



ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017





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.



UN Women works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls.

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RIGHTS, RESULTS AND RESILIENCE: RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

THIS REPORT SHOWCASES the many ways in which we support work at country and global level to turn the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into results for women and girls worldwide, working closely with Member States and a wide range of partners to realize rights and build resilience.

Around the world, empowered women are achieving visible progress. We know the power of positive role modelling; how vital it is for girls growing up to see the success of their contemporaries, and through education, experience and example, for it to come within their grasp. In 2016, the first year of implementing the



PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA
*UN Women Executive Director
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
speaks at the opening of the
Commission on the Status
of Women in 2017.*

Sustainable Development Goals, we supported women to claim their right to equal treatment under the law, to gain elected office, to draw on the power of innovation and technology, and to become leaders through sports, among many other initiatives. We also supported civil society and women's rights activists to inform and influence crucial policy discussions.

Individuals, like 28-year old city council member Abla Al Hajaia in Jordan whose election success was backed by UN Women leadership training, or Edna Valdez in the Philippines, who at 58 is the president of an organization supporting migrant women's rights along with UN Women partners in Mexico, Moldova and the Philippines, illustrate the dividends of building leadership. In total, we trained 4,000 aspiring and elected women leaders in 51 countries. Young and older; across the world, these women are demonstrating the essential role of their collective voice.

Freedom from violence is a vital corollary to these opportunities: girls and young women must have both. In the period under review in this report, 24 countries, with a combined female population of over 1.05 billion, strengthened legislation to address violence against women and girls, with 20 adopting the national plans or strategies that enable and sustain the essential follow through of the laws passed. In university campuses across the continents, students and faculty, men and women alike, are devising creative ways to prevent sexual harassment and other forms of violence.

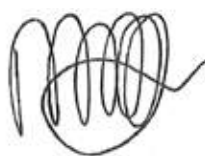
UN Women extended vital assistance to women survivors of Boko Haram's terror as well as those who suffered the devastation of natural disasters. The proportion of women military experts deployed to UN peacekeeping missions doubled. We built on strong research in the sphere of women, peace and security to back the integration of gender in counter-terrorism policy, and integrate women into early warning efforts. Similarly, through inclusion of women living with HIV, national planning exercises to begin implementing the Sustainable Development Goals have been strengthened. Civil servants of national AIDS coordinating bodies in 26 countries have now increased their capacities for gender mainstreaming.

A fundamental promise of the 2030 Agenda is to leave no one behind. No one should suffer the confines of poverty or remain destitute in the wake of a crisis. Yet, women and girls are among those most vulnerable to being left behind and increasingly vocal in asserting their resilience, versatility and capabilities. In a year of visible solidarity, growing civic engagement, strong feminist activism and vital youth engagement, both women and men have rallied to protest issues affecting equality and rights, from femicide and gender-based violence to sexual and reproductive health.

UN Member States at the 2017 Commission on the Status of Women set strong deliverables on women's economic empowerment, knowing that, without swift and decisive action, the changes in the world of work risk leaving women even further behind. They pledged to implement equal pay policies, promote decent work for women, and empower migrant, indigenous and rural women, and women with disabilities. Civil society, a vibrant, vocal and essential partner in all our work, brought its multiple strengths to this forum, and to our shared aims throughout the year.

A High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, convened by the UN Secretary-General and back-stopped by UN Women, called in its final report for the transformation of economies to work for women and offered seven drivers to accelerate change. The private sector has joined UN Women to challenge gender discriminatory norms and stereotypes, support digital and financial inclusion, and exert its power to make direct change for its employees and value chains.

Together with our many partners in every part of the world, UN Women will continue to deliver for women and girls on both the premise and promise of the 2030 Agenda and its global goals, seeking equality for all.



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

SETTING HIGH STANDARDS FOR WOMEN AND THE WORLD

International commitments, affirmed by UN Member States, set globally agreed benchmarks that guide actions and progress towards gender equality. Through evidence and advocacy, UN Women supports continued advancement of norms and standards, in line with women's human rights. We mobilize governments, civil society organizations and others to keep the bar high in forums dedicated to gender equality. In other deliberations and agreements linked to the 2030 Agenda, we work to make sure the spotlight shines fully on gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals and a more inclusive world.



