

# UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

January 2015

## UN Women Malawi launches HeForShe campaign and UNiTE Creative Artist Advisory Group



Lilongwe, Malawi - Paramount Chief Inkosi Ya Makosi Gomani V signing the He For She pledge.

### Freedom from Violence against Women and Girls Art Exhibition and Talent Show

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence campaign, UN Women Malawi, partner UN agencies with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare hosted a multi-disciplinary arts exhibition for the second year in a row. The art exhibition and talent show raised public awareness of the different forms of violence

against women and girls through images, music and words. The event was also used as a platform to launch the HeForShe campaign and the UNiTE Creative Artist Advisory Group.

Selections for the art exhibition were made through a competitive process whereby the Malawian art community submitted pieces of art, poetry and music on the theme of violence against women and girls. The best pieces were selected by a jury and shown at the art exhibition. A winning poem was select-

ed by the jury, which was recited by the author at the event. The event also featured a music talent show, with three shortlisted musicians competed for their song to be used in future UN campaigns promoting gender equality. The winning song and poem will be merged into one product. HeForShe champion Lawi was contracted to produce, record and disseminate the final product.

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## UN Women Malawi launches HeForShe campaign and UNiTE Creative Artist Advisory Group—continued



*Lilongwe, Malawi - 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence art exhibition.*

### Launch of the HeForShe Campaign

The art exhibition and talent show was also used as a platform to launch the UN Women HeForShe campaign. Initial Champions of the campaign include famous singer and songwriter Lawi, Paramount Chief Kyungu of Karonga, Paramount Chief Inkosi Ya Makosi Gomani V and Pastor Sean Kampondeni of Flood Church in Lilongwe. Lawi's partnership with UN Women Malawi will continue throughout 2015 where his support will be key in disseminating messages. In order to reach a wide spectrum of Malawians, tradition and religious leaders were approached to be HeForShe champions. Having both a young paramount chief and an older paramount chief allows the engagement of a wider population. Paramount Chief Kyungu and Pastor Sean Kampondeni shared their testimonies at the event. After the testimonies each champion was invited to sign the HeForShe

board pledging "I promise never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls". The board collected signatures from men throughout the night.

### Launch of the UNiTE Creative Artist Advisory Group (UCAAG)

The UCAAG is the local chapter of the Regional Creative Arts Advisory Consultative (RCAAC) that was set up on 31st October 2012 by UN Women South African Regional Office (UN Women SARO) to increase public awareness and social mobilization on preventing and ending violence against women and girls. The Malawi chapter will work under the supervision and coordination of the UN Women Malawi country office. Advocacy and awareness will adapt an artistic approach to better involve communities on all levels.

The group aims to promote nuanced and creative ways to propel the messages of the UNiTE Campaign, through creative arts, to the forefront of global public awareness.

The group was officially launched at the art exhibition. Chairperson of the group Maria Chidzanja Nkhoma presented a speech. Additionally a powerful poem, "Loud Silenced Words" was recited by one of the members, Maclean Mpebula.

### Violence against Women and Girls in Malawi

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Malawi has been recognized by the Malawi government as a severe impediment to reaching gender equality, women's empowerment and poverty reduction. Factors contributing to VAWG include early marriage, the low status of women and girls, patriarchal societies, gender

inequality, harmful cultural and religious beliefs and low literacy levels among women.

VAWG compromises the health, dignity, security and autonomy of survivors. They suffer significant sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions and resulting deaths, traumatic fistulas and higher risks of sexually transmitted infections, especially HIV. The effects of VAWG are not only physical but also psychological and emotional. Women's experience of violence can impair their self-esteem, lead to drug and alcohol problems, self-harm and suicide. The trauma can result in post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems.



