

UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

Global meeting calls on Governments to Increase funding for Gender Equality

Kampala, Uganda: A global meeting which concluded on January 14, 2016 at Speke Resort Munyonyo in Uganda has recommended that national governments should allocate adequate resources for gender equality in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The meeting was organized by UN Inter- Agency Network on Women Empowerment and Gender Equality and Development Assistance Corporation Network on Gender Equality of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. Participants at the meeting called on governments to adopt transformative financing modalities at all levels to address funding gaps which are likely to impede targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals.

More than one hundred participants from UN agencies, development partners, civil society and national governments proposed the need to increase funding for implementing SDGs from both domestic and global resources. It was recognized that there is need to set targets for both government and non-government



Participants at Joint Biennial Workshop of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and the OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET). Photo credit: UN Women Uganda

sectors for spending on gender equality at all levels. In his opening remarks, the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Hon. Muruli Mukasa emphasized the need to devise strategies and actions to build on existing efforts and innovative ways to ensure that no one is left behind in the process of implementing SDGs.

The Minister also underscored the role of partnerships at national and global level to accelerate implemen-

tation. "Strong partnerships will be enhanced only if gender machineries at the national and global levels are supported to play their coordination role effectively which requires retooling and resourcing. Tracking resources flows for gender and women's empowerment programmes is critical in order to leverage resources and reduce duplication for impact", he said. He also noted that the government of Uganda has already developed strategies to assure financing for Gender

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Equality in the Public Finance Act which provides for a Gender Equity Certificate requirement in public financing processes.

During the meeting, it was emphasized that accountability mechanisms should be established to ensure that governments and development partners deliver on the commitments made to deliver on 2030 agenda. The Ambassador of Sweden in Uganda, Urban Andersson, challenged all partners to “walk the talk” by formulating innovative strategies to achieve the set targets noting that Sweden represents the world’s first feminist government and will broaden its work and use coordinated foreign policy instruments to accelerate results for gender equality. These instruments include diplomacy and policy dialogue, trade and promotion, and development

cooperation. “Sweden will look towards partners in the 2030 Agenda and demand accountability to ensure that among other things, legislative and policy documents are based on international agreements and implemented, that sex-aggregated statistics are actively collected, and that the necessary resources to promote gender equality and the rights of women and girls are committed” he said.

Most speakers at the meeting acknowledged that although progress has been made in setting gender equality priorities and targets, there is still need to have commonly agreed actions, processes and programmes to ensure that no one is left behind especially the poorest and most marginalized groups.

Using Technology to Empower Women and Girls in Kenya

Nairobi, Kenya: Intel Corporation in partnership with UN Women in Kenya on 26 January, 2016 launched an online learning platform dubbed – **Intel She Will Connect - My Digital Journey** – aimed at providing an opportunity for women and girls to connect, learn and share online; bridge the technology-gender gap, teach young women how to leverage the internet and technology to pursue their goals; and reduce the internet gender gap around the world, through an innovative combination of digital literacy training, an online peer network, and gender-relevant content.

The event was attended by Intel Corporation’s Vice President, Director of Corporate Affairs, and President Intel Foundation Ms. Rosalind Hudnell, UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Deputy Regional Director Ms. Simone Oluoch-Olunya, USAID deputy Mission Director in Kenya Mr. Steve Olive and beneficiaries of the project.

Speaking at the launch, UN Women Deputy Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Ms. Simone Oluoch-Olunya, noted that unlocking gender equality will unlock the growth potential of the continent. She further reiterated that the project will assist in achieving not only women economic empowerment which is one



From Left to right: She Will Connect Program Ambassador in Kenya Adelle Onyango, UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Deputy Regional Director Simone Oluoch-Olunya, Intel Corporation’s Vice President, Director of Corporate Affairs, and President Intel Foundation Ms. Rosalind Hudnell, Intel Middle East, Turkey and Africa Regional Director Cigdem Ertem USAID deputy Mission Director in Kenya Mr. Steve Olive and She Will Connect Program Ambassador in Nigeria Titilope Sonuga. Photo credit: UN Women/Kennedy Okoth

of UN Women's key result area but also the recently launched Sustainable Development goals and specifically goal 5 on Gender Equality.

