

Network

The UN Women's Newsletter Volume No. 17, Issue 2
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Letter from the Focal Point for Women

Dear Friends,

Greetings to our community of readers; I hope you have all had a wonderful summer! We are back with our second issue of NETWORK 2016 and we are excited to share with you what has been happening during the last few months.

We open this edition with news of actor Anne Hathaway's appointment as UN Women Global Goodwill Ambassador. We also share news of the award-winning Emirati-Yemeni singer Balqees Fathi, who has been honored with an appointment as the first Planet 50-50 Champion for the Arab States Region. Next, we draw attention to several new senior appointments at UN Women announced by the Executive Director in August. We also take a look at news on UN-SWAP and share with you an update on its activities this quarter.



We shine a spotlight on the election of the the new Secretary General in this edition, and we focus in particular on the women candidates in the race for the new SG. Will the UN lead by example in its commitment to gender equality and elect a female SG for the first time in its history, thereby delivering on its efforts to attain women's representation at the highest levels?



This issue also carries lots of news on advances in women's representation worldwide, beginning with former First Lady, senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who has cracked the glass ceiling and made history by becoming the first woman to receive the presidential nomination from a major political party in the United States. We also share with you news of Moldova which has taken a historic step to promote gender equality in politics with a new law mandating a minimum of 40 per cent of women in its cabinet and party lists. In addition, we include interesting new research findings released recently by the University of Cambridge Judge Business School on the topic of boardroom diversity and drivers of female representation in executive roles, which breaks the myth on the role of quotas and finds instead that director term-limits and corporate governance codes do more to help boost representation in top executive positions. Another study finds a strong relationship between the gender of a company's key leaders and the diversity of its board of directors. An interesting article showcasing work-life balance highlights how female pilots in the United States are battling airline maternity leave and breastfeeding policies, and are making some progress.

Around the world this summer the Secretary General and UN Women have successfully highlighted a variety of gender concerns in their ongoing efforts to close the gender gap globally. In May, the Executive Director attended the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, during which UN Women focused on the specific needs and challenges that women and girls face in crises, as well as the key role they play as agents of change. And at the Rio Olympics in August, the SG and the Executive Director highlighted the importance of leadership and participation of women and girls through the power of sport in order to reduce gender inequalities and to give girls the tools to build life skills and self esteem through the "One win Leads to Another" programme.

Further, as has become customary for this newsletter, we call attention to stories on combatting violence against women in conflict and women's roles in peace processes. In this edition we highlight women's participation through the gender sub-commission in the peace process in Columbia and the agreement the FARC and the Colombian Government reached in June in Havana, which seeks to end their 51-year conflict. Women's participation helped to ensure that gender perspectives and women's rights were included in all agreements. We also share news of Timor-Leste adopting a national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 for women, peace and security for 2016-2020.

Among the various other newsletter segments in this issue you will find coverage on activities of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, and the opening of UN Women's liaison office in Abu Dhabi, UAE and in Argentina in the near future.

Finally, as always, the newsletter concludes with information on publications including the UN Women Annual Report 2015 and the report of the Corporate Evaluation of UN Women's contribution to UN system Coordination on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

We hope the range of news and updates we bring through this newsletter inspires you as promoters of gender equality and empowerment of women to continue to make cracks in the glass ceilings until there is no ceiling left to break. ***Let's Step It UP for Gender Equality!***

Personally, I would like to share that this will likely be my last newsletter in the capacity as Focal Point for Women in the UN System. Whereas I will remain in the Coordination Division within UN Women, the hiring of a new Focal Point for Women is in process as I write.

We look forward to your continued support as we move on!

In solidarity,
Aparna Mehrotra
Focal Point for Women
Coordination Division
UN Women

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Congratulations to:

Anne Hathaway, an American award winning actor, on her appointment in June 2016 as UN Women Global Goodwill Ambassador.



"I feel honoured and inspired by this opportunity to aid in advancing gender equality. Significant progress has already been made but it is time that we collectively intensify our efforts and ensure that true equality is finally realized."

— Anne Hathaway, UN Women Global Goodwill Ambassador

A long-standing supporter of women's and girls' rights, Ms. Hathaway will put the spotlight on the issue of the unequal burden of care work in the home as one of the key barriers to gender equality, working internationally to advance the adoption and implementation of policies that will bring about measurable change. These

include affordable childcare services and shared parental leave at both government and corporate levels.

When it comes to equality, Ms. Hathaway is a committed voice for change. She previously served as an advocate for Nike Foundation and travelled to Kenya and Ethiopia to raise awareness on child marriage. In 2013, Ms. Hathaway provided the narration on 'Girl Rising,' a CNN documentary film, which focused on the power of female education as it followed seven girls around the world who sought to overcome obstacles and follow their dreams.

Maria Calivis of Italy on her appointment by the UN Secretary General as Deputy Executive Director (Programmes) Ad Interim, United Nations Children's Fund.

Prior to retiring from service, Ms. Calivis held several leadership positions in UNICEF, including Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa (2011-2015), and for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (2004-2009). She was also Director and Chief of Staff from 2009-2011, as well as Director of Change Management, and Representative in India and Tunisia.



Ms. Calivis brings a wealth of experience in leading UNICEF country programmes, coordinating and shaping the Fund's response in humanitarian crises, organisational management, as well as being a facilitator in bringing a greater focus to the organisational mandate on child equity, to the appointment.

Shanelle Hall of the United States on her appointment as Deputy Executive Director (Field Results), United Nations Children's Fund.



Ms. Hall brings a wealth of experience of UNICEF's global supply activities and a deep understanding of its emergencies and development work to the position. She has a proven track record of effective leadership, consistently supporting country programmes to generate and sustain results for children. She has also forged positive relationships with partners, such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund.

Currently UNICEF's Director, Supply Division, Ms. Hall previously served the Fund in several positions, such as Deputy Director, Supply Division (2005-2006), and Chief of Immunization, Supply Division (2002-2005). Since joining the Fund's Supply Division in 1998, she has also led UNICEF's Emergency, Contracting, Warehousing, Transport and Technical teams. She led the transformation of the supply function in UNICEF, expanding it beyond service-delivery to it being a strategic asset in humanitarian response and product innovation that influenced markets and strengthened supply chains with governments. Before that, she had a distinguished career in the private sector.

Ms. Hall holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Industrial and Systems from the University of Southern California in USA.

Patricia Espinosa Cantellano of Mexico on her appointment as Executive Secretary of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



Ms. Espinosa brings to her new appointment more than 30 years of experience at the highest levels in international relations, with a specialization in climate change, global governance, sustainable development, gender equality and the protection of human rights. Currently serving as the Ambassador to Germany (since 2013 as well as from 2001 to 2002), she was Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2006 to 2012.

As Mexico's representative in multilateral bodies and international organisations in Vienna, Geneva and New York, Ms. Espinosa has been engaged as a leader in the global challenge to address climate change and its consequences, most notably as Chair of the sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which led to the adoption of the Cancun Agreements. Named by the Secretary-General to the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, she is a tireless supporter of multilateralism as a way to improve conditions for development in all regions of the world, and understands the inextricable link between the aims of the Paris climate agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Having previously served as Ambassador to Austria, Slovakia, Slovenia and United Nations Organisations in Vienna (2002-2006), Ms. Espinosa was Chief of Staff to the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1989-1991 and was responsible for economic issues at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva between 1982 and 1988.

Mary Robinson of Ireland, on her appointment as Special Envoy on El Niño and Climate.



"The United Nations Special Envoy will provide the leadership required to tackle these challenges, raising the profile and sounding the alarm", said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Ms. Robinson is currently President of the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice. She was the President of Ireland and previously served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She has also served as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Climate Change with John Kufor and Michael Bloomberg.

UN Women announces new senior appointments to key roles within the organisation

Executive Director UN Women, Ms. Phumzile-Mlambo Ngcuka announced news in August of the following key staff appointments and promotions at UN Women. This is a remarkable group of dedicated and richly experienced leaders with truly diverse backgrounds. Congratulations to all of them.

Ms. Joelle Tanguy (USA/France) has been appointed as the Director of the Strategic Partnerships Division. Joelle brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in global development organisations, including extensive experience in resource mobilization, public-private partnerships, policy advocacy and organisational development, to the position. She is currently serving as the Executive in Residence of the Geneva Center for Security Policy.



Ms. Lene Jespersen (Denmark) has been appointed as the Deputy Director of Operations in the Division of Management and Administration. Lene has over 16 years of strategic and leadership experience in programme management and operations. She will join UN Women from UNDP where she has been holding various positions since 2003. She is currently serving as Chief of the Management Support Unit at the UNDP Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy.

From the UN Women talent pool:

Mr. Moez Doraid (Egypt) has been appointed as the Director of the Management and Administration Division. Moez has been officiating as the Director, a.i. of the Division of Management and Administration since April 2015. Moez brings extensive experience in the UN system and direct knowledge of UN Women operations to this role. He has held the position of Director, Coordination Division, since the inception of UN Women.



Ms. Aparna Mehrotra (India) has been appointed as the Director of the UN System Coordination Division. Aparna has been officiating as the Officer in Charge for the UN System Coordination Division since October 2015. As Senior Adviser on Coordination in UN Women, Aparna has led, promoted and coordinated accountability for the UN System's work on GEEW. Aparna's 32-year career spans six UN entities, with positions at both the headquarters and at field level in political, developmental, normative and operational areas. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout her career.



Ms. Diana Ofwona (Kenya) has been appointed as UN Women's new Regional Director for West and Central Africa. Previously, Diana served as the Head of Office Ad Interim for the Western and Central Africa Regional Office in Dakar since July 2015. Additionally, she has been acting as the Regional Director Ad Interim for East and Southern Africa since March 2016. Diana has extensive management experience with UN Women. Prior to taking up the position of Regional Director, Diana served as UN Women Representative in Rwanda.



