



# Network

---

**The UN Women's Newsletter, Volume, No. 3**

**September October November December 2015**

## Letter from the Focal Point for Women

Dear Friends,

As always warm greetings to all! We are delighted to bring you the fall edition of the Network newsletter for 2015!

This edition continues with news on UN System-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women - UN-SWAP annual meeting, the adoption of the new post 2015 development agenda at the General Assembly session in September 2015, and the Beijing+20 Review activities leading to the special session on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women of the UN General Assembly on 27 September, 2015 which saw leaders from 80 countries commit to step it up for gender equality and empowerment of women.

We also focus news on the commemoration of 15 years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and adoption of the new Resolution 2242 for women, peace and security along with the launch of the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325.

Amongst other news this issue looks at UN Women partnerships for advancing gender equality and empowerment of women including boosting education for girls with UNESCO and UNFPA; with World Food Programme to support refugees in Jordan; and agreement with Spain to promote women's rights and gender equality amongst others.

As for other noteworthy developments, do note news on the launch, by the leaders of the Group of 20, of the new group to promote women's economic empowerment, the W-20, the regional programme to eradicate child marriage and, the spotlight on women at the Conference of the Parties-COP 21-summit on climate change.

Further, as is customary for this newsletter, we highlight stories on women's representation including the signing of the Women Empowerment Principles by over 40 companies in China and the WEF Gender Gap Report 2015 which calculates that it will take another 118 years – till 2133 to close the gender economic gap completely amongst other key findings from its annual survey.

Finally, as always, the newsletter in its last few pages includes information on publications including the Provisional Private Sector Accountability Framework, a self-assessment tool inspired by the UN System Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) accountability framework for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and aligned to the UN Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs); and a Framework to underpin Action to prevent violence against women.

We hope the diversity of news we bring through this newsletter inspires you as advocates of gender equality and empowerment of women to continue to push ahead to ensure a planet 50/50 by 2030. ***Let's Step It UP for Gender Equality!***

We look towards your continued support as we move on!

In solidarity,  
Aparna Mehrotra  
Focal Point for Women in the UN system and  
Officer-in-Charge,  
Coordination Division  
UN Women

## Table of Contents

Letter from the Focal Point for Women  
Congratulations  
UN SWAP Highlights  
Around the UN  
Around the World  
Women's Representation  
Violence against Women  
In your Interest  
Recommended Reading and Watching  
Recommended Websites



## Congratulations to

**Bintou Keita** of Guinea Deputy on her appointment as Joint Special Representative for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) by the Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and African Union Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma on October 27, 2015.

Ms. Keita brings to the position a wealth of experience with more than 25 years of service in the United Nations. Her most recent positions include Ebola Crisis Manager for Sierra Leone and Chief of Staff for the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. Prior to that, Ms. Keita served in several senior management and leadership functions with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Chad, Congo, Madagascar, Cape Verde, Rwanda, Burundi and New York. From 2007 to 2010, Ms. Keita was Deputy Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi. She has also worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Canadian International Development Agency in Guinea.

**Fadzai Gwaradzimba** of Zimbabwe on her appointment as Assistant Secretary-General for Safety and Security on September 4, 2015 by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Ms. Gwaradzimba brings a wealth of experience in strategic management and leadership, coupled with in depth knowledge of international development, crisis prevention and recovery, evaluation design and practice and gender issues. She has over 25 years of experience with the United Nations system, and most recently held the position of Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director, Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy (BERA) for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York.

**Heidi Mendoza** of Philippines on her approval by the General Assembly as the nominee of the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for Under-Secretary-General for Oversight Services.

Ms. Mendoza is currently Commissioner of the Commission of Audit of the Philippines (since 2011), also serving notably as Chairperson of Audit Committee on Public Sector Auditing Standards Board and External Auditor for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO) and International Labour Organization (ILO).

As a certified public accountant, Ms. Mendoza has over 20 years of service in Government, particularly in the field of audit, investigation, fraud examination, anti-corruption and integrity advocacy. She was also Consultant for the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and Transparency Group, Office of Presidential Chief of Staff (2003-2004) as well as Team Leader, Fraud Audit Division Special Audit Office, Internal Control System and Audit (1996-1998).

Ms. Mendoza was previously Consultant for the Asian Development Bank (2008-2010) and the Australian Agency for International Development. She was also an Accounting and Internal Audit Expert for ALTAIR-European Commission, Local Government Procurement Specialist for the World Bank, Manila (2006), as well as corruption prevention course module writer with the USAID Rule of Law Effectiveness Project (2006-2007).

**Laura Londén** of Finland on her appointment as Deputy Executive Director (Management) United Nations Population Fund. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment on October 14, 2015.

Ms. Londén brings to the position over 25 years of progressive inter-agency experience at both Headquarters and field duty stations with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

## UN System-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The annual Global UN-SWAP Meeting, held in Geneva and co-hosted by the World Meteorological Organization and UN Women, was the 20<sup>th</sup> workshop in a series of meetings that bring together gender advocates and UN-SWAP focal points from across UN entities to exchange information on good practice, progress and challenges in mainstreaming gender in their institutions and to build capacities to improve performance towards meeting all requirements of the UN-SWAP framework. The Global UN-SWAP Meeting 2015 focused on Resource Tracking (UN-SWAP performance indicator, PI- 8), Resource Allocation (PI 9), Gender Architecture and Parity (PI 10), and Organizational Culture (PI 11).

A total of 102 UN staff members from 42 entities attended, including members of the finance and budget network (17 staff from 13 entities). Participants identified and discussed their key challenges, learning on the way forward from each other's experiences and practices.