“Grounded in the vision of equality, UN Women believes that technology can be a game-changer for women and

Using Technology to Empower Women and Girls in Kenya



Beneficiaries of the project share their experiences . Photo credit: UN Women/Kennedy Okoth

girls. Enhancing women's economic empowerment is one of the five priority areas of UN Women's work, therefore this initiative is one of UN Women's undertakings to advance women's economic empowerment and support women, particularly from a technology perspective," added Ms. ellis Oluoch-Olunya.

Launching the program in Nairobi, Intel Corporation's Vice President, Director of Corporate Affairs, and President Intel Foundation Ms. Rosalind Hudnell said: "My Digital Journey provides an opportunity for women and girls in Kenya, Nigeria & South Africa to learn about the internet and benefit from the wealth of information available that will contribute towards achieving their goals and provide access to opportunities."

"This learning platform provides women and girls with a unique op-

portunity to connect with like-minded individuals and access additional resources that support learning in a safe environment. Gaining access to the Internet enables women and girls to improve their self-esteem and expression, expand their social and political participation, gain new skills that enable them to obtain formal education, become entrepreneurs, or secure employment, and in addition get access to information and new connections within their communities and beyond," explained Ms. Hudnell.

"Through Intel's Global Girls and Women Initiative, we are working to empower millions of girls and women around the world by closing the gender gap in access to education, inspiring more girls and women to become creators of technology and connecting them to opportunities," noted Ms. Hudnell.

The launch brought together young girls and women ranging from high school students to independent women who have benefited from the program and partners who shared their experiences.

One of the beneficiaries, Mercy Kin-ywa, a form four student from Ngara Girls High School in Kenya attributes her dream to be a programmer to the exposure she got from the project. She has started an online interactive educational platform within the school that incorporates teachers and students and acts as a pool of information for contribution and use by other students.

"This initiative has exposed me to opportunities and interactions enabling me to pursue my dream of being a Computer Programmer." She added.

Caroline Wambui from Mukuru Slums in Nairobi, Kenya has used the platform in linking patients and organ donors to hospitals to aid in faster transplant having lost her uncle as a result of delayed kidney-transplant. She attributes her ability to link patients, organ donors and hospitals to the knowledge gained from the platform offered by Intel.

The Intel program has been rolled out in sub-Saharan Africa, where the gender – technology gap is the greatest, with initial pilots in Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa.

Launching Courts and Tribunals audiences on SGBV cases

Bujumbura, Burundi: The Ministry of Justice in partnership with UN Women officially launched the Special Court audiences sitting on sexual and Gender Based Violence in Gitega on the 1 December, 2015.

Funded by the United Nations Peace Building Funds to help Courts and Tribunals institutions deal rapidly with sexual and gender-based violence cases. The pilot project aims to strengthen the rapid processing of sexual and gender-based violence by the Courts and Tribunals in Burundi and is implemented in the provinces of Gitega, Rutana and Kirundo.

In 2013, more than 10 000 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported in Burundi by the Family and Community Development Centers under the Ministry of gender. Launching the official opening ceremony of the special courts audience, the Assistant Minister of Justice Mrs. Christine Niragira said the High Court of Gitega registered many files related to sexual and gender-based violence. During these special audiences that last two weeks, 75 files relating to sexual gender-based violence will be enrolled. According to Mrs. Niragira, the alarming increase of sexual-gender based violence cases is mainly due to the lack of technical equipment and financial support to repression structures. This is also due to low access to justice, lack of mechanisms to protect victims and witnesses, the ambiguity of evi-



Participants going through files after the launch the Special Court audiences sitting on sexual and Gender Based Violence. Photo credit: UN Women

dence in case of violence and rape, difficulty to repair and recover damages and interest. *"We know that the law in Burundi severely punishes cases of sexual and gender-based violence up to life imprisonment"* said Mrs. Niragira. Thus, she called the judges to professionalism and rigor to discourage sexual and gender-based violence. She also took the opportunity to stress the Government's commitment to make legal tools available to judges and magistrates for a better response to sexual and gender-based violence.