Ms. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs (Nigeria) has been appointed as UN Women's new Regional Director for East and Southern Africa. Izeduwa (Zed) transitions to the role of Regional Director having served as UN Women Representative in South Sudan since June 2012, and prior to this as Representative in Liberia for just over three years. Before joining UN Women/ former-UNIFEM, she served with UNFPA as Gender Adviser in Ethiopia and a HIV Programme Specialist in Malawi.



Ms. Miwa Kato (Japan) has been appointed as Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. She is currently the Country Director for UN Women's Egypt Country Office. Miwa has extensive experience in the region and in gender and development issues. Prior to joining UN Women, Miwa was Chief for the South & Southeast Asia Pacific Regional Section with UNODC. Miwa



joined the UN system in 2000 and has held progressively responsible assignments since then.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/9/ed-speech-at-eb-second-annual-session#sthash.TAFDpaNz.dpuf>

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

The 2016 Report of the Secretary General entitled "*Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*" (E/2016/57) was released on 8 April 2016. The report included the aggregate UN system-wide results for the fourth year of implementation of the System-wide Action Plan (for the 2015 calendar year). Sixty-four entities (constituting over 90 per cent of the universe of entities) reported, including the Secretariat and its departments and offices. This represents an increase in Action Plan participation: 62 entities had reported in 2013 and 2014, whereas only 55 entities had reported in 2012.

The 2015 results indicate that the System-wide Action Plan continues to catalyse progress on gender mainstreaming. For the United Nations system, the proportion of ratings indicative of meeting or exceeding requirements increased from 31 to 57 per cent between the first year of reporting in 2012, and 2015.

Despite these gains, the rate of progress remains insufficient to meet all performance requirements by 2017, the deadline set by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination. Projections using the current rate of progress indicate that the United Nations system can expect to "meet" or "exceed" all ratings by 2020, three years after the deadline. In 2015, as was the case in 2014, resource allocation, gender architecture and parity and capacity assessment - in that order - registered as the poorest performance areas for the United Nations system. Thirty-five per cent or less of the entities reported "meeting" or "exceeding" requirements for these areas.

In follow-up to the Report on *Mainstreaming a gender perspective*, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), at its 2016 session, passed a resolution which calls upon the UN system to fully implement the UN-SWAP, including by fully implementing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan, and ensuring compliance with all performance indicators.

UN Women is currently coordinating the next phase of the UN-SWAP, which will begin in 2018, with a focus on development and normative results. An updated framework is being piloted by 9 UN entities between July and October 2016.

Around the United Nations

The race is on for the next UN Secretary General:

The UN must lead by example in appointing its next Secretary-General: make this moment count for gender equality!

An election is due to be held in 2016 to select the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), to succeed Ban Ki-moon, whose term will conclude on 31 December 2016.

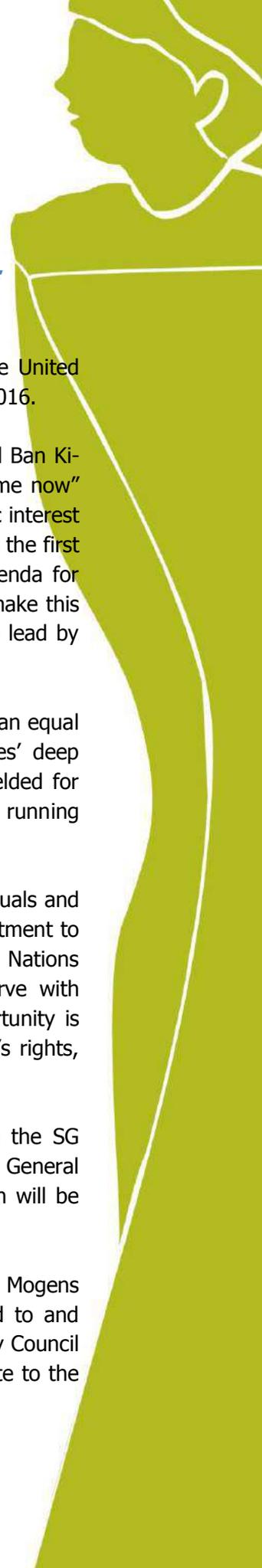
UN Women welcomes the many voices amplifying United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's recent strong comment that after 70 years of male leadership "it's high time now" for his successor to be a woman. Not since the inception of the UN has global public interest and engagement been so high in the selection of the next Secretary-General. This is the first SG election since UN Women was formed, and the first within the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As such, there is a bigger appetite than ever before to make this moment count for gender equality and women's empowerment, and for the UN to lead by example on this front.

The Security Council and General Assembly have 10 strong candidates, made up of an equal number of women and men, from whom to select the next SG. The candidates' deep experience, varied skills and gender balance make this the strongest pool ever fielded for selection. Never before have there been so many superbly qualified women in the running for this important position.

All over the world, in petitions, letters, debates, and in every form of media, individuals and citizen groups are calling on the UN to select a woman with a demonstrated commitment to gender equality, peace, development, justice and human rights to lead the United Nations for the next five to ten years. These people include staff of the UN, who serve with dedication and commitment in often-difficult and dangerous situations. The opportunity is upon us to appoint a leader who will open a new chapter in the fight for women's rights, right from the very top.

In April 2015, Equality Now initiated a campaign to promote gender equality in the SG selection process. After 20,000 letters were sent to key decision makers, the General Assembly drafted a resolution highlighting gender equality, and the final resolution will be published in September.

For the first time in the UN's 70 year history, the General Assembly President Mogens Lykkeskov organized sessions with each of the candidates whereby they submitted to and answered questions from UN Members. As the process currently stands, the Security Council carries out the selection process behind closed doors before presenting its candidate to the



General Assembly. The winning candidate is required to gain 9 votes in the Security Council and no veto(es).

The ten candidates for this year's election are:

- *Helen Clark*, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and current Administrator of U.N. Development Programme;
- *Susana Malcorra*, current Foreign Minister of Argentina, former Undersecretary General of the United Nations for Field Support, Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations Secretariat (2012–2015);
- *Irina Bokova* of Bulgaria, former Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria and current Director-General of UNESCO;
- *Cristiana Figueres* of Costa Rica, Championed the Climate Change operation as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2010–2016);
- *Natalie Gherman*, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova and Acting Prime Minister of Moldova;
- *António Guterres*, former Prime Minister of Portugal (1995 – 2002), and former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2005 – 2015);
- Vuk Jeremić, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, and former President of the United Nations General Assembly;
- *Srgjan Kerim*, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Macedonia, and former President of the United Nations General Assembly;
- *Miroslav Lajcak*, former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, current Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia (2009–2010; 2012–present); and
- *Danilo Turk*, former President of Slovenia, former Slovenian Ambassador to the United Nations, and Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations for Political Affairs (2000–2005).

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/8/ed-statement-on-a-woman-as-sg#sthash.nYfSETtW.dpuf>

UN Women Executive Board convenes Annual Session 2016

The UN Women Executive Board met for this year's Annual Session from 27 to 28 June at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The Chair of the session, Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari from the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations, introduced the session, and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka presented the organisation's report on progress made on its Strategic Plan, 2014-2017. The report discusses lessons learned two years into the Plan following an extensive Mid-Term Review, and how to integrate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into the Plan.

The Executive Board also considered a 2015 report on UN Women’s evaluation function, various reports on internal audit and investigation activities in 2015, as well as the report of the Audit Advisory Committee and its related management response.

The detailed agenda and all official documents of the Annual Session 2016 can be accessed on the Executive Board webpage or the Paper Smart-portal of the United Nations.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/6/un-women-executive-board-convenes-2016-annual-session#sthash.x9d9dhe0.dpuf>

UN Women co-hosted screening of “Equal Means Equal”

On 26 August, UN Women and Heroica Films hosted a screening of the documentary film “*Equal Means Equal*” which was followed by a panel discussion. The screening was held at the ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters on the occasion of Women’s Equality Day in the United States.

The documentary, which features input from UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri, actress Patricia Arquette, activist Gloria Steinem and more, explores women’s treatment in the United States through real-life examples — including via precedent-setting legal cases. Directed by Kamala Lopez, the film presents the inadequacy of laws claiming to protect women and highlights the importance of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment, a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution stating that civil rights may not be denied because of a person’s gender.

The panel members following the screening included UN Women representatives Lopa Banerjee, Chief of the Civil Society Section, and Ravi Karkara, Senior Adviser to the Deputy Executive Director, as well as experts in global partnerships and human rights and media.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/8/un-women-to-cohost-screening-of-equal-means-equal#sthash.edZWbOLc.dpuf>

UN Women signs new partnership with RedR Australia

Following close on the heels of the World Humanitarian Summit in May, UN Women Deputy Executive Director Yannick Glemarec and Ms. Kirsten Sayers, Chief Executive Officer of RedR Australia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the provision of stand-by personnel to be deployed to UN Women to respond to humanitarian crises. RedR Australia is a leading not-for-profit humanitarian organisation for international emergency relief, driven by the vision of a world in which sufficient competent and committed personnel are available and responding to humanitarian needs. The organisation provides skilled people and training to help communities rebuild and recover in times of crisis.



Kristen Sayer CEO of RedR Australia meets with UN Women Deputy Executive Director Yannick Glemarec to counter-sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Red R and UN Women's Humanitarian Unit. The meeting took place at UN Women Headquarters on 29 June 2016.

Crises impact women, girls, boys and men of all ages differently. Women are often the hardest hit, the first responders to a crisis, and play a central role in the survival and resilience of families and communities. Experience and research show that when women are included in humanitarian action, the entire community benefits. UN Women works to ensure equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of humanitarian action.

In the face of rising crises around the world, UN Women is prioritizing its engagement in humanitarian action. The availability of adequate and appropriate human resources and specific expertise in humanitarian response at the country level is critical for ensuring an effective response when a crisis strikes.