The potential for the next generation of the UN-SWAP including an expanded application to the UN Country Teams, possibly on a pilot basis, was also discussed.

## Around the United Nations

### UN Women welcomes agreement on post-2015 development agenda

UN Women welcomed the agreement by Member States on the post-2015 development agenda adopted on September 25, 2015 at the UN Summit. "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" a comprehensive blueprint for people and planet that for the first time brings together the three dimensions of sustainable development in one ambitious document.

Importantly, the document strongly emphasizes the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment to achieve the sustainable development agenda. UN Women welcomed the transformative stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal that addresses structural barriers to women's empowerment along with important targets on gender equality in other Goals. It also welcomes the commitment to significantly increased investments in gender equality.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/8/agreement-on-post-2015-development-agenda#sthash.zwmDhKki.dpuf>

### World leaders agree: We must close the gender gap

*Historic gathering boosts political commitment for women's empowerment at the highest levels.*

September 27, 2015 saw some 80 world leaders convene at the United Nations to personally commit to ending discrimination against women by 2030 and announced concrete and measurable actions to kick-start rapid change in their countries. The event marked a historic first, with pledges delivered by Heads of State

and Government. No other single issue received this level of political attention at the UN Summit held from 25-27 September to adopt Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The People's Republic of China, host of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, and UN Women co-hosted the “Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: A Commitment to Action.”

Commitments covered a range of issues addressing the most pressing barriers for women, such as increasing investment in gender equality, reaching parity for women at all levels of decision-making, eliminating discriminatory legislation, and addressing social norms that perpetuate discrimination and violence against women.



World leaders convene at the United Nations on 27 September 2015 for the “Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: A Commitment to Action” to personally commit to ending discrimination against women by 2030 and announce concrete and measurable actions to kick-start rapid change in their countries.

In his opening remarks, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon directly addressed the assembled world leaders, saying: “As Heads of State and Government you have the power and the responsibility to ensure that gender equality is—and remains—a national priority.”

He continued to outline three areas for action: “First, I urge you to create and energetically implement coherent gender equality policies. Second, provide significant financing for gender equality so that commitments become reality. And third, monitor progress so that all governments will hold themselves and each other accountable for the pledges made here today.”

The Global Leaders’ Meeting constituted the culmination of an 18-month long journey, spearheaded by UN Women, to review the status of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action on its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A record 167 countries undertook national reviews that assessed progress and gaps as a basis for new national actions plans to accelerate achievement of women’s empowerment and gender equality.

Learn more at: [unwomen.org/stepitup](http://unwomen.org/stepitup)

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/9/press-release-global-leaders-meeting#sthash.bBO1jtKW.dpuf>

## UN Women Executive Board discuss funding and new budget at its Second Regular Session 2015



On 15 September 2015, UN Women's Executive Director addressed the Second Regular Session of the organization's Executive Board.

The UN Women Executive Board convened for this year's Second Regular Session from 15 to 16 September at United Nations headquarters in New York.

The Executive Board engaged in a structured dialogue on the funding needed to fully implement its strategic plan and achieve transformational results for women and girls worldwide. The discussion focused on some of the risks of not achieving adequate funding, as well as steps that UN Women would need to take to reach this critical mass of financial resources.

The Board was also presented with elements of the organization's draft youth strategy, as youth have been identified as essential in achieving societal transformative changes on gender equality and women's rights.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/9/executive-board-second-regular-session-2015#sthash.KkhGPupi.dpuf>

## Commemorating 15 years of Security Council resolution 1325 *UN Women welcomes adoption of new Security Council Resolution 2242*

Fifteen years ago, in October 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted the historic resolution 1325 (2000), drawing attention to the differential impact of armed conflict on women, their exclusion from conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and the inextricable links between gender equality and international peace and security. Since its adoption, insecurity and conflict has continued in all parts of the world, and in recent years, it is taking on new and increasingly challenging forms. Cycles of fragility and insecurity have become entrenched in some regions, compounded in some cases by natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

To assess progress and accelerate action, the 2015 High-level Review of UN Security Council resolution 1325 took place at the Security Council's Open Debate on Women Peace and Security along with the launch of the Global Study on the implementation of resolution 1325-*Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing Peace*, from 12-14 October, 2015 at UN headquarters New York. This report, prepared for the 15th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325, brings together research demonstrating that women's empowerment and gender equality contribute to the conclusion of peace talks and sustainable peace



UN Women welcomed the landmark Security Council resolution adopted on 13 October during the High Level Review on the 15th anniversary of resolution 1325. Resolution 2242 (2015), the eighth resolution on women, peace and security to date, places the women, peace and security agenda as a central component of our efforts to address the challenges of the current global context, including rising violent extremism, climate change, and unprecedented numbers of displaced people. The resolution makes clear the substantive links between women's participation and sustainable peace and security; and provides an extraordinary new tool for all actors to further implement this agenda and the objectives of the Security Council.

Adopted during the annual debate on women, peace and security, the historic content of the document was underlined by its record-breaking support – unanimous adoption, and co-sponsorship by 71 Member States. An unprecedented 113 speakers registered to speak during the debate, making it the most popular in the history of the Security Council.

The debate was the first on the topic to be presided over by a Head of Government, the Prime Minister of Spain, who spoke after the opening by the United Nations Secretary-General, and the briefings given by UN Women's Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and three civil society representatives: Julienne Lusenge from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Yanar Mohammad from Iraq and Alaa Murabit from Libya.

