called themselves "the victim" after Chris Brown violently assaulted Rihanna, and framed his return to the awards show as some sort of celebratory comeback. The recording academy also chose to honor Eminem in the best rap album category this year, despite his public threats against female artists like Lana Del Rey and his well-known history of abuse.

Given the conflicting messages young people are receiving about who's to blame for rape, it's encouraging to see the President use a mass-appeal event like the Grammys to spread the word about preventing sexual assault.

Watch the video here: <http://mic.com/articles/110126/president-obama-made-a-surprise-appearance-at-the-grammys-with-a-video-you-need-to-see>

\$41-Million Plan To Fight Sexual Violence, Harassment Unveiled in Toronto

When you do nothing, you're helping him," the ad says. "But when you do something, you help her." The girls and women in the situations then turn to the camera and say thanks for speaking up. "At its core this is a plan to change behaviors and challenge social norms," Ontario Premier Hon Kathleen Wynne said. "Sexual violence is rooted in misogyny, which is deeply ingrained in our culture, often in unconscious or subtle ways... These are learned behaviors, which means that they can be unlearned — or better yet — never learned in the first place."

The plan, which comes with a \$41-million commitment over three years, tackles workplace harassment, the prosecution of sexual assault cases, a limitation period for civil sexual assault claims, victim support and assaults on campuses. Sexual violence and harassment are "rooted in misogyny," said Ms. Wynne as she unveiled a plan to end the "learned behaviors" through legislation, increased funding and a blunt public service announcement.

The "It's Never Okay" plan includes new legislation and a public awareness campaign centered around an ad depicting assaults and harassment the Premier described as uncomfortable to watch, but much harder to experience. The ad shows a boy with an inebriated girl at a party, a man rubbing the shoulders of an obviously uncomfortable female co-workers, a student showing friends pictures of his girlfriend and a man at a bar slipping something in a woman's drink. In each of the situations they look directly at the camera and thank the viewer for not saying anything.

See more at: http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/03/05/wynne-previews-action-plan_6813054.html

Quito: a city committed to preventing sexual harassment in public spaces

Sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces are an everyday occurrence for women and girls around the world. This reality reduces women's and girls' freedom of movement and ability to participate in school, work and in public life. It limits their access to essential services, and enjoyment of cultural and recreational opportunities. It also negatively impacts their health and well-being.

The City of Quito, Ecuador, is to host the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in October 2016. As one of the five pioneer cities to develop a safe city programme in 2011, under UN Women's Safe Cities Global Initiative, Quito is committed to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment in public spaces. The first step undertaken by programme partners was to carry out a participatory scoping study which revealed that 68 per cent of women had experienced some form of sexual violence in public spaces over the previous year.

Following the dissemination of results of this study, in March 2012, Quito's Municipal Council adopted new pioneering legislation to prevent violence against women, and included sexual harassment in public spaces in the City Ordinance.

This video produced for UN Women, with support from the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation (AECID), illustrates the main areas of action to end violence in public spaces currently undertaken by the Municipality of Quito, in collaboration with UN Women and many local stakeholders, such as grass-roots women and women's organizations, public transportation systems, and media.

See more at: http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/4/quito-a-city-committed-to-preventing-sexual-harassment-in-public-spaces?utm_source=UN+Women+News&utm_campaign=a6a29a2574-RSS_EMAIL_WEEKLYUPDATES&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d4a1831698-a6a29a2574-66108281#sthash.NuHVdWI0.dpuf

In your Interest

Security Council Inconsistent On Women Peace and Security

The Security Council, as well as UN officials and member states, lack commitment to the women, peace and security agenda says a new policy brief from the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security that notes while there has been improvement in some country situations and in thematic agenda items, overall there is "inconsistency in the Council's discussion of gender...from the information provided by the UN system, to the discussion in the Council, to the action taken and to implementation on the ground."

Security Council Resolution 1325, marking its 15th anniversary this year, recognized the different ways conflict affects men and women and the important roles both have to play in peace and security. In particular, it calls for the participation of women in peace processes, the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, and the prevention of violence against women through gender equality, accountability and justice.

The policy brief, which examines the 2013/14 Council, states that the 15-nation body has not "truly internalized" the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda. "When considering crisis situations in countries

that have peacekeeping or political mandates, the Council rarely addressed WPS concerns... Similarly, briefings from senior UN officials included reference to WPS inconsistently, regardless of the inclusion of WPS in the mandate on which they were briefing," the paper says.