"This partnership is extremely timely for UN Women as it will help us translate our commitments from the World Humanitarian Summit into action for women and girls in humanitarian settings," said Deputy Executive Director Glemarec at the signing ceremony.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/6/un-women-signs-new-partnership-with-redr-australia#sthash.VrMQYdEa.dpuf>

UN Women launches the "Global Coalition of Young Women Entrepreneurs":

Promoting innovation, skills and young women's entrepreneurship

On World Youth Skills Day, 15 July, at a side event held at the UN Headquarters in New York, UN Women launched the "Global Coalition of Young Women Entrepreneurs" to promote young women's innovation and entrepreneurship.

“Encouraging entrepreneurship is one of the most impactful steps we can take in addressing some of the disparities we see today,” said UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri, in her opening remarks. “Empowering young women to become not only wage-earners but also job-creators is imperative for achieving the 2030 Agenda and for eradicating poverty,” she added.

Despite the growing evidence that investing in young women’s economic empowerment spurs global growth, this year’s World Youth Report, focusing on youth civic engagement, noted that globally young women are still less likely than young men to become entrepreneurs, in part due to cultural and societal barriers. At the panel event, eminent young women entrepreneurs and leaders shared their experiences and recommendations for promoting young women’s entrepreneurship.

“Take the risk and not only invest your money, invest your time, invest your passion, in order to empower other people,” said Rosario del Pilar Díaz Garavito, founder of the Millennials Movement and UN Women’s Empower Women Champion. She urged the participants to use the knowledge that they have and be socially responsible, so that no one is left behind.

Promoting young women’s economic empowerment and skills development is a key pillar in UN Women’s Youth and Gender Equality Strategy. The Global Coalition of Young Women Entrepreneurs will enable action and innovation in this area through partnerships with young women leaders and entrepreneurs, the private sector, philanthropists, academia, UN agencies and others.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/7/promoting-innovation-skills-and-young-womens-entrepreneurship#sthash.rYYU1cnd.dpuf>

International Youth Day:

The road to 2030: "Leadership by and for young women"

On the occasion of International Youth Day on 12 August, UN Women, in collaboration with the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, hosted a side event entitled “Investing in young women's leadership is key to implementing the SDGs” at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event convened 15 young women leaders to share their experiences and strategies on how to empower other young women and inspire a new generation of leaders to fulfill the vision of gender equality and sustainable development by the year 2030.

“Leadership is not a choice anymore, it is a necessity,” said Monica Singh, an acid attack survivor and UN Women Global Youth Champion. “People will tell you that you don’t belong here because you are a women or it’s not your time yet” said Donya Nasser, US Youth

Observer to the UN and Board Member of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "You have the right to be at the table that is making decisions that affect your daily life."

Impacting one in three women and girls around the world, gender-based violence remains a formidable obstacle to young women's empowerment. "Investing in young women will not only change the trajectory of their future, but that of their communities as well," said Ravi Karkara, Senior Adviser at UN Women. UN Women's youth strategy is built around the "LEAPs" framework, which calls for investing in young women's Leadership; Economic empowerment of young women; Actions to end violence against young women and girls; and strengthening Partnerships with young women, young men and intergenerational partnerships, to catalyze progress towards gender equality and sustainable development.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/8/youth-day-the-road-to-2030#sthash.200I9mgv.dpuf>

First High-Level Political Forum assesses year one of SDG implementation

The first High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, themed "Ensuring no one is left behind," took place at the UN Headquarters in New York, from 11 to 20 July. The Forum assessed the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals by governments, including voluntary reviews by 22 countries on 19 and 20 July. It provided political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up, and adopted a Ministerial Declaration in closing.

The 2016 High-level Political Forum gave Member States an opportunity to gauge "Where do we stand at year one?" including on SDG 5, on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. UN Women continues to call on Member States to demonstrate how they are systematically integrating gender perspectives in their national planning, decision-making, policies and budgets to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which strives to bring lasting and transformative change in women and men's lives.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/7/high-level-political-forum-assesses-year-one-of-sdg-implementation#sthash.RApyzz1.dpuf>

Around the World

UN Women at the 2016 Rio Olympics:

One Win leads to Another - Empowering Women and Girls through Sports



UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka were at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 3 – 6 August, highlighting the importance of leadership and participation of women and girls in sport.

The Executive Director carried the Olympic Torch through the streets of Rio de Janeiro, celebrating women's

and girls' empowerment through sport. Historically, the Olympic Flame represents the value of purity and the runners who carry it convey a message of peace on their journey.

A few kilometers ahead, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon received the Olympic Flame, witnessing how sport unites people from all walks of life with the power to transcend the differences of race, gender, religion and nationality. The Secretary-General then passed the Flame to Thaiza Vitória, 15-year-old Brazilian handball player and member of the 'One Win Leads to Another' programme in Rio de Janeiro. Thaiza Vitória walked with the Olympic Torch to amplify the voices of adolescent girls and young women in Brazil and around the world, who are often forced to conform to gender and social stereotypes and share the experiences of the 'One Win Leads to Another' programme in Brazil.



At the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, UN Women, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Always (#LikeAGirl) in partnership with Women Win, Bola Pra Frente, Instituto Agenda and Brazil's National Olympic Committee, and supported by the Swedish Postcode Lottery Sport Foundation celebrated women's and girls' empowerment through sport and shared experiences of the **'One Win Leads to Another'** programme in Brazil.

The "One Win Leads to Another" programme uses sport as a powerful means to reduce gender inequalities and to give girls tools to build life skills and self-esteem. It builds the leadership skills of adolescent girls through quality sports programmes, improving their

ability to influence decisions that impact their lives at all levels. It creates safe spaces for girls to break social barriers and equips them with basic economic skills, increased knowledge of their bodies, and the confidence to access services in the event of violence.

Sport is a powerful tool for girls' and young women's empowerment. Of the girls who took a nine-month curriculum designed by Women Win in over 30 countries, 89 per cent said they saw themselves as leaders, compared to 46 per cent who felt that way before the programme. By the end of the programme, 93 per cent knew where to report violence and 99 per cent of girls were confident that they would get a job. This curriculum was adapted for the Olympic legacy programme in Brazil and kicked off leading up to the 2016 Rio Games.

'One Win Leads to Another' aims to reach 2,500 girls, aged 10-18 years, and 300 young out-of-school mothers this year, delivering a transformative programme to some of the most-at-risk girls in Rio de Janeiro. With a rigorous monitoring and evaluation component, the current pilot project is intended to test and refine concepts in preparation for a sustainable and scalable model to be replicated throughout Brazil and Latin America.

See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/8/press-release-in-sport-and-for-gender-equality-one-win-leads-to-another#sthash.2L1CkHAJ.dpuf>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/8/coverage-un-women-executive-director-at-2016-rio-olympic-games#sthash.qWUjZCNu.dpuf>

First World Humanitarian Summit

Closing the Gender Gap in Humanitarian Action



At the World Humanitarian Summit, UN Women calls for women's rights and empowerment to be central principles of humanitarian action

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Deputy Executive Director Yannick Glemarec joined other world leaders at the first World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) held on May 23-24 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) drew to a close on 24 May, after two days of historic discussions among global leaders from 173 countries. The Summit focused on how to respond more effectively and inclusively to major humanitarian crises and be better prepared to meet future challenges. Leaders demonstrated overwhelming support for the Secretary-General's call for a new 'Agenda for humanity' and more than 1,000 commitments to deliver on this agenda were made by a variety of stakeholders.

Throughout the Summit, UN Women focused on the specific needs and challenges that women and girls face in crises, as well as the key role they play as agents of change. The Chair's Summary "Standing Up for Humanity: Committing to Action" — which reflects the main discussions and commitments emerging from the WHS and the way forward beyond Istanbul — highlights the overwhelming calls by participants for greater attention and investment to address the root causes of conflict and to build more inclusive and peaceful societies. Participants also recognized the need to ensure that the very people affected by crises are not only informed and consulted, but are put at the centre of related decision-making.

According to the Chair's Summary, "there were widespread calls at the Summit for gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights to become pillars of humanitarian action. ... Plans to end tolerance of gender-based violence against women and girls were launched, and commitments were made to ensure the right to sexual and reproductive health care is fulfilled for all women and adolescent girls in crisis settings."

The following commitments were endorsed by stakeholders at the Roundtable:

- Empowering women and girls as leaders and increasing support for local women's groups to participate meaningfully in humanitarian action.
- Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women and adolescent girls in crisis settings.
- Implementing a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis.
- Ensuring that humanitarian programming is gender-responsive.
- Full compliance with humanitarian policies, frameworks and binding documents on gender equality, women's empowerment and rights.

One of the strongest messages that came out from the WHS, including at a UN Women-organized side event and co-chaired thematic roundtable, was the need to substantially increase the representation and participation of women in the leadership and delivery of humanitarian assistance, recognizing the important work that women's organisations do as

first responders and caregivers during a crisis. Special emphasis was given to the need for better funding and training for local women around the world.



UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and UN Women Deputy Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the UN Women-chaired roundtable. Photo: World Humanitarian Summit

Leading by example, UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson announced during the Roundtable on “Women and Girls: Catalyzing Action to Achieve Gender Equality”, the UN’s commitment “to ramp up action on gender equality and to strive to increase the percentage of women at all levels in the continuum of our work — from humanitarian action to development, from field to headquarters — seeking to surpass 40 per cent by 2020 and achieve a 50 per cent fully balanced workforce by 2030.”

This announcement is in line with UN Women’s campaign and goal for a Planet 50-50 by 2030.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka announced that “UN Women will lead efforts to ensure that, by 2020, we at least reach 15 per cent of funding for humanitarian action that will be devoted to interventions targeting gender equality and women and girl’s empowerment, in line with commitments that have been made under the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. This may seem little, but at this point we are in the one-digit percentage in terms of humanitarian resources that are achieving results for women and girls.” UN Women will work with partners to provide flexible and rapid funding to advance the meaningful engagement of local women’s groups in crisis settings.

All commitments made at WHS will be reflected in an online platform, which is still to come. In September, the United Nations General Assembly will be briefed on the Summit’s outcomes and an annual update will review progress in implementing the commitments made.