Jérémie Delage, Burundi UN WOMEN Representative said the technical and financial support provided to the Ministry of Justice comes to relay the Government effort and aims to establish and strengthen the institutional response to sexual and gender-based violence. The creation of special chambers within Courts and Tribunals to handle sexual and gender-based violence cas-

es is an irrefutable proof of the Government's commitment in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, Mr. Delage added. This fits well with the implementation of decision 8 of the so-called Kampala Declaration of 15th and 16th December 2011 which is part of the objective to accelerate the procedure for handling cases of sexual and gender-based violence. Mr. Delage also invited Judges and Magistrates to exercise greater rigor when applying the law to eradicate violence against women and girls, and to restore the victims' rights. The adoption of a specific law on sexual and gender-based violence in line with international standards will come as a strong signal to strengthen Burundi's commitment insisted Mr. Delage.

Ms. Ban Soon-Taek visits Menagesha Pottery Cooperative in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Ms. Ban Soon-Taek, the spouse of the UN Secretary General, visited the women owned Menagesha Pottery Cooperative located in the outskirts of Addis Ababa. At the cooperative, women are supported to be economically empowered by the UN Women Ethiopia country office under the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (JP GEWE). Ms. Ban was warmly welcomed by Ms. Letty Chiwara, UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, AU and ECA and Ms. Etegegne Ayalekabet, the cooperative's Deputy Director.

Ms. Ban toured the different facilities used in producing the pottery products including the time and labor saving technologies; system for water provision and storage as well as the equipment for drying the pottery products (clay burning kiln) all of which were provided by UN Women. Ms. Etegegne explained to Ms. Ban that the provision of the technology has resulted in a doubling of productive capacity of the women in addition to creating a safer working environment for the women and their children.

In her supportive statements Ms. Ban said, "It is particularly gratifying to see an example of how very little support to women can transform their lives and those of their immediate family members, and lend its support to the widely held belief that women only need a little bit more support – in form of changed and gender sensitive policies and



Ms. Ban receives one of the traditional coffee pots made by the women from Ms. Etegegne Ayalekabet, the Cooperative's Deputy Director. Photo credit: UN Women/Paula Mata

legislation, access to resources, including finances, technology and active participation in the socio-economic development, for their lives to change positively and poverty reduced."

Ms. Ban also praised UN Women for being a valued partner for the Ethiopian Government on its efforts to improve peoples' lives through investing in women, "I would also like to commend the UN in Ethiopia and in particular, UN Women for this great initiative which I am sure is replicated across the country. UN Women has demonstrated that providing women's groups with gender friendly and time/labour saving technology can significantly increase production, double incomes and transform lives. The UN as we know is a valuable partner of government in improving peoples' lives, and I feel very privileged and proud to have shared in its successes over the years," she remarked.

In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Letty Chiwara stressed on the importance of investing in women in order to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, "Today, we are here to witness first-hand how investing in women is the silver bullet for not only changing the lives of women, but of changing humanity and for real social transformation. I believe this is the kind of investments we need if we are to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development."

The Menagesh Pottery Cooperative was established in 1992 by poor and self-motivated women with only 200 birr capital, an equivalent amount of approximately 10USD. The 70 members of the cooperative make various pottery products using locally available resources and supply the local market.

Ms. Ban Soon-Taek visits Menagesha Pottery Cooperative in Ethiopia



Ms. Ban and Ms. Letty (center) with some members of the cooperative and their children. Photo credit: UN Women/Paula Mata

A total of over 500 individual beneficiaries are dependent on the income from the cooperative. Despite the members' commitment and eagerness for expansion and provision of improved products, challenges related to access to water and technology for drying resulted in the women investing a lot of labour for very limited productivity and income.

The Cooperative greatly appreciates the support they have now received from the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Joint Programme (GEWE JP)'s intervention through UN Women. The program was implemented by six UN agencies in collaboration with the government of Ethiopia with financial support from Norway, Sweden and Italy.

UN Women SAMCO Business Skills Training Programme Awarded Bridge Funding for 2016

South Africa: In 2015, UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office concluded the implementation of its business skills training programme in partnership with The Coca-Cola Company and Hand in Hand Southern Africa. The programme, started three years ago and implemented in Brazil and Egypt as well as South Africa, has trained thousands of women who are small business owners. With businesses like spaza shops and cafes, the women have received training in business skills including managing cash flow and stock, banking and record keeping. The programme's participants have gone on to employ people, pay university fees for their children, save, open second businesses and pay themselves a regular salary.