*Lilongwe, Malawi - 16 Days art exhibition and talent show. From left: Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator in Malawi; Hon. Patricia Kaliati Minister For Gender, Children Disability and Social Welfare, and Alice Harding Shackelford UN Women Malawi Country Representative.*



*Musician James Kuchilala performs at the exhibition.*

## At African Union Summit, UN Women Executive Director calls for women's full participation to accelerate peace and sustainable development



African Union Commission; Mary Robinson, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region; Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank, and Dr. Carlos Lopez, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. They discussed ongoing collaboration and upcoming intergovernmental events such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the post-2015 development agenda, and the upcoming Beijing +20 review.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka participated in several events, including a High-Level Intergenerational Dialogue organized by the YWCA in partnership with UN Women, with the participation of the Presidents of Malawi and Rwanda, Madame Dlamini-Zuma, and a number of young women leaders

*UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka*

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia—On the occasion of the 22nd African Union Heads of States and Governments Summit, held from 29 January through 1 February 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka made a strong call for gender equality and women's empowerment, both as goals in their own right and as essential to peace, security and sustainable development.

In official and bilateral meetings, the Executive Director shared her vision

of women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality as vital to the African Renaissance, the African Union's AGENDA 2063, and the post-2015 international development framework. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka urged for women's full and equal participation, including in peace processes such as in South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

During her mission she met with several Heads of State and Government, and officials including Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the

from across the continent.

The Executive Director also met with senior women leaders to explore the best means to advance women's rights and full and equal participation. On Friday 31 January, she met with UN Women staff in Ethiopia and spoke at the Africa First Ladies Annual General Assembly, where she shared UN Women's vision and strategic focus, especially to address HIV and AIDS and reduce its disproportionate impact on women and girls.



## Voices from Addis at the 24th AU Summit



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia—The 24th African Union Summit on 2015 Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063 was held from 23 to 31 January in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Here are some [#voicesfromaddis](#) supporting [#women4agenda2063](#).

"Action, Action, Action in the 10 years to come" - -Bineta Diop, African Union Special Envoy on WPS.

"Countries have in common that they did not allocate enough money to women" – Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director

"We want a Planet 50/50 by 2030" – Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director

"You can't clap with only one hand, we have to ensure we include women" -Eugene Owusu, Ethiopia UN Resident Coordinator

"Women can only really have a voice if they have a choice." - Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Special Envoy Gender, African Development Bank

"We have to change the narrative of Africa. Africa is not poor but full of resources." -Letty Chiwara, UN Women representative to Ethiopia, AU and UNECA

"No more lamenting, enough is enough. We'll be the citizen watch towards a successful agenda 2063." -Bineta Diop, African Union Special Envoy on WPS

"Moving from male involvement to male accountability." - Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, World YMCA

"We need a movement for mindset change in Africa. We cannot hope to see change if we continue the same way." -Thelma Awori

## UN Women Burundi and the Independent National Electoral Commission: Mainstreaming gender throughout the electoral process



*Bujumbura, Burundi—participants of the training program on mainstreaming gender throughout the electoral process. Photo credit: UN Women/Laurent Moustache.*

Bujumbura, Burundi—In 2015, Burundi will hold presidential, provincial and communal elections. The upcoming elections represent a unique opportunity to advance women's political participation.

The Constitution of Burundi which emanated from the Arusha Accords for Peace and Reconciliation provides for at least 30% women representation in political institutions which signaled a major milestone for women in Burundi. However, there remain many areas that require additional change and progress concerning women's political participation. The most recent electoral census indicates 3,558,736 registered voters with 1,834,987 being women (51.56%). However, it is very difficult

for CENI to provide accurate data on the effective participation of women in various elections in terms of actual number of women voters, candidates and those elected.

The partnership established between UN Women Burundi and CENI will pave the way for a long term collaboration for gender mainstreaming throughout the electoral process. This collaboration includes a series of activities aimed at building the capacity of all CENI board and management staff and all members of the CEPI (Independent Provincial Electoral Commission) and CECI (Independent Communal Electoral Commission), on the integration of gender in all phases of the electoral process.

The first tangible initiative undertaken under this partnership was a participatory workshop on the integration of women in the electoral process. UN WOMEN will provide technical support to CENI and its decentralized agencies to strengthen their efforts in promoting the political participation of women in Burundi for the six crucial months preceding the elections.

A one week joint training workshop (October 27-31, 2014) on mainstreaming gender throughout the electoral process was recently concluded between UN Women Burundi and the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI).



