

## Voices from Johannesburg: *“Moving from Solemn Declarations to Solemn Deliverables”*

### Key Issues

- At the meeting of Heads of State and Government, the AUC Chairperson launched a campaign to take the hand held hoe to the museum, in an accelerated effort to assist women with access to modern technology, land, credit, and extension services in order to empower women in agriculture and agro industry.
- The Assembly adopted wide ranging decisions aimed at pushing forward the implementation of Agenda 2063 which can be access at [www.au.int](http://www.au.int). This includes the Assemblies adoption a **Common Position on Ending Child Marriage in Africa**. Under the new agreement, the AU is urging its Member States to establish comprehensive action plans to end child marriage, including establishing and enforcing laws which set the minimum age for marriage at 18. The Assembly also adopted a **Declaration on 2015 Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development Towards Agenda 2063**. The declaration contains commitments to:
  - Enhancing women’s contribution and benefits from formal agriculture/ agri business value chains.
  - Enhancing women’s access to health
  - Pushing forward women’s economic empowerment
  - Enhancing the Agenda on Women Peace and Security
  - Enhancing women’s participation in governance
  - Enhancing women and girls’ access to education, science and technology
  - Mutual accountability to actions and results
  - Strengthening the AU Commission to support delivery on these commitments.
  - Expediting processes of translation of these economic and transformational commitments into results.
- In her various engagements at the AU Summit the UN Women Executive Director emphasized the need for greater investments on gender equality and women’s empowerment in Africa



### Inspirational Quotes

***“Africa must rise – with and through women”*** Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director

***“For Gender Equality - You are pushing a door that is already open”*** H.E. Edgar Lungu, President of Zambia on accepting to be a HeforShe Champion in Africa

***“Women Can Change Africa”*** H.E. James Michel, President of the Seychelles

***“Women’s Rights are Human Rights”*** H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana

***“We need to turn invisible women into a visible force”*** Honorable William Hague, former UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs



UN Women Executive Director Dr. Phumzile Mlambo- Ngcuka and H.E. Peter Mutharika, President of Malawi at Press Conference on Ending Child Marriage

Credit: UN Women / Stefanía Eir Vignisdóttir

UN Women Executive Director Dr. Phumzile Mlambo- Ngcuka at UN Women and Austrian Development Agency Breakfast Meeting

Credit: UN Women/ Rose Ogola



UN Women Executive Director Dr. Phumzile Mlambo- Ngcuka at bilateral with H.E. Edgar Lungu, President of Zambia

Credit: UN Women/ Monika Bihlmaier