



HOPES ARE HIGH



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR CHANGE

UN Women is the global champion for women and girls. Its 2010 establishment, applauded around the globe, offers a historic opportunity to jump-start progress for women and for societies. UN Women acts on the fundamental premise that women and girls worldwide have the right to live a life free of discrimination, violence and poverty, and that gender equality is central to achieving development.

UN Member States and women's rights advocates joined together to create UN Women. They recognized that making gender equality a reality in the lives of women and girls demanded an organization with worldwide reach, sizable

Countries with greater gender equality have economies that are more competitive and grow faster, as shown through a comparative analysis of 134 countries.

Global Gender Gap Report, World Economic Forum (WEF), 2010.

expertise and significant resources. For too long, women have been forced to stand on the sidelines, whether the issue is political leadership, safety in conflict zones, protection from violence or access to public services. Now women must come to the centre as leaders, advocates and agents of change.

UN Women builds on a strong foundation by merging four UN entities with solid standard-setting research, programming and advocacy experience in almost all countries. These include the UN Division for the Advancement of Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.



CHALLENGES ARE MANIFOLD

“WHERE WOMEN ARE EDUCATED AND EMPOWERED, ECONOMIES ARE MORE PRODUCTIVE AND STRONG. WHERE WOMEN ARE FULLY REPRESENTED, SOCIETIES ARE MORE PEACEFUL AND STABLE.”

— UN SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON



BOLD ACTION IS ESSENTIAL

UN WOMEN STANDS BEHIND WOMEN'S EQUAL PARTICIPATION
IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE, FOCUSING ON FIVE PRIORITY AREAS:

- Increasing women's leadership and participation;
- Ending violence against women and girls;
- Engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes;
- Enhancing women's economic empowerment;
- Making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMES, IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH

Innovative programmes, in-depth knowledge and research, networks of gender equality advocates—these are vital resources that make UN Women a one-stop global centre for advancing gender equality.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation

Women's participation in peace negotiations averages less than 8 percent of the 14 peace processes for which such information is available. Fewer than 3 percent of signatories to peace agreements are women.

UN Women review of 24 major peace processes since 1992, in 'UN Women Resources on Women, Peace and Security', 2010.

in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet is the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. She brings to her position an outstanding record as a visionary leader and advocate for social justice and women's rights.

A HIGH RETURN INVESTMENT

Hopes are high for UN Women. So is the ambition and the need to take bold action. It is possible to imagine the end of discrimination against women, if the right investments are made. UN Member States have recognized that UN Women needs at least US \$500 million in its first year. A significant portion of funds must come from multi-year, general-purpose commitments. It is widely accepted that women's

Women hold 19 percent of seats in parliaments, up from 11.3 percent in 1995, yet still far below 30 percent, recognized as the critical mass needed to advance a gender equality agenda.

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm, 2010.

empowerment yields strong economic returns, and may be the most critical contribution to achieving a wide range of development, peace and security objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. This understanding, energized by the vision of ending gender discrimination, makes demand for UN Women support strong. It is time to meet that demand, for women and girls everywhere.



RESULTS ARE ACHIEVABLE

“WOMEN’S STRENGTH, WOMEN’S INDUSTRY, WOMEN’S WISDOM ARE HUMANKIND’S GREATEST UNTAPPED RESOURCE. THE CHALLENGE IS TO SHOW HOW THIS RESOURCE CAN BE EFFECTIVELY TAPPED IN WAYS THAT BENEFIT US ALL.”

— MICHELLE BACHELET



WE ARE READY

www.unwomen.org

www.facebook.com/unwomen

www.twitter.com/un_women

www.youtube.com/unwomen



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