See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/5/media-advisory-world-humanitarian-summit#sthash.qCZY9yMN.dpuf>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/humanitarian-action#sthash.ib0JwrrC.dpuf>

UN Women Executive Director celebrates Women's Month in South Africa

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was in South Africa from 10 - 19 August for the national celebration of "Women's Month". This year South Africa is marking several important milestones for women's rights, including the 60th anniversary of the 1956 "women's march", which convened 20,000 women of all races marching to South Africa's Union Buildings to protest apartheid laws requiring black women to carry permits to be able to work in or pass through 'white' areas'; the 40th anniversary of the Soweto uprising; and the 20th anniversary of South Africa's Constitution.

In addition to taking part in a two-day consultation for the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, the Executive Director attended several events and meetings, including with the leaders of South Africa's student movement, the launch of a programme that supports survivors of domestic violence, and the launch of the national Civil Society Advisory Group for UN Women South Africa. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka also received an honorary doctorate from the Fort Hare University.

During the visit on 10 August, McKinsey and UN Women hosted the launch of the McKinsey Women Matter Africa report. The report looks at women's representation, especially in leadership positions, in the public and private sector across Africa.

The report reveals that only 5 per cent of CEOs across the private sector in Africa are women and that men accounted for 64 per cent of all promotions over the last year. In government, the number of women in parliament has almost doubled over the last 15 years. However, the report also notes: "Numbers do not equal influence. Although the number of women in leadership positions may have risen, women do not necessarily have greater power".

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/8/ed-in-south-africa#sthash.Mttl6Ug1.dpuf>

UN High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment meets in South Africa



Participants in the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment in South Africa on the 12 August. Photo: UN Women

The UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, together with UN Women, Oxfam and the University of the Witwatersrand, hosted a two-day regional consultation themed "*Making Economies Work for Women in the South: What Will it Take?*" in Johannesburg, South Africa on 11 and 12 August.

The event brought together development partners, leading academics, women's rights experts and leaders, including UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Minister for Women in the Presidency of South Africa, Susan Shabangu, University of the Witwatersrand Vice Chancellor Adam Habib, and the African Development Bank's Special Envoy for Gender, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, as well as representatives from civil society and the private sector.

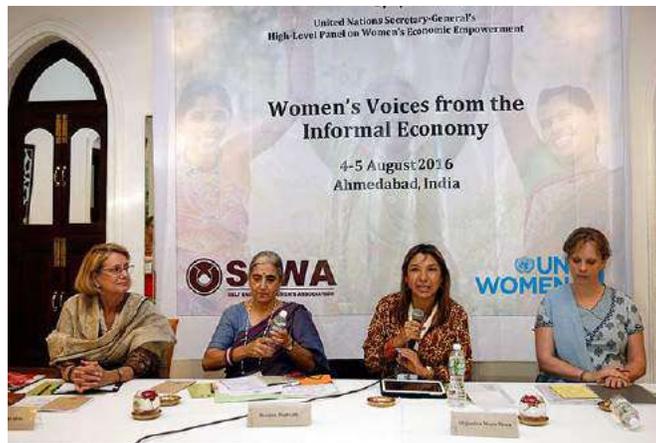
The first day's consultation focused on the experiences of women working in the informal sectors; the challenges faced by women's rights organisations, and the ways in which these challenges could be addressed. In her opening remarks, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, said, "In many countries, policies are not informed by the real situation that women face, or they may not consider the [informal] sector at all. I would hope that one of the areas that comes out of this consultation is the prioritization of policy and representation." Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka also stressed the need for basic infrastructure that women in the informal sector need in order to succeed.

The second day's consultation focused on macroeconomic policy frameworks and measures of productive work, gender differences in pay and working conditions and the impact of the care economy on women's time and opportunities. In addition to identifying the main barriers to women's full participation in the economy, the consultation shared scalable and replicable best practices from the global south.

The independent High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment was established by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in March 2016 and is co-led by Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solís and the CEO of IKEA Switzerland, Simona Scarpaleggia. The Panel is expected to make action-oriented recommendations on how to improve economic outcomes for women in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and it will submit an interim report in September, shaped by the consultations underway.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/8/un-high-level-panel-on-womens-economic-empowerment-meets-in-south-africa#sthash.Gu0LwiRT.dpuf>

UN High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment hears from women in the informal economy in India



(Left-Right): Dr. Rebecca Reichmann Tavares, Representative, UN Women India; Renana Jhabvala, National Coordinator, SEWA; Alejandra Mora Mora, Minister for Status of Women, Costa Rica; and Gwen Hines, International Director, UK Department for International Development (DFID) address the media at a two-day consultation of the High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment, in Ahmedabad, India.

UN Women and the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) jointly hosted a global consultation on “Women’s Voices from the Informal Economy” on August 3rd at Ahmedabad, India, as part of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel (HLP) on Women’s Economic Empowerment.

The event brought together eminent experts on economic empowerment and women informal workers who have organized to form producer groups and who have collectively advocated for legal reform, social protection and financial inclusion. The participants also included Alejandra Mora Mora, Minister for the Status of Women, Costa Rica; Gwen Hines, International Director, UK Department for International Development (DfID); Meg Jones, Chief of Women’s Economic Empowerment, UN Women; Rebecca Reichmann Tavares, Representative, UN Women India; and Panudda Bonapala, Country Director, International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The consultation in Ahmedabad provided an opportunity for Panel members to learn first-hand from women workers about the issues they face and the solutions they have implemented thus far.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/8/un-high-level-panel-hears-from-women-in-the-informal-economy-in-india#sthash.Ri4L3cmU.dpuf>

Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment meets in Costa Rica



Members of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment and special guest speakers pose for a group photo on 15 July 2016. Photo: Office of the President of Costa Rica/Roberto Sanchez

Costa Rica hosted a regional consultation of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment on the 14th of July. The consultation was jointly supported by UN Women and the National Institute of Women (INAMU) of Costa Rica.

"Costa Rica joins these global efforts that evidence the magnitude of the challenge to be undertaken. Our country will be the capital of these efforts, hosting this committee created by the UN. The recommendations of this global Panel will provide key actions for governments, the private sector and other interested groups," said Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, President of Costa Rica and Co-Chair of the Panel.

The High-Level Panel met to discuss how women of Latin America and the Caribbean can continue advancing economic empowerment while preserving the progress already made. The Panel also explored what actions must be taken to further progress. The event brought together leaders and women's rights experts, including UN Women Executive Director

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the Ibero-American Secretary General, Rebeca Grynspan, the Executive President of the National Women's Institute of Costa Rica, Alejandra Mora Mora, as well as representatives from civil society and the private sector.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/7/hlp-on-womens-economic-empowerment-meets-in-costa-rica#sthash.1ahOQGJD.dpuf>

UN Women to open Country Office in Argentina:

UN Women signs Letter of Intent to establish a Country Office in Argentina during the official visit of UN Secretary-General

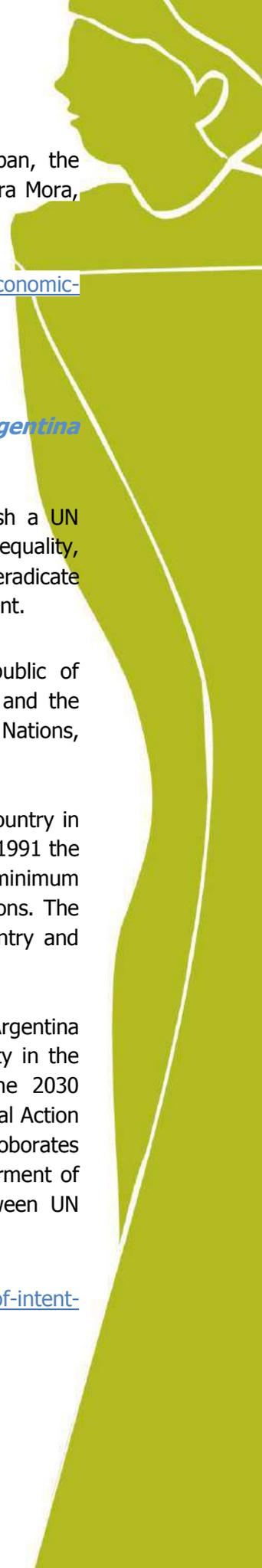
The Republic of Argentina and UN Women signed a Letter of Intent to establish a UN Women Country Office in Argentina and to expand their efforts to promote gender equality, economic empowerment, leadership, participation in the political sector, and to eradicate violence against women and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The subscription was made on 8 August between the Chancellor of the Republic of Argentina, Susana Malcorra, and UN Women Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean, Luiza Carvalho, in the presence of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, during his official visit to the South American nation.

Argentina has been a pioneer in vindicating women's rights, and it was the first country in the world to establish legislations on shares for political participation of women. In 1991 the country enacted a law, established as an initial temporary measure, to ensure a minimum quota of 30 per cent of women in the lists of political parties for legislative elections. The implementation of this standard has generated unquestioned progress in the country and has been a model for the entire region.

With a background like this, and a movement of strong and consolidated women, Argentina is a country that can contribute greatly to the regional agenda for gender equality in the framework of localization, implementation, monitoring and measurement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The recent adoption and launch of the National Action Plan for the Prevention, Assistance and Eradication of Violence against Women corroborates the country's commitment to equality between women and men and the empowerment of women, and it stands as a fertile ground to strengthen the collaboration between UN Women and the Republic.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/8/signing-of-letter-of-intent-to-open-argentina-office#sthash.vChuRhST.dpuf>



United Arab Emirates and UN Women sign new agreement to open Liaison Office in Abu Dhabi



UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri and UAE Assistant Minister for Legal Affairs Abdulrahim Yousif Al Awadi shake hands at the signing of an agreement to open a new UN Women Liaison Office in Abu Dhabi. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

In an agreement signed today, the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) committed to the opening of the new UN Women Liaison Office for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Abu Dhabi. As a founding member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, UAE has poised itself as forward looking country committed to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It is also a top contributor to UN Women from the Arab Region.