It adds that while the Council strengthened the language of several peacekeeping mandates with regard to WPS, this is not matched by financial and human resources. It also says that on-the-ground missions are failing to consult local civil society organizations "despite being well connected and established in their area." "Further, there is often a gender-blind approach to civil society engagement; engagement with women's organizations is not referenced or identified as a priority. Despite some gains, civil society and women human rights defenders are increasingly targeted, and their rights impinged upon with little official Council recognition of the need for better protective mechanisms," it says. While the protection of women in armed conflict is receiving greater attention from the Council, this is still a massive gulf in the number of men and women participating in peace negotiation teams.

Across the UN system, the Security Council, and all Member States must more consistently address WPS issues across their work in order to meet their obligations, the paper concludes, and it outlines a number of recommendations, including stronger efforts to ensure accountability matched by greater leadership efforts by UN actors, and that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's special envoys and representatives report explicitly on the implementation of the WPS components of their mandates. Less than 20 per cent of the more than 100 representatives, envoys and advisors appointed by Mr. Ban are women while about one-third of his senior cabinet are women.

See more at: <http://untribune.com/security-council-inconsistent-women-peace-security/>

See more at: http://womenpeacesecurity.org/media/pdf-2013-14_MappingWPS_PolicyBrief.pdf?utm_source=+NGOWG+Policy+Brief+--+Mapping+WPS+%282013-14%29&utm_campaign=2013-14+Policy+Brief&utm_medium=email

Secretary-General Appoints Independent Experts to Assess Administration of Justice System at United Nations

The Secretary-General appointed a panel of external experts to conduct an interim independent assessment of the system of administration of justice at the United Nations. The establishment of the Panel responds to a request by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/203 of 18 December 2014.

Pursuant to resolution 69/203, the Panel's mandate is to examine the system of administration of justice in all its aspects, with particular attention to the formal system and its relation with the informal system, including an analysis of whether the aims and objectives of the system are being achieved in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

In establishing the current system, the Assembly envisaged an independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized system of administration of justice consistent with the relevant rules of international law and the principles of the rule of law and due process to ensure respect for the rights and obligations of staff members and the accountability of managers and staff members alike. The Assembly also encouraged the resolution of workplace disputes through informal means whenever possible.

The Panel commenced work in April 2015. The General Assembly will consider the Panel's report at the main part of its seventy-first session.

See more at: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sqa1559.doc.htm>

Recommended reading and watching

UN Women releases Summary of the Report of the Secretary-General on the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2015/3).



This report is a wake-up call. With its up-to-date evidence and analysis of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, it is a salutary account of a world that has not, in the main, improved much for women and girls, and for some has got a lot worse. It is also an account of a world where new actors are starting to recognize their shared responsibility for achieving change.

The report provides a review of national level implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through

the integration of a gender perspective, as mandated in the Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18.

Noting areas of progress and remaining gaps, the report reveals that improvements have been unacceptably slow, with stagnation and even regression in some cases. Progress has been particularly slow for women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Tackling inequalities and multiple forms of discrimination must be a priority, the report stresses, and global citizens must get involved, looking beyond the “averages” to monitor the impacts and results of laws and policies for women and girls. The report concludes that urgent action is required in five priority areas:

1. transforming discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes;
2. reorienting macroeconomic policy and the economy to achieve gender equality and sustainable development;
3. ensuring the full and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels;
4. significantly increasing investments in gender equality; and
5. strengthening accountability for gender equality and the realization of the human rights of women and girls, including greater efforts to make gender mainstreaming the norm in government policy and to ensure that private actors are held accountable for the impact of their actions.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/3/urgent-action-required-in-five-key-areas-says-beijing-summary-report#sthash.Px7E8yW8.dpuf>

See the full version of the Secretary-General's report at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015/official-documents>.

See the Summary of Report at:

http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/sg%20report_synthesis-en_web.pdf

“Progress of the World’s Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights” launches in seven cities

New report from UN Women unveils far-reaching alternative policy agenda to transform economies and make gender equality a reality

Chock-full of solid in-depth analysis and data, UN Women's flagship report "Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights" released on April 27, 2015 in seven locations globally, brings together human rights and economic policymaking to call for far-reaching changes to the global policy agenda that will transform economies and make women's rights, and equality, a reality. It takes an in-depth look at what the economy would look like if it truly worked for women, for the benefit of all. Progress makes the case that the alternative economic agenda it outlines would not only create fairer societies, it would also create new sectors of employment, for instance in the care economy.