## ONU Femmes Burundi et la CENI : pour une prise en compte du genre dans le processus électoral.



*Bujumbura, Burundi—les participants au programme de formation sur l'intégration du genre dans tout le processus électoral. Crédit photo: UN Women/Laurent Moustache.*

Bujumbura, Burundi - Durant une semaine (du 27 octobre 2014 au 31 octobre 2014), ONU Femmes Burundi et les cadres de la Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante ont participé à un atelier conjoint pour la prise en compte du genre dans le processus électoral.

En 2015 auront lieu les élections présidentielles, provinciales et communales au Burundi. Elles représentent une opportunité unique de faire progresser la participation politique des femmes.

Même si la Constitution du Burundi, qui émane des accords d'Arusha pour la Paix et la Réconciliation, prévoit la représentation d'au moins 30% de femmes dans les institutions politiques, de nombreux progrès restent

à réaliser. De plus, les effectifs issus du recensement électoral indiquent que sur 3 558 736 électeurs inscrits, 1 834 987 sont des femmes (soit 51.56%). Cependant, il est très difficile pour la CENI de fournir des données statistiques précises sur la participation effective des femmes aux différents scrutins (nombre d'électrices, de candidates, d'élues).

Grâce au partenariat privilégié entre ONU Femmes Burundi et la CENI, un travail de réflexion a été mené au cours d'un atelier participatif sur l'intégration des femmes au processus électoral. Ce rendez-vous a été le premier de toute une série d'activités visant à former les cadres et les agents de la CENI ainsi que l'ensemble des membres des CEPI

(commissions électorales provinciales indépendantes) et des CECI (commissions électorales communales indépendantes), de manière inclusive, à la prise en compte du genre dans les différentes phases du processus électoral. Durant les six mois précédents les élections et aux cours de celles-ci, ONU Femmes apportera son appui technique à la CENI et à ses démembrements dans leur démarche de promotion de la participation politique des femmes burundaises.

## South Africa—Partnering to ensure women's voices are heard



Attending the partnership signing ceremony was (from L to R) Dr Sadiq Syed, Deputy Representative UN Women, Dr Auxilia Ponga, Representative UN Women, Beauty Musa, Gender Programme Officer, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Her Excellency Trine Skymoen, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy. Photo credit: Royal Norwegian Embassy.

Pretoria, South Africa – UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office has signed a three year partnership with the Kingdom of Norway to undertake two projects, one related to Peace and Security and the other related to climate change.

Signing the agreements, valued at NOK 8.1 million or US\$ 1.045 million, were the Norwegian Ambassador to South Africa, Trine Skymoen and Dr Auxilia Ponga, UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office Representative.

The first three year project will enable UN Women to support governments in Southern Africa to develop National Action Plans (NAPs) on Peace and Security. The project

proposes to use South Africa's position in the sub-region to cultivate interest among other neighbouring countries to develop their own NAPs. Key to the project's success will be creating a coalition of Civil Society Organisations to not only present a collective voice to lobby relevant governments, but also input to the development of the NAPs.

The second three year project will propel the rural women's agenda to the forefront of the climate change discourse in Southern Africa. The project will bring together an array of partners in government, media and civil society to advance a multi-sectoral approach to addressing gender and climate change. In particular it aims to strengthen women's voices

to advocate for gender sensitive climate agreements, national adaptation plans and regional frameworks, as well as bolster women's economic empowerment initiatives, including clean energy development, that address the impact of climate change.

The partnership is the culmination of lengthy discussions and work by Siri Andersen, First Secretary, Royal Norwegian Embassy and Dr Sadiq Syed, Deputy Representative, UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office. The Royal Norwegian Government is one of the strong supporters of Gender Equality and UN Women globally and has also been a supporter of the UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office. In the lead-up to the 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Durban, referred to as the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Women South Africa Multi-Country office with the support of the Royal Norwegian Government, worked hard to mainstream gender into the process. The climate change project to be conducted over the next three years will further build on this work.

"I am delighted to continue our successful partnership with the Royal Norwegian Government to advance the gender agenda in Southern Africa. Peace and security and climate change are both pressing challenges in our sub-region and this partnership will enable us to expand our efforts in ensuring women's voices are heard in the discourse", said Dr Auxilia Ponga, UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office Representative.