The agreement was signed by UN Women Deputy Executive Director, Lakshmi Puri, and UAE Assistant Minister for Legal Affairs, Abdulrahim Yousif Al Awadi, who also signed onto UN Women's HeforShe campaign.

"This is a pioneering moment and beginning of a new phase of our partnership," said UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri, commending the leadership and political will that the Government of UAE has shown towards the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Liaison Office in Abu Dhabi will be the only one of its kind in the region. The UN Women Liaison Office for GCC will be hosted by the General Women's Union (GWU), which plays a fundamental role in empowering women in UAE at all levels. Due to the visionary leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Chairperson of the GWU, the UN Women – UAE partnership has reached a new level with the signing of this agreement, opening the way for enhanced and strengthened collaboration to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

A leader in the region on gender equality and women's empowerment, the UAE has, in recent years, developed several policies to support women's economic empowerment and political participation at the national level. Today there are 20,000 women entrepreneurs in the UAE, making up 10 per cent of all Emirati entrepreneurs — which represents a 58 per cent growth in women entrepreneurs since 2012. In December of 2012, the UAE passed a law calling for women's mandatory representation in all boards of governmental corporations and bodies, making it the first country in the region to implement such a law.

The new Liaison Office will have a strategic focus on partnership development in the area of policy advice and political advocacy with Gulf and Arab institutions. The office will also assist in advancing the status of women in the region, support national governments in the Gulf Cooperation Council, and strengthen collaboration on gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/7/uae-un-women-agreement-to-open-liaison-office-in-abu-dhabi#sthash.dkDeljCg.dpuf>

Singer Balqees Fathi named UN Women Planet 50-50 champion for the Arab States region



Emirati-Yemeni singer Balqees Fathi with Mohammad Naciri, UN Women Regional Director for Arab States during a visit to UN Women Regional Office. Photo: UN Women/ Karam Gamal El Din.

UN Women recently announced the appointment of award-winning Emirati-Yemeni singer Balqees Fathi as the first Planet 50-50 champion for the Arab States Region. Focusing on young women and girls, Ms. Fathi will be working closely with UN Women to push for young women's entrepreneurship in the region and to advocate for the rights of women survivors of violence, with a particular focus on ending child marriage.

Fourteen per cent of girls in the region marry under the age of 18, which starts a cycle of other forms of violence and also results in health repercussions. With the refugee crisis tearing through the region since the beginning of the Syrian conflict five years ago, the rate of child marriage in refugee communities is rising at an alarming rate. In Jordan, for example, the rate of registered child marriages in refugee communities increased to 18 per

cent in 2012 compared to 12 per cent in pre-war Syria. The number again skyrocketed to 25 per cent in 2013 and continues to grow unchecked.

"The voices of young women in the region are drowned by the hefty problems of conflicts, the refugee crisis and dire economic conditions. Balqees's dedication to reach out to and advocate for young women is of great value at such a time. Her focus on women's economic empowerment and violence against women and girls is a perfect match with UN Women's vision that the two subjects are highly interlinked," said Mohammad Naciri, UN Women Regional Director for Arab States.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/8/balqees-fathi-named-planet-50-50-champion-for-the-arab-states-region#sthash.Cp92sWRm.dpuf>

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announces USD 80 million commitment to close gender data gaps and accelerate progress for women and girls:

New initiative will promote gender equality and support the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

In her keynote speech in May 2016 at the Women Deliver conference in Copenhagen, Melinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, announced a commitment of USD 80 million over the next three years to close gender data gaps and help accelerate progress for women and girls around the world. Alongside the Gates Foundation's commitment, partners across governments, nonprofits and philanthropic organisations also agreed on a new statement of principles regarding gender data and its importance for accelerating development outcomes.

"By adopting the SDGs the world agreed to achieve gender equality by 2030. But we cannot close the gender gap without first closing the data gap," said Melinda Gates. "We simply don't know enough about the barriers holding women and girls back, nor do we have sufficient information to track progress against the promises made to women and girls. We are committed to changing that by investing in better data, policies and accountability."

Data holds power: It demonstrates the size and nature of social or economic problems, and brings clarity around who is falling through the cracks. Through reliable data, women and girls' lives can become visible and counted, helping to inform programming and hold leaders to account. However, a lack of comprehensive, current information about women and girls, especially in developing countries, hinders efforts to advance gender equality. If the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are to be reached by 2030, the world must advance its knowledge about women and girls' lives and livelihoods, their welfare and well-being, and their contributions to their communities, countries and economies.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/5/gates-foundation-announces-usd-80-million-commitment#sthash.oORwhQa2.dpuf>

Combating Violence Against Women

UN Women statement for the first International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

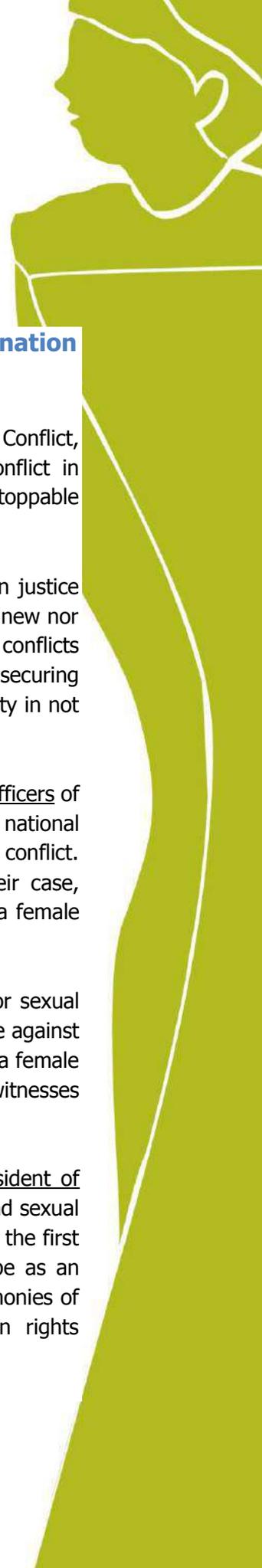
In observance of the first International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, UN Women celebrated three historic firsts for combatting sexual violence in conflict in 2016. All of these were long overdue and all had one thing in common: the unstoppable force of women's voice and leadership.

The landmark cases we have seen this year are proof that the connection between justice for women and women's direct participation and leadership in such cases is neither new nor coincidental. With widespread sexual violence still a devastating reality in too many conflicts in the world, it is heartening to see that steps are being taken towards securing accountability for these acts, and that women are persevering with strength and unity in not letting these crimes go unspoken or unpunished.

In February, a national court in Guatemala convicted two former military officers of committing sexual violence during the country's civil war — the first time that a national court anywhere in the world considered charges of sexual slavery during armed conflict. Women's organisations worked for years with indigenous women to develop their case, which was presented in the court by Guatemala's female Attorney General before a female presiding judge.

In March, the International Criminal Court (ICC) handed down its first conviction for sexual and gender-based crimes. An all-female panel of three judges presided over the case against former Congolese Vice-President Jean-Pierre Bemba, who was brought to justice by a female prosecutor, thanks to unprecedented levels of participation of women victims and witnesses from the Central African Republic.

In May, the Extraordinary African Chambers in Senegal convicted the former president of Chad, Hissène Habré, for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including rape and sexual slavery. This was the first universal jurisdiction case to make it to trial in Africa, and the first time a former Head of State was held personally accountable for committing rape as an international crime. This conviction would not have been possible without the testimonies of women and the inspiring determination of lawyers, victims' advocates, human rights defenders, as well as local and international civil society organisations.





In Guatemala and Senegal, as in many other investigations, UN Women was proud to partner with Justice Rapid Response in the deployment of gender advisors from a roster of experts for investigation and documentation of sexual and gender-based crimes. This roster is made up of experts from 62 nationalities. Altogether, this expert group — 80 per cent of whom are women — speak a total of 34 different languages. All of these experts go to great lengths to ensure that survivors of sexual violence during conflict are treated with dignity, and that their voices are heard in the quest for justice.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/6/statement-for-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict#sthash.QBST0UoK.dpuf>

Investing in women for peace and future generations: Timor-Leste adopts a national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325

In May, Timor-Leste approved a national action plan for women, peace and security for 2016-2020, becoming the third country in Southeast Asia to adopt such a plan based on a UN Security Council resolution.

The plan was approved by the Council of Ministers on 26 April. It covers the four pillars of Resolution 1325, adopted in the year 2000: women's participation, prevention, protection, and peace-building. Philippines and Indonesia have previously adopted such plans.

UN Women Timor-Leste provided technical assistance in producing the plan, which was the result of efforts led by the Ministry of Interior and other ministries, and the Secretary of State for Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women, and civil society organisations.

Minister of Interior Longuinhos Monteiro told the Council of Ministers that the plan complements the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, "and we need to implement both to promote women's participation and gender equality."

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/5/timor-leste-adopts-a-national-action-plan-on-security-council-resolution-1325#sthash.tNpGLfYZ.dpuf>

Women take the reins to build peace in Colombia

The voices of women as experts, survivors and negotiators have been included in a peace process with an unprecedented gender perspective, with the support of UN Women and other partners.



Representatives of women's organisations and networks that were part of the first delegation of gender experts at the talks in Havana present their proposals for building a peace deal with the Government of Colombia and FARC-EP negotiators in December 2014.
Photo courtesy of the Peace Talks, Havana, Cuba.

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence Zainab Hawa Bangura, visited Havana, Cuba, from 23 - 24 July. Since 2012, the FARC and the Colombian Government have been in talks hosted in Havana, seeking to end a 51-year conflict. The Government of Colombia led by President Juan Manuel Santos signed a bilateral cease-fire agreement with the FARC insurgency group in June 2016. On 24 July, The UN representatives joined the event organized by the parties, which publicly presented the important achievements made by the Gender Sub-Commission, which was composed of representatives from both the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The two sides committed to ensure that one of the agreement's fundamental objectives will be to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

On August 24th a final agreement of the peace accord, to be followed by a referendum, was announced. This is a critical moment for the women peacebuilders of Colombia, whose advocacy resulted in the establishment of a dedicated gender sub-commission with a mandate to ensure that gender perspectives and women's rights are included in all agreements.