The report is being published as the international community comes together to define a transformative new agenda for sustainable development, 20 years after the landmark Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, which set out an ambitious agenda to advance gender equality. Since the Beijing Conference, significant advances occurred by many societies, particularly in advancing women's legal rights. However, as the report shows, in an era of unprecedented global wealth, millions of women are still consigned to work in low paid, poor quality jobs, denied even basic levels of health care, without access to clean water and decent sanitation.



To build fairer, more sustainable economies which work for women and men, a future comprising more of the same will no longer do. "Our public resources are not flowing in the directions where they are most needed: for example, to provide safe water and sanitation, quality health care, and decent child- and elderly-care services. Where there are no public services, the deficit is borne by women and girls," said UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Through solid, in-depth analysis and data, this evidence-based report provides ten key recommendations for actions that governments and others can take in order to move towards an economy that truly works for women, to the benefit of all. Progress sets out a vision of a global economy fit for women, where they have equal access to productive resources and social protection providing them with sufficient income to support an adequate standard of living. In such an economy, the work that women do would be respected and valued; stereotypes about what women and men can and should do would be eliminated; and women would be able to work and live their lives free from violence and sexual harassment.

The changes proposed in the report will not only make the economy work for women, but also benefit the majority of men for whom the economy is not working either. The report argues that progress for women is progress for all.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/4/press-release-new-report-from-un-women-unveils-far-reaching-alternative-policy-agenda#sthash.UM6wIYo.dpuf>

Clinton Foundation No Ceilings launches The Full Participation Report

Not There Yet: A Data Driven Analysis of Gender Equality



Despite progress over the last several decades, women and girls remain the majority of the world's unhealthy, uneducated, and unpaid.

No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project is a Clinton Foundation initiative to inspire and advance the full participation of women and girls around the world. Even today, persistent stereotypes and barriers keep women from equal access, representation, and

compensation in our communities and around the world. *No Ceilings* is convening global partners to build a data-driven evaluation of the progress women and girls have made and the challenges that remain to help chart the path forward to full participation in the 21st century.

The Full Participation Report spans over more than 20 years and 190 countries with data and stories that tell progress is possible but more is needed to ensure full participation for girls and women everywhere.

See more at: <https://www.clintonfoundation.org/our-work/no-ceilings-full-participation-project>

Beijing+20 Looking Back and the Road Ahead

Reflections on Milestones in Women's Leadership in the 21st Century

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform the Wilson Center launched the *Beijing+20 Looking Back and the Road Ahead* report in March 2015. The Middle East Program (MEP) and the Women in Public Service Project (WPSP) at the Wilson Center marked Beijing+20 by rededicating their efforts to advancing women in public service. The Wilson Center shares pieces from women who have been instrumental in realizing the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action in different parts of the world with the publication "Beijing+20: Looking Back and the Road Ahead." The cusp of Beijing+20 coincides with the 15th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that calls for women's leadership in conflict resolution and peacekeeping and the Post-2015 Millennium Development Goals.



Beijing+20
Looking Back and
the Road Ahead
Reflections on Milestones in Women's
Leadership in the 21st Century

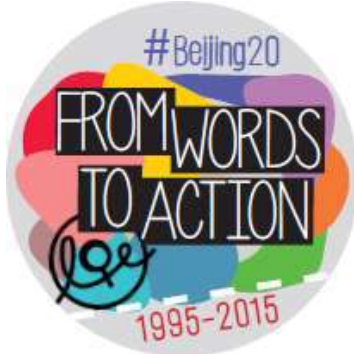
The story of women's rights in the last two decades are mixed—a story of progress, stalemate, and regression. Around the world, the Beijing Declaration did not necessarily lead to full participation of women in decision making, nor did every country embrace, as one hoped, the quota system favoring women. Not every constitution around the world recognizes women as equal citizens. Not every government signed, let alone ratified, CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations against Women). Despite UNSCR 1325 and despite all efforts, violence against women is not only common in times of war, but it is also prevalent in times of peace. Women's bodies are often considered spoils of war and negotiable. Women are hardly ever invited to peace negotiations, although they suffer equally, if not more, from the consequences of conflicts. UNSCR 1325 is not implemented.

See Report at: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/beijing20-looking-back-and-the-road-ahead>

From words to Action 1995 – 2015 20 years of the Beijing Platform for Action

A European Women's Lobby review of the activities of the European Union

This publication by the European Women's Lobby aims to serve as a guideline for the next five years for the new leadership within the European institutions. Despite equality between women and men being a core value of the EU, it is still not a reality in Europe. The Beijing+20 report aims to be a key instrument for the new European decision-makers to develop ambitious policies and actions, at all levels and in all sectors of society and life.