## H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the United Nations General Assembly calls for urgent action gender equality and women's empowerment



*H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the United Nations General Assembly and Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs.*

Kampala, Uganda – In a moving public lecture on the United Nations at 70, President of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa highlighted gender equality and women's empowerment as a key theme of his presidency and crucial to the development of Uganda and the world. This was Kutesa's first official visit to Uganda as President of the UN General Assembly.

H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa is the first Ugandan to serve as President of the UN General Assembly. He also serves as the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Speaking at the Serena International Conference Centre on 27 January, Kutesa spoke to the theme of 'The United Nations at 70: Towards a Transformative Social and Economic Development

Agenda'. This was one of several back-to-back meetings held on 27 January, highlighting new priorities for his presidency.

Kutesa spoke about 2015 as the end date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which included a goal on promoting gender equality and empowering women. Looking to the post-2015 development agenda and the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Kutesa said that the new agenda will be "a transformative and ambitious agenda that supports and empowers people to create their own futures". One goal of the 17 proposed SDGs is to: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

During his presidency, Kutesa will organise the third conference on financing for development, which is scheduled for July 2015. To achieve the SDGs, financing for development is crucial. UN Women Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, Lakshmi Puri, argues that "if we don't properly and effectively link financing for gender equality with the gender goal and gender-related targets, they will remain just 'ink on paper'." Puri says that "Governments must invest 'minimum critical resources' in achieving gender equality and women's rights." Partnerships with the private sector should also be encouraged.

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## **H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the United Nations General Assembly calls for urgent action on gender equality and women's empowerment—continued**

On climate change, Kutesa said that humanity's very existence is under threat from the world warming at an alarming rate, and that even Uganda's Rwenzori mountains have seen a significant reduction in snow levels on their peaks. Kutesa called for global action on climate change. UN Women has found that in many contexts, women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men—primarily as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change.

Kutesa's speech had a strong focus on gender equality and women's empowerment, including the importance of mainstreaming gender. "Women make up more than half the population and we must mainstream gender in all sustainable development efforts," he said.

On property rights, succession and inheritance laws, Kutesa said that when he made his acceptance speech in New York in June 2014, he talked about a woman in his local constituency in Uganda, a mother of four with no land. "Four years ago she came to me", he said. "I helped her buy ten acres of land," he continued.

"But two weeks before I went to make my speech she came to my home to tell me that her husband had sold the land without her knowledge, leaving her with nothing." In an African context particularly, Kutesa spoke of the need to improve laws around

property rights, succession laws and inheritance laws to make them fair for women. The women in his life have encouraged Kutesa's personal commitment and passion for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Kutesa acknowledged that progress has been made in empowerment of women and increasing numbers of female leaders, but said that "I think a lot more needs to be done."

"In conflict situations, women are more vulnerable than men," he said. "Too many women around the globe are gender violence victims," he continued. In Uganda, for example, UNHCR states that 87% of South Sudanese refugees are women and children.<sup>2</sup> "I will be convening a high level meeting on peace, security and conflict prevention in May 2015. This meeting will build partnerships between the UN and regional bodies."

Uganda plays an important role in regional peace and security, hosting refugees from South Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and other nations. Uganda has also adopted a National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. UNSCR 1325 was adopted 15 years ago this year and is a landmark international legal framework that addresses not only the inordinate impact of war on women, but also the pivotal role women should and do play in conflict management, conflict resolution and sustainable peace.<sup>3</sup> "With this being the case, I

selected gender equality and women's empowerment as a key theme for my presidency," said Kutesa.

"In March in New York I will convene the high level gender equality and women's empowerment meeting taking stock of what we have achieved in the 20 years since the Beijing Platform for Action on women's empowerment was declared", said Kutesa. "I look forward to meeting women leaders and government from around the world. We are organizing this meeting with UN Women to take stock of achievements and look at how we can ensure gender equality and women's empowerment." Uganda has reviewed its progress on gender equality over the last twenty years and will be sending a delegation to this conference in March, led by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut.

H.E. Kutesa said that Uganda is making major strides towards progress, and congratulated the country for that.

UN Women Country Representative Hodan Addou commended H.E. Kutesa for prioritizing gender equality and women's empowerment during his tenure as the President of the UN General Assembly. "We thank H.E. Kutesa for his leadership and commitment to this important cause for women in Uganda and the world."