Unlike most of the peace negotiations in history, during Colombia's peace process, women have had an increased presence and leadership roles at the peace talks. The voices and concerns of women are being heard at the negotiating tables, via the Gender Sub-Commission, and during national and regional consultations nationwide. Their specific needs and demands have been incorporated into the partial agreements.

The Havana Peace Talks Table and its Gender Sub-Commission is a unique mechanism in the history of conflict resolution. The momentous peace accord between the Colombian

government and FARC rebels has made unprecedented guarantees to women. The agreement includes promises that women in rural areas will receive equal access to land and ownership rights as well as credit to buy land. It also sets up a commission to investigate sexual violence perpetrated during the bitter, 50-year conflict between the two groups. "The issue of violence against women, especially sexual violence, has ... been made a priority so that the victims can seek justice," said Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, "This has not happened in other peace accords, so it becomes a historic event."

See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/7/women-at-the-frontlines-building-peace-in-colombia#sthash.gwCmoMHY.dpuf>

Women's Representation

Hillary Clinton cracks glass ceiling:

Makes history as the first woman to receive presidential nomination from a major political party in the United States

Hillary Clinton has made history as the first woman to receive the presidential nomination from a major political party in the United States on July 26th. Clinton took a historic step closer to fulfilling her dream of shattering what she once called "that highest, hardest glass ceiling" when Democratic delegates at the party's national convention in Philadelphia officially nominated her as their candidate for president – making the former First Lady, U.S. Senator and Secretary of State the first woman to top a major party presidential ticket.



It has taken a long 227 years to get even this far. George Washington was elected president of a newly independent America in 1789. Forty-three men later (42 of them white) Hillary Clinton makes history today by being the first female nominee for the White House.

Mrs. Clinton's clinching of the nomination follows a pattern that has been repeated at many levels of government throughout American history: White women are often the second or

third group to break through the glass ceiling, usually after a black or Hispanic man has done it first.

She has been a strong and vociferous advocate for women's rights and gender equality throughout her career. Ever since she made the 1995 speech at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, in which she famously said, "women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights," it has become one of the major touchstones of UN Women's platform. Clinton has also been involved in many UN Women events on gender equality, often giving major speeches at UN Women events.



She has said that her 2016 candidacy for the Presidency had grown out of the activist who had presented a 12-part plan to advance the cause of women two decades ago in Beijing. "My running for president is a way of sending a message — we have an opportunity to lift everyone," she said. A speech that launched a movement, Hillary Clinton's Beijing speech continues to resonate 20 years later and remains the defining battle cry for women.

That speech, delivered before Mrs. Clinton had established her own political identity, has in the last two decades served as a thread she has continued to reference throughout her career. Now, on the 20th anniversary of the speech, the Beijing address has emerged as a focal point of Mrs. Clinton's 2016 campaign and as a reminder of her longstanding and ongoing advocacy for women.



UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said that "because she is a woman, she has got our support." for the candidacy for the presidency. "Whenever there's a woman candidate, our support is necessarily behind that candidate," she said in an interview on International Women's day. She said increasing women's representation in government is a major priority for UN Women.

Tunisia moves closer to achieving gender equality in politics

Tunisia's Parliament has approved an amendment ensuring that women have greater representation in local politics. This amendment, which applies to both municipal and regional elections, includes a proposal for "horizontal and vertical" gender parity in Article 49 of the electoral law.

Horizontal parity requires that municipal election lists across Tunisia have an equal number of both men and women, while vertical parity requires that men and women alternate within each list. The Assembly of Representatives of the People (ARP) - the Tunisian parliament - adopted both on 15 June 2016. Out of 134 representatives, 127 agreed to the new measure.

"For the first time, 73 women parliamentarians, from different parties, backgrounds and political ideologies, voted unanimously and conducted their own lobbying in favour of the horizontal and vertical parity."

UN Women joined forces with the advocacy efforts led by civil society for horizontal parity in local elections. According to the Gender Gap Report 2015, Tunisia is ranked 69th in terms of political empowerment out of 145 countries. Enshrining horizontal and vertical parity in the electoral law increases women's chances of being elected in the upcoming local elections planned in March 2017, and will allow for better representation in municipal and regional councils. It constitutes significant progress towards inclusive government, equal opportunities and gender equality in the country.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/6/tunisia-moves-closer-to-achieving-gender-equality-in-politics#sthash.LbpdLl64.dpuf>

Moldova takes historic step to promote gender equality in politics: *New law mandates minimum 40 per cent women in cabinet and party lists, gives men 14 days paid paternity leave, and prohibits sexist ads and language in media.*

The Parliament of Moldova recently adopted a new law that, for the first time, introduces gender quotas for party list candidates and cabinet nominees. Passed on 14 April 2016, Law No. 71 provides that women and men must each make up a minimum of 40 per cent of every political party's candidates and of cabinet nominees. Law No. 71 amends 15 other national laws, including the Electoral Code, the Law on Government and the Labour Code of the Republic of Moldova.

Key changes include:

- The introduction of 14 days of paid paternity leave;

- The prohibition of sexist language and images in the media and advertising;
- The establishment of a Gender Equality Coordination Group in the central public administration; and
- The expansion of the responsibilities of local public authorities on gender equality.

“Adopting this law is an important step forward towards gender equality in Moldova,” said Ulziisuren Jamsran, UN Women Country Representative in Moldova. “It was made possible by a broad alliance of Parliamentarians, civil society organisations, government representatives, media and committed individuals acting together. It is now critical that we join forces and ensure the Law is fully implemented and all responsible institutions, but also the citizens of Moldova are fully aware of its provisions.”

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/6/moldova-takes-historic-step-to-promote-gender-equality-in-politics#sthash.zuICRGAv.dpuf>

Steering the path to leadership for women police officers in Albania

UN Women has provided support to the Albanian State Police in implementing its 2011 Diversity Plan of Action, which focuses on integrating a gender perspective and developing policies to increase women’s participation as leaders and decision-makers in the force. The Governments of Sweden, Norway and Austria have been strong programme donors and supporters of these efforts.

The plan comes on the heels of other gender-sensitive policy changes, notes UN Women Representative in Albania, David Saunders. “The Albanian State Police adoption of a progressive policy against harassment and sexual harassment in the workplace illustrates their ongoing commitment and progressive approach to gender equality. This follows on their commitment to promote women into field command roles and implementing 50:50 women-to-men recruitment.”

UN Women and the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) jointly funded, promoted and conducted the first training and mentoring programme in 2015, to bolster women police in command roles by honing their operational leadership and management skills. Martha Bacile Findlay, Advisor to the Albanian State Police, says it is part of a series of initiatives that help empower women police officers. “The programme is trying to overcome organisational deficiencies that have excluded women from operational command in the past. ... [Women] have previously been restricted to administrative roles once they reach a certain rank,” she says. “These restrictions are of a cultural nature and mirror similar situations in other parts of the world in terms of the integration of women.” Of the 16 women that applied for the first training programme, five successfully completed it. Three of them have already taken on new leadership positions.



Anila Popa (far right) was one of five women police officers to graduate from the ICITAP-UN Women training in 2015. They stand alongside Bill Morrell, Strategic Police Advisor, ICITAP Albania (centre-left) and the Director of the Albanian State Police, Haki Çako (centre-right), who is also a HeForShe champion. Photo: UN Women/Besnik Bak

There has been a slight increase of women in Albania holding leadership roles in the police force, from 6.6 per cent in 2012 to 9.9 per cent today. Overall, 1,468 women now represent 14 per cent of the Albanian State Police, up from 9 per cent in 2011. Recruitment policies were modified in 2011, requiring 50 per cent of new cadet recruits to the Police Academy be women until 2014.

The leadership training programme is being replicated in 2016 with 29 senior women police officers participating. Divided into two groups, the first will be certified by the end of June and the second group will start in autumn. UN Women is also going to support the training of male mentors as part of the programme.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/7/steering-the-path-to-leadership-for-women-police-officers-in-albania#sthash.XChCPTpE.dpuf>

Boardroom Diversity when women lead

In their mid-year report in 2016 "*20/20 Women on Boards*" (a national campaign to increase the percentage of women on U.S. company boards to 20% or greater by the year 2020) delved into the board data of the 2015 *Fortune 1000* companies to research how many women directors there were, whether they were on multiple boards, and whether women in leadership positions create opportunities for more women to serve on boards. The study found that a broad pool of qualified women is helping other women, and reported on the "Amazing Dozen," who serve on four or more boards. It was also found that there is a strong relationship between the gender of a company's key leaders and the diversity of its board of directors.

Key findings of the report included the following:

- Boards with female CEOs, Board Chairs, or Nominating Committee Chairs are significantly more gender diverse than boards with male leadership.
- Of the *Fortune 1000* companies with a female CEO or Board Chair, 88% and 86% of companies respectively have already met or surpassed 2020 Women on Boards' goal of having 20% or more women on the board. This compares to 42% of all *Fortune 1000* companies.
- Contrary to popular belief, *Fortune 1000* board seats held by women are not monopolized by an elite subset of individuals. Seventy-five per cent of female directors devote their attention to a single *Fortune 1000* company board, although many may also be on smaller company boards.
- Twelve women serve on four or more *Fortune 1000* boards and come from a variety of professional backgrounds including law, politics, academia, and non-CEO executive positions as well as the C-suite. This "Amazing Dozen" shows that there are a multitude of paths to the boardroom and that America's top companies value diversity of experience.

See more at: <https://www.2020wob.com/sites/default/files/2020GDI-2016Report.pdf>

Looking beyond corporate boards: drivers of female representation in executive roles

A new study unveiled in March 2016 from Cambridge University, Judge Business School and the 30% Club, has found that director term limits and corporate governance codes help boost female representation in top executive positions.