This Beijing+20 review gives us the opportunity to learn from 20 years of activism and policy work, but also, and above all, to realize that investing in women's rights and empowerment is the core commitment for a sustainable, democratic and inclusive world to blossom. The

analysis and demands of this report are the basis for a feminist Europe.

See report at: <http://www.womenlobby.org/news/ewl-news/article/from-words-to-action-women-can-t?lang=en>

Visualizing the Global Gender Gap

A new visualization charts the great lengths countries must go to achieve gender equality.

Ms. Ri Liu, a Melbourne-based data visualization artist and web developer, developed a striking new way to process different measures of gender inequality worldwide. "Close the Gap" charts how different countries compare when it comes to male and female participation in the labor force, in secondary education, in national parliament, and in income levels, using data mostly from the Gender Inequality Index from the UN's 2014 Human Development Report.

"I have experienced intimidation and abuse of power and privilege in the course of my career," writes Ms. Liu, "but these instances are harder to prove and quantify. However, when you see the data, there is obviously a systemic problem of gender inequality in the workplace and elsewhere in society. It is usually the subtle things that add up rather than one significant event that create this barrier for women."

See more at: <http://www.citylab.com/politics/2015/03/visualizing-the-global-gender-gap/389063/>

23 Inspiring Feminist Digital Campaigns That Changed the World

Activists in the digital age increasingly show skill at using the sophisticated online tools to galvanize social change. The result? Amazing feminists changing the world. Incredible digital campaigns in recent memory result in amazing feminist victories. While there is work still to do, these moments are worth celebrating. They are a strong reminder of why continued efforts are essential. UN Women's Google auto-complete campaign was one of the most effective representations of gender inequality in the digital world.

See more at: <http://mic.com/articles/80229/23-inspiring-feminist-digital-campaigns-that-changed-the-world>

10 Great Ways the Internet Is Empowering Women around the World

This year, International Women's Day focused on the empowerment of women, highlighting the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, signed 20 years ago by 189 governments to establish an agenda for realizing women's rights. The celebration of this historic milestone gives us a good reason to reflect on advances in women's rights around the world, and to examine the Internet's role in this effort.

To this end, The Internet Society - drawing from our Community Grants archives, our global membership and other organizations, assembled a list of innovative and interesting ways that the Internet and technology are empowering women (and girls) far and wide. Some initiatives are global, while others are local, but all are worthy of recognition because they are empowering women in parts of the world where women's rights are at risk. These initiatives break down barriers and build bridges that support greater education, better health, career advancement, and stronger community. They foster greater reach through local-language content that is sensitive to regional education levels and cultural conventions. They create new channels of opportunity, and use data to ensure that gender equality is a key beneficiary of technological advances.

See more at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kathy-brown/10-great-ways-the-internet-empowers-women_b_6817738.html

Amnesty Reports Sexual Mob Attacks, Torture in Jail Against Women In Egypt

A new briefing report released by Amnesty International on January 21, 2015 "Circles of hell': Domestic, public and state violence against women in Egypt" documents how despite some recent piecemeal reforms, shortfalls in Egyptian laws and entrenched impunity continue to foster a culture of routine sexual and gender-based violence in the country.

Women and girls in Egypt face violence on a disturbing scale both at home and in public, including sexual mob attacks as well as torture in state custody.

"The reality is that women and girls in Egypt face the ever-present, lurking spectre of physical and sexual violence in all facets of life. At home many are subjected to vicious beatings, aggression and abuse from spouses and relatives. In public they face incessant sexual harassment and the risk of mob attacks, when not falling prey to state officials' violence," says Ms. Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, Deputy Director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Amnesty International.

The Egyptian authorities announced some token initiatives in recent months, including the introduction of a law criminalizing sexual harassment. However President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's public commitments to tackle the issue have not yet translated into a cohesive and sustained strategy. The authorities still refuse to acknowledge the scale of the problem and dodge key reforms needed to effectively start tackling violence and engrained discriminatory attitudes towards women.

More than 99 per cent of women and girls in Egypt interviewed for a survey published by UN Women in 2013 reported some form of sexual harassment. Since introducing a new law making sexual harassment a crime punishable by a minimum of one year in prison passed in 2014, a handful convictions took place. However, the vast majority of women are still waiting for justice. Even when they seek help many have found themselves ignored or treated with contempt by police and the justice system.