The resolution addresses a number of substantive areas, including a commitment to integrate a gender analysis on the drivers and impacts of violent extremism and greater consultations with women's organizations affected by this violence; it encourages ambitious new targets for numbers of female peacekeepers including through the use of incentives for troop-contributing countries; and articulates the need for more senior women leaders in all levels of decision-making in peace and security. Also, in a change from past resolutions that have focused on the need to train women to participate in peace processes, resolution 2242 stresses the need to train mediators on the impact of inclusive processes and how to achieve these, in a clear acknowledgement of the evidence linking women's participation to more sustainable peace agreements. Further, the resolution highlights the need to address the critical funding gap for women's organizations. In this light it recognizes the new Global Acceleration Instrument on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Engagement as an important tool to galvanize new resources, and invites donors to track their aid against gender targets.

The past 15 years have made clear that women comprise an essential component of peace and stability. Research highlighted in the Global Study has established that women's participation and inclusion makes humanitarian assistance more effective, strengthens the protection efforts of our peacekeepers, contributes to the conclusion and implementation of peace talks and sustainable peace and accelerates economic recovery. The experience of UN peacekeeping missions shows that uniformed female personnel are critical to gaining trust in communities and shaping peace operations to better respond to their protection needs. The study also compiles growing evidence that demonstrates how peace negotiations influenced by women are much more likely to end in agreement and to endure; in fact the chances of the agreement lasting 15 years goes up by as much as 35 per cent [2]. We also have growing evidence that women are the best placed to detect early warning signs of radicalization in their families and communities, and act to prevent it.



And yet the participation and leadership of women continues to be treated as an add-on or ad hoc measure, hampered by lack of financial commitments, political will, and institutional barriers.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/10/ed-statement-uncs-resolution-1325#sthash.x4jibW6Z.dpuf>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-peace-security#sthash.FqvQUB1H.dpuf>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en#sthash.BkiG9eJu.dpuf>

### Three UN agencies join forces to boost education for girls and young women

The heads of UNESCO, UNFPA and UN Women sealed a partnership to empower adolescent girls and young women through education, by signing a joint programme agreement on 23 November, 2015, at the headquarters of the United Nations Population Fund in New York.



UN Women Deputy Executive Director Yannick Glemarec, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin signed a joint programme agreement dedicated to empowering adolescent girls and young women through education on 23 November

“This partnership is a model that brings together our respective strengths to break the cycle of exclusion and vulnerability, to ensure that girls benefit from a full cycle of quality education, in line with the promise of Sustainable Development Goal 4,” said UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova.

From legislative frameworks to classroom practices, gender-sensitive curricula, sexual and reproductive health information, education and services, and data collection, the new Joint Programme provides a coordinated and collaborative response to the persistent gender gap in education -- with a specific focus on adolescent girls and young women between the ages of 10 and 24. It will be rolled out in 20 countries where the education gender gap is most critical over a five-year period, starting with Mali, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Joint Programme was announced during the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2015 (read the [launch press release](#)). The Joint Document signed today formalizes this Partnership.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/11/joint-partnership-on-education-signed#sthash.f3DDPeVz.dpuf>

## Spain and UN Women sign strategic partnership agreement to promote women's rights and gender equality

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Jesús Manuel Gracia Aldaz, Spain's Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America, signed a Strategic Partnership Framework in New York on 29 September to strengthen collaboration in promoting women's rights and gender equality.



UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Jesús Manuel Gracia Aldaz, Spain's Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America, signed a Strategic Partnership Framework in New York on 29 September.

The signature of this agreement takes place during the seventieth session of the UN General Assembly, which saw the approval of *Agenda 2030*, the new global development framework for the next 15 years, which includes a stand-alone sustainable development goal to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls ([Goal 5](#)).

The text of the agreement states that Spanish Cooperation regards UN Women as a “strategic partner” to promote women's rights and gender equality, and specifically, to achieve Goal 5.

The agreement recognizes that “there is strong convergence between the objectives of UN Women and Spanish Cooperation. Spanish Cooperation’s IV Master Plan stresses the importance of promoting women’s rights and gender equality as a key guideline in its work contributing to human development, to the eradication of poverty and to the full exercise of rights.

The agreement will determine the collaborative relationship between both parties over the 2015-2016 period and will contribute to promoting “a stable and predictable UN Women funding framework, subject to available funding, based on its multi-year strategic planning”.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/9/spain-and-un-women-sign-strategic-partnership-agreement#sthash.JcxE5uvX.dpuf>

## Around the World

### National Health Service, UK and UN Women launch gender equality report

#### *The new report builds upon SDG 5 to address gender inequalities and promote women’s empowerment, particularly at the decision-making level*

On 3 December, the United Kingdom’s National Health Service (NHS) launched in London its report, “*NHS Women In Leadership: Plan for Action*” at the Health Services Journal (HSJ) Women Leaders Network hosted by HSJ and NHS Employers. The report, which features forewords from the UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, as well as the CEO of NHS Employees and the President of the Royal College details why gender equality is important in the NHS in alignment with the gender-focused Sustainable Development Goal 5.

Based on a detailed review of evidence and qualitative interviews with stakeholders, the report:

- Outlines why gender equality is important in the NHS in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goal 5 and the belief that equal representation of women in decision-making enhances outcomes.
- Draws upon the experience of the UN System, particularly the UN-SWAP which the report recognizes as beneficial to the NHS as a common language, framework, and way to measure progress shown to increase representation of women in leadership.
- Provides a series of actions organizations, informed by the UN System experience, can take to enable change at an individual, organizational and system-wide level.

The key recommendations directed at the NHS England, the fifth largest employer in the world with over one million women employees, include suggestions to appoint a high-level champion, set up a system wide task force and monitoring and accountability framework, and focus on strengthening the organizational culture for gender equality and empowerment of women.