## UN Women Sudan works with state police to support women and child victims of GBV



*UN Women Sudan meets with leaders of the Khartoum state police. Photo credit: UN Women Sudan*

Khartoum, Sudan – UN Women Sudan worked with the Khartoum state police to support women and child victims of gender based violence by conducting a capacity and needs assessment for the section in charge of family and child protection.

The Family and Child Protection Administration (FCPA) in the Khartoum state police was established in 2007 in a collaboration between the Ministry of Interior and UNICEF. When created, the FCPAs main role was to provide services to child victims of gender-based violence. In 2013, the FCPA adopted a new mandate to establish a gender desk to enable them to provide services to women victims of gender based violence and mains-

stream gender throughout the police force. The first stage of implementing a gender desk will occur at the Khartoum state units.

In November 2014, UN Women Sudan supported the FCPA by conducting a capacity and needs assessment for their three main branches around Khartoum state. National and international consultants were recruited to conduct the assessment, which resulted in an outcome document with assessment findings and a work plan for implementing the gender desk.

A validation meeting for the assessment was held at Khartoum state police headquarters on 13 January this year. Led by UN Women national

consultant, My Akthum Elsaid, it was attended by Lieutenant General Mohamed Ahmed Ali, the Director General; Major General Ebrahim Osman, Director of Criminal Affairs; Brigadier Abu Beker Abd Elwahab, Director of FCPA; Brigadier Abd Elrahim, Director of Media Unit and Brigadier Elgaili, Director Of Legal Affairs.

The outcome of the meeting was that the state police support the implementation of the gender desk work plan, supported partnering with the federal commission on the gender mainstreaming objectives, and affirmed their full support for providing services to women victims of gender based violence.



## 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence in Sudan



*Representatives of UN Women, AfDB, Swedish Embassy, Canadian Embassy, World Bank, UNFPA, UNDP, Finance Ministry and Ahfad University for Women wear orange as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign in Sudan. Photo credit: UN Women Sudan*

Khartoum, Sudan – In Sudan, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence in November and December 2014 was held in Elfasher, North Darfur and Khartoum.

In Elfasher, North Darfur, the 16 Days commemoration was organised by the office of the Governor of North Darfur State. The commemoration was attended by the heads of UNFPA, OCHA, UNHCR and UN Women. The Secretary General of UNAMID was also represented as was the The Government of North Darfur by the Deputy Wali (governor). The Minister of Education announced donation of a piece of land to the State Committee on Violence Against Women (VAW).

The message from the UN Sudan Country Team (UNCT) was delivered by Mary Mbeo, UN Women Manager for Darfur States. She called upon more men and boys to stand up against violence, denounce it, and stop it.

In Khartoum, UN Women supported a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) forum on ending violence against women

and girls. The forum focused on best practices and lessons learnt in addressing gender based violence in Sudan. Participants also discussed the challenges of working on such a sensitive issue and how to address those challenges. One of the main recommendations of the workshop was around expanding the forum's work to other states in Sudan and strengthening their collaboration. UN Women supported the establishment of the CSO forum in 2013 bringing together close to 40 organizations to strengthen coordination and collaboration between the various actors working to eliminate violence against women and girls in Sudan.

Also in Khartoum, in conjunction with the African Development Bank (AfDB), UN Women Sudan celebrated the 16 Days with a round table discussion on 'Progress, challenges and opportunities for addressing sexual and gender based violence in Sudan.' The meeting brought together non-traditional partners in the work to

end violence against women. The AfDB made a powerful statement reiterating their commitment to advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Sudan. The representative of the World Bank shared a moving personal story to illustrate the importance of the role of men in supporting gender equality. UN Women highlighted its efforts in supporting ending violence against women in Sudan including the establishment of a national database to collect data on the prevalence of violence against women; a mapping and capacity assessment of actors working on violence against women in Khartoum to develop a referral pathway for survivors of violence against women and finally the support to establishing gender desks that will be responsible for mainstreaming gender throughout the police, and providing services to victims of gender based violence.

## **UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa– about us**

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa covers 15 countries in the region:

Burundi  
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)  
Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office  
Ethiopia  
Kenya  
Malawi  
Mozambique  
Rwanda  
South Africa Multi-Country Office (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland)  
Somalia  
South Sudan  
Sudan  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
Zimbabwe



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