See more at: <http://www.rttnews.com/2444168/amnesty-reports-sexual-mob-attacks-torture-in-jail-against-women-in-egypt.aspx?type=pr>

Sluggish progress on women in politics will hamper development

The Women in Politics 2015 Map launched by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women

The Women in Politics 2015 Map launched by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women on March 10, 2015 shows that although the numbers of women in executive government and in parliament continue to inch forward, the slow rate of progress will severely check global development plans due to be adopted later this year. Women's political empowerment and equal participation in political decision-making underpinned global development targets since 1995 and are likely to feature in the new sustainable development agenda taking over from the Millennium Development Goals this year. The snail's pace of progress on gender equality and women's participation in public and political life will need to be tackled head-on for the overall success of the new goals. The Map presents the latest data and global rankings for women in politics reveals a mixed picture on gender equality in executive government and in parliament at regional and national levels.

The countries that saw the largest decreases between 2014 and 2015 were Peru, Malawi, Denmark, Belgium and Paraguay, with losses ranging from two to six women ministers. The IPU-UN Women Map, supported by the Irish development agency Irish Aid, also sheds light on trends and developments in ministerial portfolios held by women.

The Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka called for renewed commitments and investments to meet the Beijing Platform for Action's now 20-year-old target of gender balance. "If today's leaders front-load gender equality, if they start now to make good on those 20-year-old promises, we can look forward to gender equality by 2030 at the latest."

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/3/press-release-sluggish-progress-on-women-in-politics-will-hamper-development#sthash.0S43XROf.dpuf>

Recommended websites

enGENDER IMPACT

A Gateway to Gender-Related Impact Evaluations

The World Bank Group increased investments in gender-informed operations and research in recent years. Impact evaluation (IE) is one important part of this momentum. Impact evaluations increase understanding of what works, and what does not to improve outcomes that are critical to increasing gender equality in different contexts around the world. Impact evaluations can drive and test innovation, and contribute to evidence-based practice and policy-making

enGENDER IMPACT serves to:

- 1) compile IEs led or supported by the World Bank Group;
- 2) organize IEs around priority areas for policy action highlighted in the World Development Report 2012 on Gender Equality and Development; and
- 3) distill standard information on all IEs so that lessons can be easily accessed and applied.

In doing so, enGENDER IMPACT aims to contribute to gender equality by:

- 1) supporting global knowledge sharing and uptake of key lessons; and
- 2) encouraging more and better IEs in key gender topics.

This resource point currently captures World Bank gender-related IEs from January 2000 to August 2013 and updates will occur twice yearly.

See more at:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTGENDER/0,,contentMDK:23457844~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:336868,00.html>

Gender Action Portal at Harvard University

Harvard Kennedy School Women and Public Policy Program WAPPP's Gender Action Portal (GAP) is a collection of summarized research evaluating the impact of specific policies, strategies, and organizational practices to close gender gaps in the areas of economic opportunity, politics, health, and education. GAP focuses on experimental approaches to evaluate policies – both in the field and in the laboratory – and draws from multiple disciplines, including economics, psychology, and organizational behavior. GAP serves as an online tool for decision makers across sectors to utilize evidence-based research in order to create better informed policies and procedures.

With its Gender Action Portal, the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard Kennedy School provides scientific evidence—based on experiments in the field and in the laboratory—on the impact of policies, strategies and organizational practices aimed at closing gender gaps in the areas of economic opportunity, politics, health, and education to help translate research into action and take successful interventions to scale.

See more at: <http://gap.hks.harvard.edu/>

New America Foundation's the *Breadwinning & Caregiving Program*

The Breadwinning & Caregiving Program aims to create a community engaged in issues that include work-family balance, improved access to child care, our changing definition of family, and opportunities for female leadership. We seek to create a public environment that's hospitable to change, through powerful writing and informed debate about careers and families, their strengths and their needs.

This programme includes the Global gender Parity Initiative - a journalism project with a mission to help create the conditions for social change by telling the human stories behind the growing trove of gender parity research and data. It animates studies and data published around the world, channeling important research into the journalistic mainstream and reaching broad new audiences. By enhancing public understanding of gender parity issues, we hope to increase public buy-in to the importance of gender policy goals.

See more at: <https://www.newamerica.org/breadwinning-caregiving/> and <https://www.newamerica.org/breadwinning-caregiving/global-gender-parity-initiative/>

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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