Recognizing the success of the partnership in South Africa, UN Women SAMCO is proud to announce that The Coca-Cola Company has decided to provide additional funding to enable the office to reach out to a further 3,000 women from January to June 2016. These women will also access the critical business skills that constitute a key success factor for entrepreneurs running micro



150 women from Johannesburg celebrate their journeys as entrepreneurs as part of Coca-Cola's 5by20 programme. Photo credit: UN Women

and small businesses. Against a background of a macro economic environment characterised by increased unemployment and high costs of living, a helping hand such as this one is desperately needed to create jobs that help the women, their families and their communities.

The Embassy of Sweden and UN Women sign 3-year agreement to support gender equality and women's empowerment in Uganda

Kampala, Uganda: In recent years, Uganda has made significant progress in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). Much of the progress, however, remains at the policy level with limited improvement on the ground. According to Urban Andersson, Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda, women in Uganda "suffer from significant marginalization and discrimination in all spheres of life; yet removing gender-based barriers could make a substantial contribution for Uganda to reach its targets as set in the country's National Development Plan II and Vision 2040"

Despite a significant increase in women's representation in parliament, political leadership and structures remain male-dominated and patriarchal. Likewise, recent years' sustained economic growth has not been inclusive, and women's economic empowerment (WEE) is hampered by discriminatory customary practices. At the same time, prevalence and social acceptance of gender-based violence remains high, and violence against women and girls (VAWG) continues to be a major obstacle to the empowerment of women. WEE and VAWG are strongly interlinked, and in humanitarian situations, the challenges of both deepen.

It is against this background that Sweden and UN Women have decided to partner on a comprehensive program aiming to empower



Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda H.E. Urban Andersson and UN Women Country Representative Launching the Partnership. Photo credit: UN Women

women – especially the most excluded - to lead, influence and contribute to national development in Uganda.

Sweden has a long tradition of support to gender equality globally and in Uganda, and women's empowerment is an overarching principle in Swedish development cooperation. UN Women, on her part, is globally mandated to lead, coordinate and promote accountability on GEWE, and has a unique convening power with strong ties to government and development partners as well as a strong support from the women's movement.

The program will build the capacity of duty bearers including parliament, line ministries, the police and

the judiciary to deliver on GEWE commitments, while at the same time supporting women as rights holders to demand for accountability.

Ms. Hodan Addou, UN Women Country Representative underscores that the partnership with the Embassy of Sweden will bolster ongoing work focusing on strengthening and prioritizing national plans to eliminate gender inequality including meeting the objectives of sustainable development goals in Uganda. "We at UN Women pledge our commitment to work with partners and the civil society to energize implementation of national strategies to end pervasive gender inequalities and achieve gender transformation at national, community

The Embassy of Sweden and UN Women sign 3-year agreement to support gender equality and women's empowerment in Uganda

and family level in order to have sustainable gender equality by 2030. UN Women applauds Sweden- the world's first feminist government and we are pleased to work with a like-minded donor", she said.

In doing so, the program will tackle two major root causes behind women's marginalization; the deep-rooted traditional practices discriminating on the basis of gender, and the fact that while Uganda has made significant progress in enacting laws that respect, protect and promote the human rights and empowerment of women and girls, national capacities for implementation is inadequate.

Urban Andersson, Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda, concludes: "To Sweden, gender equality is both a goal in itself and a means to achieve sustainable development. With the partnership with UN Women Uganda, we hope to respond to the clear and considerable need to scale up efforts to ensure equality between men and women in participation and access to services and opportunities."

"No Development without Women's Rights" – UN Women at the January 2016 Africa Union Summit.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: The period 17 – 31 January 2016 was filled with buzz and pomp as a number of meetings were held in preparation for the January 2016 AU Summit themed ***"African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women"***.

UN Women was a strong voice to reckon with as the whole organization came together to bring the key message that there is no development without women's rights. A number of Gender Pre Summit events were organized in close collaboration with the Africa Union's Gender Directorate, ECA, Africa Center for Gender and many other partners including the UN system, development partners and CSOs. At the Pre-Summit events, women and men from all over Africa celebrated the results from the 2015 **"Year for Women's Empowerment Towards Agenda 2063"**.



*Children handing over symbolic key to AUC Chairperson. Photo Credits
UN Women / Paula Mata*

"No Development without Women's Rights" – UN Women at the January 2016 Africa Union Summit.