Gender inequalities remain in all nation without exception. The NHS represents a “pocket of hope” for egalitarianism and fair standards in a troubled world that is increasingly unequal and conflicted. The Report attests to UN Women’s commitment to work to address and accelerate progress towards equality and empowerment everywhere, in developed and developing countries, and in execution of its universal mandate to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Recommendations made in the report are supported by: Royal College of General Practitioners, UK Department of Health, Royal College of Surgeons, Public Health England, Medical Women's Federation, Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management, NHS Employers, The King's Fund, Trust Development Authority, NHS Clinical Commissioners, and NHS England.

The report emanates from a year-long partnership of UN Women Coordination Division led by Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Senior Adviser on Coordination and Focal Point for Women in the UN System, and Dr. Penny Newman, Medical Director, Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust.

See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/12/national-health-service-launches-gender-equality-report#sthash.3SujtYEF.dpuf>

<http://www.hsj.co.uk/>

### G20 leaders launch group to promote women's economic empowerment

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, marking a historic step for women's rights and gender equality, representatives of G20 countries, that constitute two-thirds of the world's population and 85 per cent of GDP, met in Ankara, Turkey and launched a new engagement group called Women 20 (W20) to advance the economic empowerment of women.



UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri speaks at the launch of Women 20 (W20) in Ankara, Turkey.

Under Turkey's leadership, with the strong support of UN Women, W20 will work to promote women's involvement in financial decision-making while monitoring G20 commitments to among other priorities, entrepreneurship, employment and education of women.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu said he saw the W20 as a vehicle for holding the G20 accountable for commitments made to gender equality and women's empowerment, such as the pledge made in 2014 to reduce the gap in labour force participation rates between men and women by 25 per cent by 2025. International organizations estimate that this, in itself, is expected to bring more than 100 million women into the labour force. He also stressed the need for concerted efforts to bring women's role in decision-making to extend beyond the household, into economic and other spheres of influence.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde speaking at the W-20, said, "Women's empowerment is not just a fundamentally moral cause, it is also an absolute economic no-brainer. It holds the potential to boost growth, raise overall per capita income, tackle poverty, and reduce income inequality for people all over the world." She pushed policy-makers to get women into the world's labor force. The fund says getting more women into well-paid jobs raises overall income for countries and reduces income inequality.

The IMF chief said a forthcoming fund paper “suggests that a boost to education and employment chances for women could lead to improvements in income equality of a magnitude that historically took decades to achieve.” To help the G-20 make their targets reality, the IMF is now incorporating gender workforce studies into their annual economic assessment of the fund’s 188 member countries.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/9/lakshmi-puri-attends-w20-launch#sthash.7CMdxrF.dpuf>

### **Commonwealth Secretariat and UN Women sign new MoU to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment**

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma signed a Memorandum of Understanding in New York on 22 September to strengthen collaboration in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment. The MoU builds on existing cooperation between the two organizations and will help to achieve the common goal of realizing the rights of women and girls as critical preconditions for effective and sustainable development.

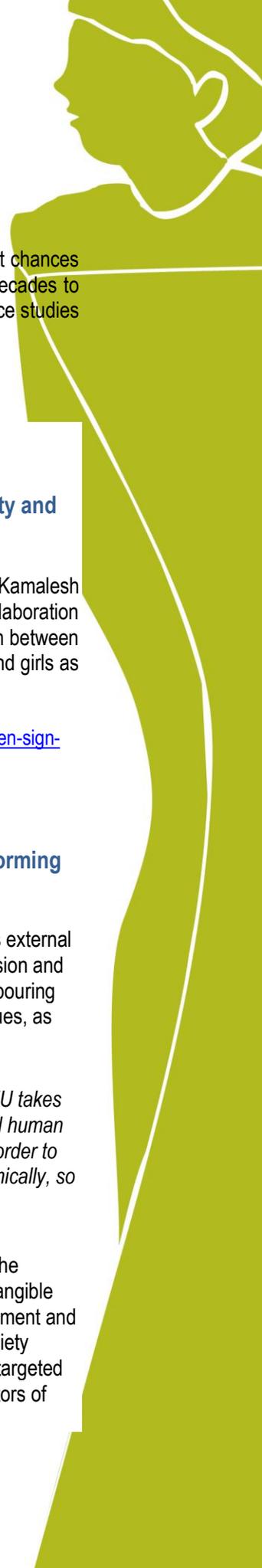
See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/9/commonwealth-secretariat-and-un-women-sign-new-mou#sthash.CE2qpEg1.dpuf>

### **EU adopts new framework for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations (2016-2020)**

A new framework for the EU's activities on gender equality and women's empowerment in the EU's external relations for the 2016-2020 period was adopted on September 21, 2015 by the European Commission and the EEAS. Its aim is to support partner countries, especially in developing, enlargement and neighbouring countries, to achieve tangible results towards gender equality which is at the core of European values, as well as the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be formally adopted this week.

EU High Representative/Vice-President **Federica Mogherini** said: *"With this new framework the EU takes forward working for gender equality in all its external actions. Women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights. We want to provide our partners with the effective support they need in order to fight violence against women and girls and at the same time to empower them socially and economically, so that women can participate actively in the political, social and cultural life of their countries."*

The new framework for action will build on the achievements and lessons learnt brought about by the implementation of the Gender Action Plan in Development 2010-2015. It will be more focused on tangible results. It will be financed through a variety of EU external action instruments (such as the Development and Cooperation Instrument) and aid modalities (for instance, budget support or assistance to Civil Society Organisations). About €100 million have already been allocated to concrete measures specifically targeted to improve women's and girls' rights, while gender will also be mainstreamed throughout other sectors of development cooperation.



