# WOMEN EF

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



### 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 supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

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IN 2013 UN WOMEN DELIVERED DIRECT PROGRAMME SUPPORT IN 96 COUNTRIES, WITH THE LARGEST AREAS OF SUPPORT FOCUSING ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (85 COUNTRIES), ON LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION (71) AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (67).



ABOVE: UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka visited the Tomping camp for internally displaced people in South Sudan. Women there face desperate conditions, but are determined to rebuild their country. A sign of progress: Both parties to peace talks included women on their negotiating teams. PHOTO: Christian Mulumba/UN Women Foreword by the Executive Director

## IGNITING A GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

In 2013 and 2014, UN Women continued to work towards a world in which women and men, and girls and boys, are equal. From advancing norms and standards, to expanding women's leadership and participation, bolstering women's economic empowerment, and ending violence against women and girls, we are registering solid gains together with our partners.

We are joining forces to ignite a global movement for gender equality, women's empowerment and the human rights of women and girls. Right now, we have a unique opportunity to make greater progress as the international community works to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), define a post-2015 development framework and review progress since the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The agreement reached at the 2014 UN Commission on the Status of Women lays a strong foundation for a transformative global development agenda that tackles structural gender inequality.

Since I assumed leadership of UN Women in August 2013, I have placed an emphasis on strengthening partnerships for action and ensuring that the UN system delivers as one for women and girls. We are reaching out to men and boys, and forging closer collaboration with women's groups, civil society, and the private sector as we support governments in national development.

Every time more women are elected to parliament, and more girls complete school and graduate from university, we are making progress. Every time perpetrators of violence against women are prosecuted and brought to justice, and more laws are adopted and implemented to protect women's rights, we move ahead. Every time women's voices are heard in peace talks and nation building, and increased resources are dedicated to women's full and equal participation, we take steps forward.

This annual report showcases the progress and potential of UN Women. I thank all individuals who are working with and alongside us. Together we can achieve equality between women and men in the 21st century.



**Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director

## SUPPORTING ADVANCEMENTS IN GLOBAL STANDARDS

THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ENDORSED A STAND-ALONE GENDER EQUALITY GOAL IN THE POST-2015 AGENDA AND THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER EQUALITY ACROSS IT. UN Women plays a leading role in supporting improvements in global norms and standards that accelerate the realization of gender equality. We provide expert knowledge and evidence, advocate for critical issues, convene key stakeholders, and engage with UN Member States to build consensus and forge agreements on new commitments.

#### THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

2014 brought the international community to a crucial confluence of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the target date of 2015 and deliberate on a successor global roadmap for sustainable development. UN Women was instrumental in bringing women's rights and empowerment to the centre of intergovernmental debates and action. Our strategic advocacy highlighted in particular three areas: women's and girls' freedom from violence; their access to opportunities and resources; and women's decisionmaking power in public and private institutions. We have urged integrating gender equality across all dimensions of any future global agenda.

Through UN Women's support for the 2014 session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Member States for the first time assessed progress for women and girls on all eight MDGs and identified factors constraining achievement, such as unequal power relations between women and men, poverty, and discriminatory laws, social norms and harmful practices. They agreed that issues such as violence against women and girls, their disproportionate share of unpaid care work, unequal access to decent work and productive resources, and persistent obstacles to women's reproductive rights had been inadequately addressed.

As a result, the Commission called on Member States to take a transformative and comprehensive approach to resolving remaining challenges. It endorsed a stand-alone gender equality goal in the post-2015 agenda and the integration of gender equality across it, aims also affirmed by the UN General Assembly.



#### **BEIJING+20 AND BEYOND**

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women in 2015, both the UN General Assembly and the UN Economic and Social Council called for a review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action. UN Women is spearheading political and social mobilization to accelerate implementation of the Platform, which after 20 years remains the most far-reaching, yet unfulfilled, international commitment to realizing gender equality and women's empowerment.

With a view to engaging particularly younger people in this visionary agenda, UN Women launched a global campaign: "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture It!". The campaign aims to energize debate on achievements since Beijing and action to close remaining gaps.

#### **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

The UN Security Council passed resolution 2122, which strengthens consistent action on women, peace and security, a position long advocated by UN Women. The resolution makes the clearest link ever between gender equality and international peace and security. It reiterates the obligation to put women's leadership at the centre of all efforts to resolve conflict and promote peace.

Encouraged by UN Women's advocacy, UN Member States continue expanding their commitments to women and girls in many areas. Women in development, violence against women migrant workers, improvements for women in rural areas, and gender equality and climate change are recent examples. Governments agreed, for instance, to eliminate abusive sponsorship systems for women migrant workers, and reform existing laws and policies to uphold their rights.



ABOVE: To mark the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, UN Women launched a yearlong campaign and is championing women's achievements. A survivor of gender-based violence, Monica Paulus is now a fearless proponent of protecting women against false accusations of sorcery in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. PHOTO: Vlad Sokhin/UN Women

#### FROM STANDARDS TO ACTION

The 2013 Commission on the Status of Women reached a breakthrough agreement on preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls, issuing a comprehensive blueprint of 69 actions for governments and other stakeholders. Since then, UN Women has been at work around the world to translate this and other international commitments into real progress for women and girls.

Examples include our Safe Cities Global Initiative, comprising the global programme Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls and a joint programme with UN-Habitat and UNICEF called Safe and Sustainable Cities for All. Over 17 cities are participating, from Cairo to Dublin, Kigali to Sakai, Cape Town to Quito. Municipal governments, civil society groups, UN organizations and businesses have come on board to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of violence in urban public spaces.

In Papua New Guinea, for instance, diverse partners in the city of Port Moresby are working to create safer marketplaces. They have formed associations for market vendors, predominantly women, to organize preventive measures, and introduced cashless payment methods that cut risks of theft. Priority Area of Intervention

## LEADING POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION



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