The study of companies from 42 countries over the course of a decade (2004-2013) found that Colombia (28 per cent) had the highest percentage of female top executives, followed by Finland and Thailand (each 19 per cent), while Japan and Qatar were the lowest ranked (each one per cent). The UK (11 per cent), U.S. (13 per cent) and Canada (14 per cent) finished below the top ten.

"Most research and debate has focused on the proportion of women on corporate boards, which is an important topic but not the final word on women's role in business." said Sucheta Nadkarni, Sinyi Professor of Chinese Management at Cambridge Judge, who led the new study along with Research Fellow Dr Elaine Yen Nee Oon, and Dr Jenny Chu, University Lecturer in Accounting. "This new study looks at female representation in senior management roles, which is critical in evaluating the role women play in shaping corporate strategies and outcomes."

The results suggest that "soft legislation" such as director term limits and gender diversity requirements in corporate governance codes have a broader effect, beyond the board, on female representation in executive teams than "hard legislation" such as quotas that do not seem to promote a significantly higher percentage of women in executive teams.

The study focuses on women in the very top executive roles, on the executive or management boards of companies, as disclosed by their annual reports. The study examined companies in the Forbes Global 2000 list, limiting the maximum number of companies in any single country to 150 and excluding countries with fewer than seven companies. This resulted in a sample of 1,071 companies from 42 countries from six continents and 56 industries, which were studied in each year of the 10-year period.

Norway, which is well known for its 40 per cent quota for females on listed company boards, ranked only ninth for female top executive representation at 15 per cent. "Higher female board percentage generated by legislative quotas does not have a spill-over effect in executive teams," the study concluded.

The research showed that the strong positive effect of gender diversity requirements in corporate governance codes on female executive team percentage suggests that the normative value of corporate governance codes in creating gender inclusivity seems to have a broader effect beyond the board in fostering a greater percentage of women in executive teams. Director term limits are set to reduce board retrenchment and foster openness and infusion of new perspectives in board activities. These goals seem to have strong positive spillover effects in executive teams and to be conducive to charting pathways for women to rise to executive roles.

The study found that women were more highly represented in service industries (11 per cent) than manufacturing (eight per cent), and in low-tech industries (10 per cent) than high-tech industries (eight per cent). The sectors with the highest percentage of female top executives included building contractors and animal specialties, while agriculture and passenger transportation were the lowest.

See more at:

<http://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/aboutus/women/research/looking-beyond-corporate-boards/>

<http://30per>

centclub.org/assets/uploads/UK/30_Club_Reports/CJBS_white_paper_v8_web_version.pdf

The Diversity Scorecard 2016: *Building Diversity in Asia Pacific Boardrooms*

The study, *Building Diversity in Asia Pacific Boardrooms*, is the fourth in the Korn Ferry (a global people advisory institute) - Diversity Scorecard series, and it examined the largest 100 publicly listed companies' 2014 annual reports in ten Asia Pacific economies, namely: Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea. Based on the findings, firms with at least 10 per cent of female board members

delivered a 14.9 per cent return on equity (ROE) in 2014 compared to just 12.6 per cent for those without.

According to this year's findings, three countries in the Asia Pacific region - Australia, India and Malaysia - showed significant improvements in broadening women representation on boards across the relevant companies. A combination of government initiatives has contributed to the increase in these countries. Indian companies, for instance, have been swift to respond to the Company Act, which required all listed companies to have at least one woman on the board.

While it is encouraging to note that all-male boards are no longer a majority in the region with a significant drop from 53.2 per cent in 2012 to 39.0 per cent in 2014, Asia Pacific still falls far behind benchmark global economies such as the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union. For the region to reach parity with these markets, it would require another decade of growth at the current pace.

See more at: <http://www.kornferry.com/institute/korn-ferry-diversity-scorecard-2016-building-diversity-in-asia-pacific-boardrooms#sthash.6eVrCcli.dpuf>

<https://bschool.nus.edu.sg/images/CGIO/Korn-Ferry-Diversity-Scorecard-2016-Final.pdf>

“On Board Forums” - A new initiative of the AICD to advance gender diversity: *An opportunity for women to build their networks and learn from some of Australia's most distinguished chairs*

The Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) is committed to a target of reaching 30 per cent of female representation on ASX200 boards by the end of 2018 as part of its mission to promote better boards and stronger governance. As part of building women's director networks and giving women the confidence they need to join boards, the AICD recently created a new initiative, the *On Board Forums*, where women can develop their director skills under the guidance of experienced chairs and non-executive directors of ASX-listed companies.

“The forums provide emerging female directors the opportunity to connect with experienced ASX 200 chairs and non-executive directors and gain insights into boardroom behaviour and the decision making processes of an ASX chair,” AICD's Board Diversity Manager Rhian Richardson said. “These forums encourage participants to practice their boardroom skills in a constructively challenging yet positive environment that enables self-reflection and group learning.”

See more at: <http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/membership/membership-update/aicd-on-board-forums-supporting-women-into-the-boardroom>

Ontario sets gender diversity targets:

Women to make up 40 per cent of provincial boards and agencies by 2019

In June 2016 Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne announced new gender diversity targets to ensure more women have the opportunity to reach top leadership positions at provincial agencies and other government organisations.

The Ontario government has set a target that, by 2019, women make up at least 40 per cent of all appointments to every provincial board and agency. Ontario is also encouraging businesses to, by the end of 2017, set a target of appointing 30 per cent women to their boards of directors. Once businesses set the target, they should aim to achieve it within three to five years.

These actions build on the government's long-standing support for broader gender diversity, and are informed by a report Ontario commissioned from Catalyst Canada. The new report, *Gender Diversity on Boards in Canada: Recommendations for Accelerating Progress*, provides advice on best practices in gender diversity on boards.

Ontario has accepted all 11 recommendations in the report, some of which are for businesses and some of which are for government, and is convening a steering committee to provide input on their implementation. Premier Wynne announced the targets and the committee at a special roundtable discussion at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. The Premier and members of the steering committee were joined by representatives from Catalyst Canada and UN Women.

Premier Wynne has accepted an invitation from UN Women to serve as a champion of Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value, a new global coalition that brings together leaders from government, the private sector and the women's movement, among others, to take action and make progress on gender diversity and equal pay.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/6/press-release-ontario-sets-gender-diversity-targets#sthash.vs6XMR2K.dpuf>

Work-Life Balance

Female pilots battling for maternity leave:

When the pilot is a mom: accommodating motherhood at 30, 000 feet

An article published in the New York Times on August 16, 2016 highlights how breastfeeding arrangements in certain workplaces have proved to be a difficult workplace issue to solve:

how do companies and airlines accommodate commercial airline pilots who are balancing new motherhood?

Annalyn Kurtz, the author of the article, says that it is a question that some employers have answered by creating leave policies or lactation rooms. But the flight deck of a jumbo jet isn't a typical workplace. Pilots are exempt from a provision in the Affordable Care Act requiring employers to accommodate new mothers. At 30,000 feet, the issue touches not only on pilot privacy, but also on aircraft safety.

At Delta, a group of women pilots have banded together through a private Facebook page and have approached their union with formal proposals for paid maternity leave — unheard-of at the major airlines — because they say they would like to stay home to breast-feed their babies. At Frontier Airlines, four female pilots are suing the company for discrimination, seeking the option of temporary assignments on the ground while pregnant or nursing.

While their proposals differ, all of the women say they are aiming for one thing: to avoid situations in which pilots have been leaving the cockpit in midflight for as long as 20 minutes, the amount of time often required to pump breast milk.



The airlines have maternity policies that are archaic and it is encouraging that female pilots are stepping forward and taking a stand. One reason for the lack of rules is that women make up only about 4 per cent of the nation's 159,000 certified airline pilots — a number that has been slow to rise over the past decade or so.

There were no female pilots at the biggest airlines until 1973, when American Airlines hired the first, Bonnie Tiburzi Caputo. In a reminder of how times have changed since then, that news was reported in The Los Angeles Times under the headline, "Airline Pilot to Fly by Seat of Panties."

More than 40 years later, the major carriers still haven't resolved this issue. They set their policies for pilots based on the collective bargaining agreements negotiated by the unions. But women of childbearing age account for just a sliver of union membership, so maternity leave and breast-feeding policies have not been at the top of union agendas.

Once a baby is born, the major airlines typically don't offer paid maternity leave or alternative ground assignments for breast-feeding mothers.

For the complete article see: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/17/business/when-the-captain-is-mom-accommodating-new-motherhood-at-30000-feet.html?emc=edit_tnt_20160816&nid=44921754&ntemail0=y&r=0

In your Interest

Valencia Club de Fútbol and UN Women receive 2016 FEDEPE International Award

Valencia Club de Fútbol (VCF) received the 2016 FEDEPE International Award for their collaboration with UN Women to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. VCF chairwoman Layhoon Chan accepted the award on behalf of the Club, along with UN Women's Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Advisor, José Carlos Ferrer.

The event was presided over by Her Majesty Queen Letizia of Spain and attended by the Spanish Minister for Health, Social Matters and Equality, Alfonso Alonso, among other dignitaries.

The FEDEPE Awards honour the work of women in the economy, in society and in culture, with awards in specific categories for those businesses, entities and media that have boosted the role of women at work. The award recognizes the collective efforts of Valencia CF and UN Women since 2015 through campaigns and other activities to support the empowerment of women and girls and to eradicate violence against women.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/7/valencia-cf-and-un-women-receive-2016-fedepe-international-award#sthash.fgfoCkn8.dpuf>

Cambridge Judge Business School Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI)

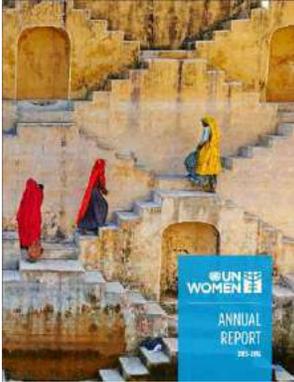
This newly formed Women's Leadership Initiative launched in June 2016 has the mission to serve as a platform to enable women's empowerment and leadership in the business world globally. The WLI will build and leverage the resources and knowledge of Cambridge Judge Business School and among its network, to sustain this mission in the long-term.