- **Fighting violence of any kind against women and girls**
- **Economic and social empowerment**
- **Strengthening voice and participation**
- **Shifting institutional culture**

Accountability is essential to the success of this new approach. Every new EU-funded project will now have to include measurable targets and objectives on gender. The new framework should apply as from 2016.

See more at: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-15-5690\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5690_en.htm)

## COP 21-Historic Paris Agreement to Combat Climate Change

### Women at COP 21: Gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of climate change

More than 190 nations of the world came together in Paris, France on December 12, 2015 to announce a historic achievement: the most ambitious global agreement to combat climate change. The twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP)—took place from 30 November to 11 December 2015—a significant and much-anticipated global gathering where leaders from around the world adopted a legally binding and universal climate agreement to be implemented by governments as of 2020. For the first time ever, all countries committed to putting forward ambitious targets to reduce global greenhouse emissions through a long-term, durable framework; review emission goals and set more stringent reductions every 5 years; adopt strong transparency and reporting requirements to ensure countries stick to their goals; and provide strong assurance to developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable, that they will be supported as they build towards clean, climate resilience.



UN Women closely followed the negotiations and advocated strongly for the final agreement to recognize gender equality and women's empowerment. "One of the missing links in a robust energy agenda today is the role of women," said Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka during the event. "That is why the UN Women–UNEP joint programme on Women's Sustainable Energy, Entrepreneurship and Access, officially launched at the event, will ensure that we empower and strengthen women so they can play a role at the policy level, the delivery level but also in managing the efficient use of energy at the household level. "This agreement must make sure that the women have a better deal" she said, the quality of the contribution that women would be able to make will ensure that the objectives will be achieved much faster and in a more inclusive way. Applying a gender lens to climate change reveals solutions to seemingly intractable problems, and systematically

addressing the persistent gender gaps in the response to climate change has proven to be one of the most effective mechanisms to build climate resilience.

Together with the Government of Morocco, UN Women hosted a series of events showcasing women's leadership role in climate responses at the Morocco Pavilion, where the Global Programme on Women's entrepreneurship and access to sustainable energy was launched. UN Women also co-organized the "Women Power: Meet and Greet the Women for Results Awardees" on 9 December and showcased relevant materials and work at the One UN Exhibit under the theme Women's leadership. On 7 December, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka attended the COP21 Women's Caucus. Together with the Government of Morocco, UN Women showcased relevant material on the theme of "women's leadership" at the One UN Exhibit.



See the full list of UN Women-organized side events.

At: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/climate-change#sthash.0LDhbMqY.dpuf>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/12/new-flagship-programme-on-energy-launched-at-cop-21#sthash.A8AIALFZ.dpuf>

## Actress Hai Qing appointed UN Women National Ambassador for China

During a four-day mission to Beijing and Hangzhou, China, UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri appointed Chinese actress Hai Qing to be the country's first UN Women National Ambassador at a HeForShe banquet.



UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri appointed Hai Qing the first UN Women National Ambassador for China on 22 October.

Ms. Qing is widely known for her acting, but in her new role she will be focusing her attention on the Step Up For Gender Equality campaign in China, advocating for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5 and the realization of Planet 50/50 by 2030. UN Women designated her as a Gender Advocate in 2013, and she was involved in the Orange Day event to end violence against women and girls later that year, as well as the China Gender Fund's press conference in 2014.

“As a mother, a daughter and an actress, I often think about gender roles and [the] status of women defined by society. In traditional Chinese culture, women should only focus on their family, and shoulder the responsibility of doing housework and parenting. Because of this idea, many people do not recognize and respect women as equal individuals [to] men,” Ms. Qing said when receiving her appointment from Ms. Puri.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/10/hai-qing-appointed-national-goodwill-ambassador#sthash.h7RZMnGn.dpuf>

## UN Women and WFP unveil expansion of 'Oases' safe spaces in Za'atari refugee camp

UN Women and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have joined forces to support refugee resilience in the Za'atari refugee camp. Nearly 80,000 Syrians who have escaped conflict in Syria have sought shelter at Jordan's largest refugee camp, Za'atari, where UN Women and WFP are working together to provide economic empowerment programmes for women and girls.

UN Women Jordan and WFP launched in November the third safe space for women and girls in Za'atari refugee camp. Operational since 2012, to date, the 'Oases' safe spaces for women and girls receive approximately 5,000 visitors per month. Funded by the governments of Finland and Italy, this safe space is the site of the *Eid bi Eid* programme (hand in hand in Arabic) that promotes vulnerable female refugees' capacity to support themselves and their families, help meet their basic food needs and diversify their diets and nutritional intake. The Oasis uses the building generously donated by the Civil Military Support Element of the United States of America and is supported by the Government of Jordan's Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/11/expansion-of-oases-for-women-in-zaatari#sthash.Uw5MhzQ3.dpuf>

## Women's Representation

### Nearly 40 Chinese companies sign on to the Women's Empowerment Principles

Thirty-eight companies from China in November signed the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) CEO Statement of Support. The Women's Empowerment Principles, developed by UN Women in collaboration with the UN Global Compact, outline seven steps for companies to improve women's empowerment at work and in the marketplace

Prior to this, CEOs from more than 1,074 companies had already officially endorsed the WEPs, including 16 from China. With the latest signings, the largest number of signatories in the Asia-Pacific region come from China.

The companies were part of a delegation led by private sector donor to UN Women, PROYA Cosmetics Co. Ltd.