Around the world, women work on unequal terms, a denial of their rights and an impediment to global goals. To overcome the barriers, the Commission on the Status of Women issued a global action plan to empower women at work and in the broader economy.



**2,130 GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS AND NEARLY
4,000 CIVIL SOCIETY
REPRESENTATIVES FROM
138 COUNTRIES
GATHERED AT CSW61**

**800 YOUNG WOMEN
AND YOUNG MEN FROM OVER
45 COUNTRIES
CAME TOGETHER FOR THE
SECOND ANNUAL
YOUTH FORUM**

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

As the largest annual UN gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, the Commission on the Status of Women in 2017 showcased growing global support for breaking the barriers to gender equality. It sent the world a powerful unified message on the theme of women in the workplace and the broader economy: the right to work and all rights at work must be upheld. Widely diverse participants came from 162 UN Member States, with 89 representatives at the ministerial level. Nearly 4,000 civil society representatives attended from 138 countries.

The Commission's Agreed Conclusions outline a global plan of action with a series of strategic enablers to tear down obstacles to women's economic empowerment, which will otherwise impede progress towards the global goals.

Member States pledged to implement equal pay policies and use measures such as collective bargaining and gender pay audits. With new employment options emerging through rapid technological change, they underscored the need to extend relevant education and training to women. Member States also emphasized the need for women's full access to economic and productive resources as measures to overcome occupational segregation. They called for both women and men to have access to paid parental leave, and for legal and policy frameworks to take a strong stand on ending workplace sexual harassment.

For the first time, the Commission held substantive discussions on the transition of informal and domestic workers into the formal economy, with agreement on promoting decent work and paid care, increasing social protection, providing wages that guarantee an

adequate standard of living, and ensuring safe working conditions. Stressing recognition of the rights and contributions of all women, the Commission emphasized policies to promote the empowerment of specific groups of women, such as migrant, indigenous and rural women, and women with disabilities.

MEASURES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

For the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22), the preeminent intergovernmental forum on climate change, UN Women worked with States Parties as they adopted a decision that mandates the development of the first gender action plan for the UNFCCC. The gender action plan covers all areas of work, such as mitigation, adaptation, finance, capacity-building and technology development and transfer. The decision also mandates measures aimed at achieving gender balance in the UNFCCC process, including the continuation of training and awareness-raising for female and male delegates on issues related to gender-responsive climate policy and action.

STEPS FOR POOR COUNTRIES, CITIES AND MIGRANTS

A review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 was a top priority in 2016, given that women and girls in these countries are furthest behind on nearly all elements of empowerment and human well-being. UN Women's advocacy throughout the process contributed to a Political Declaration containing stronger commitments to end gender inequalities linked to agriculture, climate change, education, public finance and poverty, among a number of key concerns.

In the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, UN Women joined women's activists and youth groups to press for transformation where it matters most for many people—within their community. As a result, the Agenda provides a strategic opportunity to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by improving human settlements in a gender-responsive way. It commits UN Member States to making cities safe and achieving inclusive urban economies, including through better recognition of the contributions of the working poor, particularly women. It pledges governments to achieving women's full and effective participation in all fields and in lead-

ership at all levels of decision-making, including in local governments.

An unprecedented Summit of the UN General Assembly in 2016 addressed the massive flows of refugees and migrants. The agreement that resulted reflected an approach highly responsive to human rights and gender equality, in part through the advocacy of UN Women. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants is committed to the empowerment, participation and rehabilitation of women and girls, particularly through extending essential health and education services, support for livelihood opportunities and access to justice.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2017 CHAMPIONS WOMEN IN THE WORLD OF WORK



To mark the day in South Africa, UN Women and Facebook hosted a Boost Your Business training session on digital tools for small business owners. In India, a partnership with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation supported month-long messages on metro trains drawing attention to equal pay, sharing unpaid care work, and making workplaces free of violence. Uruguay's march for women's rights in downtown Montevideo, organized by

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