<http://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/aboutus/women/wli-mission-and-people/>

Recommended reading

UN Women Annual Report 2015



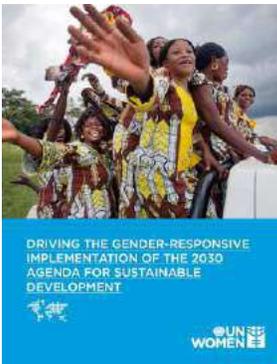


The Annual Report documents UN Women's work to foster women's empowerment and gender equality around the world. It highlights some of the organisation's initiatives during the year and provides summary financial statements, a list of new programmes and projects, and contact information for the organisation.

2015 was UN Women's fifth year. As we marked this milestone, UN Member States agreed on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which inter alia recognises the transformative power of women and girls. Our work around the world contributes to turning the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals into reality. Working with our diverse partners, we deliver results - from advancing norms and standards, to expanding women's leadership and participation, bolstering women's economic empowerment, and ending violence against women and girls.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/6/annual-report-2015-2016#sthash.Lfyfh3rw.dpuf>

Driving the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



UN Women publication "Driving the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" highlights the key messages and presents an analysis of the CSW60 Agreed Conclusions.

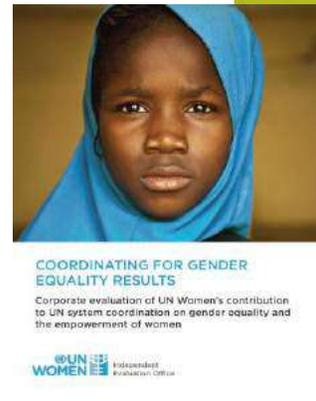
At the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) in March 2016, Member States reiterated their commitment in the 2030 Agenda to significantly increase investments to close the gender gap, to strengthen support for gender equality institutions at all levels, and to systematically embed gender perspectives into all aspects of implementation, including in their work on data and statistics, indicators, follow-up and review, and to build accountability and give primacy to women's leadership at all levels. The CSW60 Agreed Conclusions laid out the strategy and road map for gender-responsive implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/8/driving-the-gender-responsive-implementation-of-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development#sthash.YwxNTyEK.dpuf>

Coordinating for gender equality results:

Corporate evaluation of UN Women's contribution to UN system coordination on gender equality and the empowerment of women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) has a unique composite mandate that includes intergovernmental, normative, operational, and UN system-wide and inter-agency coordination roles. The UN system coordination mandate encompasses aspects of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the UN system on gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW), including regular monitoring of system-wide progress, and more broadly mobilizing and convening key stakeholders to ensure greater coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations.



UN Women's Independent Evaluation Office undertook this corporate evaluation to assess the progress made so far towards achieving GEEW results in the implementation of this dimension of its mandate, with the aim of informing future work. The evaluation covers all aspects of the UN coordination role and the articulation with the other dimensions of the mandate to support normative and operational work on GEEW at the global, regional and country levels.

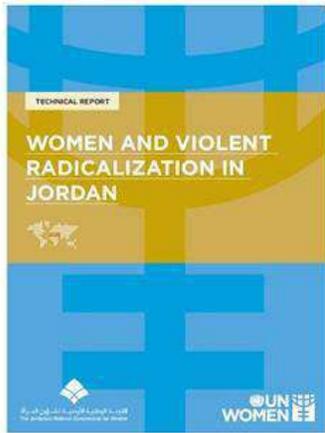
This evaluation addresses a number of critical questions, including:

- To what extent has UN Women's UN coordination mandate contributed to progress (or lack of) towards GEEW?
- To what extent has a human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming been incorporated in UN Women's UN system coordination efforts?
- To what extent does the coordination mandate undertaken by UN Women contribute to addressing the underlying causes of inequality and discrimination?

This evaluation is a resource for those who wish to learn from the experience of UN Women in its contribution to UN system coordination on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/5/evaluation-of-un-women-s-contribution-to-un-system-coordination#sthash.v1BibleR.dpuf>

Empowering women key to preventing extremism in Jordan



“Targeted, strategic attacks on women’s rights and freedoms” are becoming a defining character of rising extremism and violence. As extremist groups seize control of territories, women have been forced or coerced into joining them. *“Women and Violent Radicalization in Jordan,”* a new report published by UN Women in July 2016, reveals how radicalism is impacting women in Jordan and how empowering women is key to preventing the spread of extremist ideologies.

Preventing violent extremism and integrating the participation and concerns of women in peace and security has become a priority for the Government of Jordan, especially as it fulfills

its commitments to UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 2242 on women, peace and security.

UN Women Jordan and the Jordanian National Commission for Women commissioned Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development - RASED and Search for Common Ground, conducted a study on the gendered dimensions of radicalization in Jordan. The research focused on the perceptions of men and women of radicalization in their communities, the risks that women and girls may face from radicalization, the roles that women occupy in both the radicalization and de-radicalization processes, and whether current efforts at de-radicalization are gender-sensitive.

The study found that both men and women perceive radicalization to be occurring in their communities and in universities. The majority of respondents also believed that women are at greater risk from radicalization than men and that it could exacerbate existing limitations on women’s freedom and access to their rights. The study also examines the role of religious leaders and mothers in radicalization. The findings from the study inform the development of Jordan’s National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security as well as future programming efforts aimed at preventing violent extremism.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/7/women-and-violent-radicalization-in-jordan#sthash.7o4A7eQV.dpuf>

For more information, [download the full report here.](#)

UN Women Fund for Gender Equality evaluations 2011–2015: Meta-analysis Report

UN Women’s multi-donor Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) was launched in 2009 to fast-track commitments to gender equality focused on women’s economic and political empowerment at local, national and regional levels. The Fund provides multi-year grants ranging from USD 100,000 to USD 3 million directly to women’s organisations in developing countries.



The evaluation function is a stated priority of the FGE to ensure institutional accountability, learning, and communication of results. Using a decentralized approach to evaluation in which grant holders, with FGE guidance, undertake independent evaluations using UN standards, the Fund has developed a vast library of evaluation reports in the past six years containing a rich set of findings and recommendations.

This independent meta-analysis is a systematic review of findings, conclusions, lessons and recommendations from FGE evaluations produced between 2011 and 2015 that were rated as satisfactory or above according to the UN Women Global Evaluation Report Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS) standards for evaluation reports.

The primary objective of the meta-analysis was to extract, analyse and communicate evidence from high-quality evaluation reports in order to support the FGE to develop constructive lessons for future systematic strengthening of programming, organisational effectiveness and the evaluation function. The meta-analysis also provides evidence-based information and insights about what works for whom in regards to women's political and economic empowerment and the processes and approach of the FGE. Apart from an important internal learning and accountability tool for UN Women, its donors and grantees, the report intends to be of use to women's rights funders, civil society organisations and development practitioners.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/8/fund-for-gender-equality-evaluations-2011-2015-meta-analysis#sthash.IAQi195j.dpuf>

UN Women Discussion Papers Series

The UN Women discussion paper series is a new initiative led by the Research and Data section of UN Women, to provide grounded, fresh and robust perspectives on some of the contemporary challenges to achieving gender equality and women's rights, and to offer insights into policy innovations that are making a difference in women's lives.

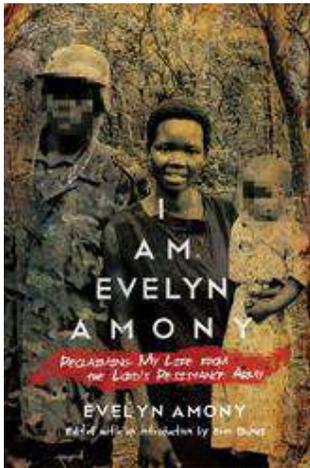
The series is a space for leading feminist researchers to share original, substantive research from different national and regional contexts. Before being published, each paper benefits from an anonymous external peer review process by experts, so that the final product is a high quality and relevant piece of research that contributes to further scholarship in the field.

For a complete list of discussion papers see at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/7/discussion-papers-series#sthash.UfGFt3qF.dpuf>

For access to all UN Women latest publications visit at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications>

I Am Evelyn Amony: Reclaiming My Life from the Lord's Resistance Army



Evelyn Amony's memoir, *I Am Evelyn Amony: Reclaiming my Life from the Lord's Resistance Army*, reflects on Amony's life as the forced wife of Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord's Resistance Army. Amony's book provides a rare glimpse inside the Ugandan rebel group, which continues to operate in Central and East Africa, and what it has meant to survive this experience, including the stigmatization and grinding poverty she faced after returning home. This extraordinary testimony shatters stereotypes of war-affected women, revealing the complex ways in which Amony navigated life inside the LRA and details her current work as a human rights advocate to make a better life for her children and other women affected by war.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/6/media-advisory-book-launch-and-workshop-women-and-girls-in-conflict#sthash.cZWqGQd.dpuf>

Recommended Websites

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) advocates for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security. It places strong emphasis on the need to recognise, highlight and **involve** women through their active roles in conflict prevention efforts, as part of any holistic engagement towards sustainable peace.

To this end, GPPAC organises its "**1325 week**" - a round of events with a group of Gender Focal Points from our network every October in New York, in order to connect local

experiences from conflict settings with New York-based stakeholders, civil society partners and global media.

For more about GPPAC's work on gender and stories from our members, please scroll down. For **news and postings** about our on-going work, check out the [blogs](#) section.

See more at: <https://www.peaceportal.org/web/taking-women-beyond-1325/home1;jsessionid=A03DCE3EC9B7A85BC9FC5CDDCCF70628>

UN Women Info

Employment opportunities

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

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

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