PROYA partnered with UN Women in 2013 and became the first Chinese company to sign on to the WEPs. It has contributed more than USD \$800,000 to UN Women to date and supported several gender equality programmes in the areas of equal employment and labour protection, climate change and disaster risk reduction, and corporate social responsibility, as well as supporting the China Gender Fund for Research and Advocacy, which funds innovative projects on a wide variety of gender issues across China.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/11/nearly-40-chinese-companies-sign-on-to-the-womens-empowerment-principles#sthash.TcpEvuCj.dpuf>

## Parlatino approves regional law to advance Parity Democracy with support of UN Women

The Latin American and the Caribbean Parliament (Parlatino), approved the legal framework to advance “parity democracy” in the region on 1 December, during its 2015 General Assembly. This law will become a reference tool for national parliaments in the implementation of institutional reforms and policies to promote and ensure substantive equality between women and men in all decision-making spheres across the region.

The recently approved regional law is intended to become a key tool for establishing a new social contract to eliminate any exclusion against women and girls, and to promote co-responsibility in all decisions that will affect their lives.

“It’s a holistic concept that transcends the merely political,” said Luiza Carvalho, UN Women Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean. “We are facing an opportunity to decide on the State model that we want for our region, especially at a moment when we have just adopted the new Sustainable Development Goals for the next 15 years.”

The regional law states that the construction of substantive equality and parity requires an inter-sectoral commitment, strong political will and the allocation of the necessary financial resources.

The regional law is the result of a process initiated by the Parlatino with the 2013 resolution, which recommended the development of a regional framework to promote parity democracy. The basis of this text originated at a Parliamentary Meeting on Parity Democracy in December 2014, which yielded recommendations for how to achieve parity, the ‘inclusive State’, political violence, and the role of the political parties, media and women leaders. This law has the technical and political support of UN Women.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/12/parlatino-approves-regional-law-to-advance-parity-democracy-with-support-of-un-women#sthash.3xeANaOK.dpuf>

## Violence against women

### Spotlighting prevention, “Orange the World” kicks off global efforts to end violence against women and girls

*Over 450 ‘orange events’ were planned in more than 70 countries including lighting of the Niagara Falls, Council of Europe building, India Gate, and the ruins of Petra in Jordan*

From parades to soccer matches, school debates, and the lighting up of hundreds of iconic monuments, starting tomorrow a United Nations call to “Orange the World” will galvanize global action calling for an end to violence against women and girls, which affects one in three worldwide.

UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, led by UN Women. It was carried out during the civil society-driven 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which ran from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

This year’s ‘Orange the World’ initiative focused on the theme of preventing violence against women and girls, in the specific context of the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which includes targets on ending violence against women and girls.

Coinciding with the 16 days of Activism, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka will undertake visits to three continents highlighting the urgent need for efforts to address the pandemic of

violence at all levels—from global to the local—as well as across all sections of society, during high-profile events in Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Spain and Turkey.

The official commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November in New York saw the launch of a landmark “UN Framework to Underpin Action to Prevent Violence against Women,” jointly developed by a number of UN entities including UN Women, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA and WHO.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/11/press-release-25-november#sthash.s2tLSAav.dpuf>

## UN launches regional programme to eradicate child marriage

In Panama City on 24 November, on occasion of the beginning of the 16 days of activism and the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the regional offices of UN Women, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF and the Pan American Health Organization, presented a new joint programme for the eradication of child marriage.

Child marriage is a cause for concern in Latin America and the Caribbean, where 18 per cent of young women between the ages of 15 and 29—almost 1 in every 5—are married or in an informal union. Child marriage constitutes a violation of girls’ human rights and it is a harmful practice for their health, education and integrity, in addition to impacting their future development and increasing the risk of suffering violence.

This regional initiative promotes changes in the laws to eliminate all the legal exceptions to the minimum marriage age. Even though all countries in the region have established 18 years as the minimum marriage age for both sexes within their respective legislations, several allow child marriage with parental consent or the consent of a legal representative or judicial authority. The objective of the new joint programme is to rid the region of early marriage within two years.

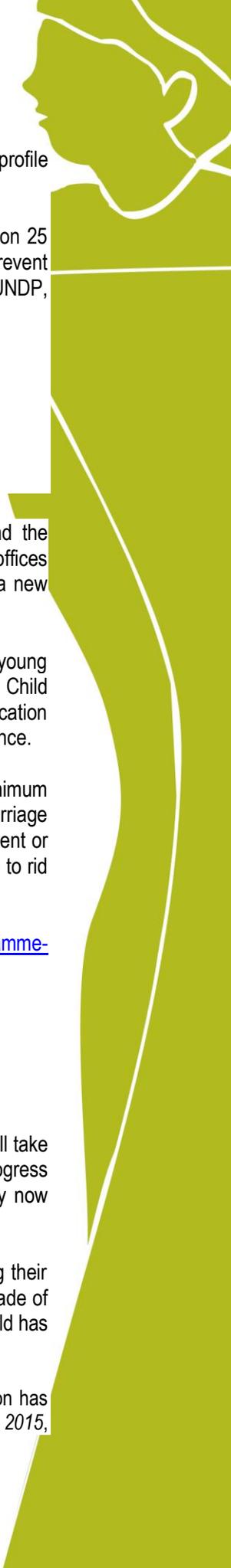
See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/11/un-launches-regional-flagship-programme-to-eradicate-child-marriage#sthash.pCUS48Cr.dpuf>

## In your Interest

The World Economic Forum “Global Gender Gap Report 2015” launched in November states that it will take the world another 118 years – or until 2133 – to close the economic gap entirely. The slow pace of progress in bridging the gap in economic opportunity between women and men means that women are only now earning the amount men did in 2006, the year that the Global Gender Gap was first produced.