Participants at the GIMAC meeting in Addis Ababa. Photo Credits: UN Women / Paula Mata

27th GIMAC (17 – 18 January 2016)

More than 150 women participated at the 27th Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) meeting which focused on the theme; **"securing women's rights through gender equality and silencing the guns in Africa"**. GIMAC members expressed their concerns with ongoing violence against women and girls in Africa, the slow pace of implementation of gender equality and women's rights commitments, dwindling funding for women's organizations and limited political will to act and invest in the gender agenda. They called for accelerated actions in order to increase the pace of change, act towards safety for women from all spares of life and society, as well

as focus on male engagement for the realization of women's rights.

8th AU Gender Pre-Summit (19 – 20 January 2016)

Hosted by the Africa Union Commission, the 8th African Union Gender Pre-Summit brought together more than **400** participants including; Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs from 44 Countries, Women's networks, CSO's, UN Agencies and the private sector to deliberate on the theme for 2016. The UN Women Delegation to the Gender Pre Summit was led by Dr. Khetsiwe Dlamini, the Chief of Staff and included representatives from, Africa New York, Eastern and Southern

Africa Region, West and Central Africa Region and the Ethiopia Country and Liaison Team.

UN Women contributed financially and technically through a number of Parallel Sessions including the ones on; "women, peace and security"; "financial inclusion for women"; "women's economic empowerment"; and "ending child marriage in Africa".

In her Remarks, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AUC, called for transformative action, "We should be agents of change. We should not conform but transform!"

"No Development without Women's Rights" – UN Women at the January 2016 Africa Union Summit.

UN Women Chief of Staff, Dr. Khetsiwe Dlamini, took her opportunity to urge both women and men to fast track progress of gender equality through provision of finances to foster implementation of inclusive gender policies. *"It takes two to tangle when it comes to gender equality"*, she said when speaking about the "HeForShe" campaign and how it brings men as agents of change in the fight to achieve gender equality and women's rights.

Ms. Comfort Lamprey, UN Women Peace and Security Advisor for West and Central Africa, reiterated the importance of ending all forms of violence against women and stated; *"We need to make sure that women's rights are addressed at the World Humanitarian Summit"* which will take place on 23th to 24th May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey.'

The main outcomes of the Gender Pre Summit were a call for; strengthening Pan-African institutions and enhancing their visibility; media engagement for equal political participation; increased financial inclusion for women; and community mobilization to address the root causes of harmful traditional practices and violence against women including ending child marriage.

Africa Pre CSW60 Consultation (21 January 2016)

More than **250** participants including 38 Member States represented



Female Government representatives at the Africa Pre CSW60 Consultation Photo Credits: UN Women / Paula Mata

by Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs, Senior Government Officials and Ambassadors to the Africa Union; senior officials from the AUC, women's networks, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the United Nations system and representative from youth and young women's organizations gathered at the UNECA for the Africa Ministerial Pre-Consultative Meeting on CSW 60th Session. Co-organized by ECA and UN Women the meeting focused on the theme ***"Women's Empowerment and its link to Sustainable Development"***.

The participants reaffirmed and appreciated the commitments made by African Member States in various International, Regional and National policies and conventions to advance gender equality and women's rights on the continent. There was general consensus that the existing gender equality goals and targets in the Beijing Plus 20 Outcomes, SDGs, Agen-

da 2063, and the 2016 Gender Pre Summit Communique are solid and provide impetus to accelerate progress in implementation so as to address the pervasive gender inequalities across the economic, political, social and environmental spheres in Africa.

They further agreed that the Africa Pre-Consultation on the CSW60 was focus on implementation and in particular on how to engage all stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, development partners to support governments to move from *"declarations to deliverables"* in the context of domesticating and implementing the outcomes of the Beijing Plus 20 Review, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. It was agreed that, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, domestic resource mobilization and gender sensitive resource allocation are critical to achieving the goals of Agenda 2030 and 2063.

UP-COMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

17 February	Network of Female Leaders in UNON	Nairobi, Kenya
21-24 February	Ministerial High Level Partnerships Forum	Istanbul, Turkey
24-25 February	Great Lakes Private Sector Investment Conference	Kinshasa, DRC

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 needs worldwide.

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

Burundi

Somalia

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

South Sudan

Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

Sudan

Ethiopia

Tanzania

Kenya

Uganda

Malawi

Zimbabwe

Mozambique

Rwanda

South Africa Multi-Country Office (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland)



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