The Global Gender Gap Index 2015 ranks 145 economies according to how well they are leveraging their female talent pool, based on economic, educational, health-based and political indicators. With a decade of data, this edition of the Global Gender Gap Report – first published in 2006 – shows that while the world has made progress over all, stubborn inequalities remain.

The gap between men and women in health, education, economic opportunity and political representation has closed by 4% in the past 10 years, according to the World Economic Forum’s *Global Gender Gap Report 2015*,



which launched today. In economic terms, the gap has closed by only 3% with progress towards wage equality and labor force parity stalling markedly since 2009/2010.'

While the Nordic nations continue to act as role models in terms of their ability to achieve gender parity, some of the biggest absolute and relative improvements of the past ten years have come from countries lower in the rankings.

**Global Gender Gap Index 2015**

**Top 10 Leading Nations -**

GGGI 2015	Country/Economy	GGGI 2014	
1	Iceland	1	→
2	Norway	3	↑
3	Finland	2	↓
4	Sweden	4	→
5	Ireland	8	↑
6	Rwanda	7	↑
7	Philippines	9	↑
8	Switzerland	11	↑
9	Slovenia	23	↑
10	New Zealand	13	↑



<http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2015/press-releases/>

### Women and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

With the new global 2030 roadmap and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approved by UN Member States on 25 September 2015, UN Women takes a look at how women are affected by each of the 17 proposed SDGs, as well as how women and girls can — and will — be key to achieving each of these goals.

In this editorial spotlight, UN Women showcases data, stories, videos and publications to illustrate the impact of each SDG on women and girls, and some of UN Women's efforts towards each goal, including our programmes, intergovernmental work and advocacy for policy change.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs#sthash.Wa8tZ7Zo.dpuf>

## Recommended reading and watching

### UN Women Provisional Private Sector Accountability Framework (UNW-PSAF)



UN Women works with its private sector partners to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. To support this work, it has identified the need to create a self-assessment tool inspired by the UN System Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) accountability framework for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and aligned to the UN Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs).

To this end, UN Women has developed a provisional tool, the UN Women Private Sector Accountability Framework (UNW-PSAF). Its objective is to encourage and aid private sector partners to:

- benchmark their own performance over time
- locate and systematically monitor their progress in implementing gender equality considerations into their business, and
- highlight their strengths and potential areas for improvement.

The Provisional UNW-PSAF uses the UN-SWAP methodology, and identifies a set of common performance standards or indicators for each of the seven WEPs to which companies can adhere and aspire. The seven WEPs provide a basis against which UN Women private sector partners can evaluate their gender-related performance and, together with the methodology of the UN-SWAP, constitute the starting point for the development of this tool.

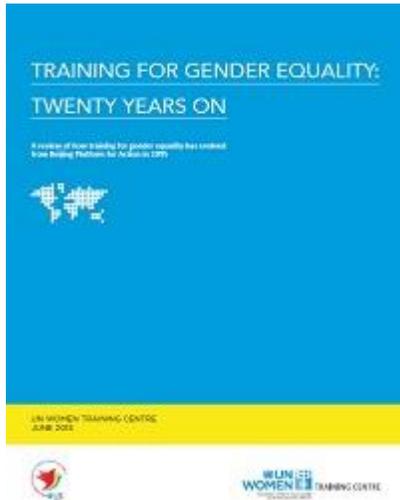
On average, the tool incorporates five to seven indicators, presented in the form of questions, per WEP. The tool uses the UN-SWAP's progressive rating system which measures performance on the given indicator through five ratings of "not applicable", "missing", "approaches requirements", "meets requirements", and "exceeds requirements".

UN Women hopes the Provisional UNW-PSAF will facilitate and accelerate the mainstreaming of gender equality considerations into the work of private sector partners.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/9/un-women-private-sector-accountability-framework#sthash.zC2dpeXc.dpuf>

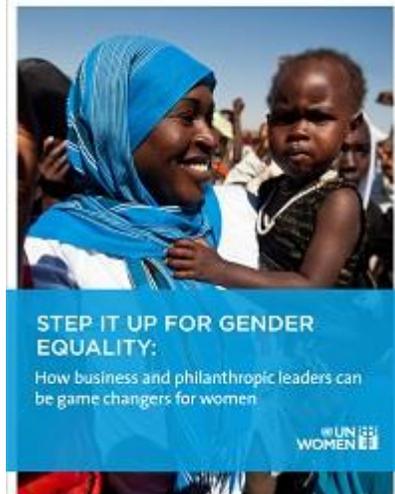
## Training for Gender Equality: Twenty Years On

This paper analyses how training for gender equality has evolved from the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) to the present day. By reflecting on what has worked well to date, and what challenges remain, the report represents a first step in mapping training for gender equality and identifying remaining gaps in knowledge.



See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/9/training-for-gender-equality-twenty-years-on#sthash.ZcMAbD6V.dpuf>

## Step it up for gender equality: How business and philanthropic leaders can be game changers for women



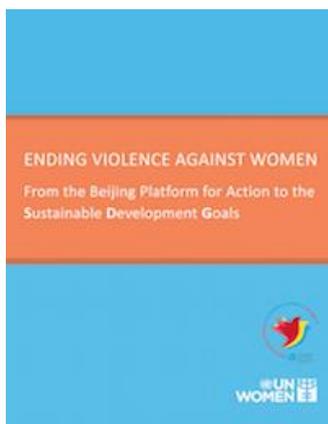
"Step it up for gender equality: How business and philanthropic leaders can be game changers for women" highlights the best ways for philanthropic and business leaders to drive transformative change through ideas, actions and financial commitments.

This brochure details how business and philanthropic leaders can make a difference in the effort to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment under the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the world has signed up to strive together on this new agenda that has gender equality and women's empowerment at its heart, there is a large financing gap. There is growing recognition, extensively backed by research, of the way in which economies and societies are failing to thrive in the absence of empowered women. This has reached a new universality in the 2030 Agenda. However, that knowledge has not so far translated into targeted investment.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/11/step-it-up-for-gender-equality#sthash.EPKmwowj.dpuf>

### **Ending Violence Against Women: From the Beijing Platform for Action to the Sustainable Development Goals**

This booklet contains relevant sections of the principal international agreements over the past 20 years where countries have committed to responding to violence against women and girls, from the Beijing Platform for Action to the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals.



The booklet also provides a summary of the trends in national implementation of the Platform for Action, specifically in relation to one of the identified critical areas of concern, violence against women, as well as an overview of the role of UN Women in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SDG 5, “Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls.”

A list of UN Women and other relevant documents relating to the Beijing Platform, with links to websites, is also included in the booklet.

See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/12/evaw-from-the-beijing-platform-to-the-sdgs#sthash.LpBEULvy.dpuf>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications#sthash.BHTqH1TD.dpuf>

## Equal representation of women through the lens of leadership and organizational culture - Expert Group Meeting Report

Experts worldwide increasingly acknowledge that enacting an organizational cultural shift that enables the meaningful representation of women is predicated on effective leadership. Along with this comes the recognition of the need for proactive strategies to develop leaders with the skills, capacity and awareness to meet the strategic objectives of gender mainstreaming and to revise institutional practices so that they contribute to an inclusive and enabling organizational culture, which are prerequisites to sustained equality.

UN Women organized Expert Group Meeting (EGM), with participation of UN-SWAP focal points, on advancing the equal representation of women in the workplace through the lens of leadership and organizational culture, with the objective to assist the United Nations in exploring the most current research, analysis and good practices on the topic.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/12/equal-representation-of-women-through-the-lens-of-leadership-and-organizational-culture#view>

## UN Women Post 2015 Position Paper

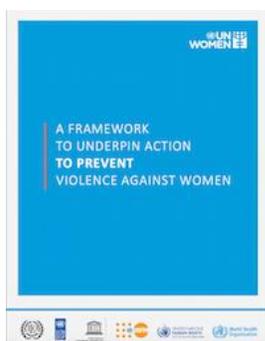
### Monitoring Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This position paper sets out UN Women's suggestions for global indicators to effectively monitor how the SDGs are being implemented for women and girls.



See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs#sthash.OYjdexsM.dpuf>

## A framework to underpin action to prevent violence against women – UN Women, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNOCHR, WHO



Violence against women is the most pervasive human rights violations in the world, rooted in gender inequality, discrimination and harmful cultural and social norms. It is also increasingly recognized as a public health issue that adversely affects the health of women.

The current framework to underpin action to prevent violence against women, as one of the United Nations inter-agency responses to what the UN System can do together to eliminate violence. The framework provides guidance to policy makers and other actors working in this field. This framework will soon be accompanied by a series of additional tools and resources which provide more detailed information about what to do for preventing violence against women that can be adapted to national contexts and needs.

The framework contained in this document draws together contemporary knowledge and practice in violence prevention. Its focus is on addressing the root causes as well as risk and protective factors (see Key terms and concepts below) associated with VAW. It outlines roles that stakeholders working across countries, regions, communities, sectors and disciplines can play in contributing to the eradication of VAW. It is envisaged that the framework will be utilized to underpin future strategies to prevent VAW across the globe and will act as a unifying 'road map' to maximize the success of combined efforts. The framework is intended to be a living document which will be updated and revised as new practices emerge, and in consultation with partners.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/11/prevention-framework#sthash.8rTTL6LT.dpuf>  
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/11/prevention-framework>

## Websites

### Data2x Partnering for a #GenderDataRevolution

This initiative—powered by the United Nations Foundation, with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—is a platform for partners to work together on gender data. Data2X, named for the power women have to multiply progress in their societies, advances gender equality and women's empowerment. How? By building partnerships to improve data collection and

demonstrating how better data on the status of women and girls can guide policy, leverage investments, and inform global development agendas.

Good data are essential for smart policy, and the lack of reliable data has hindered progress on gender equality and women's empowerment. Data2X collaborates with technical experts, policy and private sector advisors, and national and international partners. Together, it seeks to spur a gender data revolution and identify innovative sources of data, including "big data," that can provide an evidence base to guide development policy and investment, and inform the post-2015 global development agenda. Amongst others resources it has developed the *Ready to Measure: Twenty Indicators for Monitoring SDG Gender Targets* which proposes twenty indicators to launch baseline data collection on the situation of women and girls. In many countries, consistent, historical series for these indicators already exist, their sources are well established, and data collection can start or resume immediately. Countries where significant gaps remain should receive priority attention.

Visit website at: <http://data2x.org/>

To see more publications please visit UN Women website at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications>

## UN Women Info

### *Employment opportunities*

You can find a monthly list of vacancy announcements at: <http://www.unwomen.org/about-us/employment>

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

Network—The UN Women's Newsletter

Editor-in-Chief: Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Senior Adviser on Coordination and Focal Point for Women in the UN System, Division for UN system Coordination, UN Women

Production: Coordination Division, UN Women

Design and layout: UN System Coordination Division, UN Women, New York

United Nations, 220 East 42nd Street, 18th Floor

New York, NY 10017, USA

Telephone: 1 646 781 4510; Fax: 1 646 781 4495

E-mail: [network-newsletter@unwomen.org](mailto:network-newsletter@unwomen.org)

