

UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Africa must rise with and through women, says UN Women Executive Director

Johannesburg, South Africa- While attending the 25th African Union Summit in Johannesburg, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka called on both the public and private sector to invest in women in order to achieve sustainable development in Africa.

The Executive Director said that although there has been progress in some areas since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 20 years ago, there is still work to be done in order to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Executive Director noted the improvement in girls' education enrolments while emphasizing the need to now focus on quality education, retention and secondary education. Women's participation in the economy is high, but with 75 per cent of women in the informal sector where they are unprotected and have no minimum wage. To this effect, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka called for accelerated action and investment in girls' and women's education, going beyond primary school to tertiary levels.

The Austrian Ambassador to South Africa, H.E. Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer said that gender equali-



President of Zambia, H.E. Edgar Lungu, signed on to UN Women's HeForShe campaign, a commitment to advocate for the rights of women Photo: UN Women/Monika Bihlmaier

ty and women's empowerment is a priority for her Government and for this reason Austria supports the various conventions on gender equality. She shared the work of the Austrian Development Agency in holding its partners accountable for gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Executive Director noted that it is imperative to close the gender funding gap by ensuring that there is gender-responsive budgeting by governments and the private sector. She further called for strong commitment to financing for gender equality in

the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13-16 July 2015.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka was a co-panelist at a press conference with H.E. Peter Mutharika, President of Malawi; H.E. Nkandu Luo, Minister of Gender in Zambia; and Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, Goodwill Ambassador for the African Union on Ending Early Marriage. She noted that 15 out of 20 countries where this practice is rampant are in Africa.

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“Early marriage has devastating consequences. It is not only a human rights violation but it triggers a whole series of other violations. A girl married before age 18 will probably not enjoy her right to an education or to health. She may be more vulnerable to violence, and less likely to find decent work. These are consequences that reverberate throughout a lifetime,” she said.

She emphasized the need to have laws that prohibit child marriage, but more importantly for the laws to be enforced. African leaders took a tough stance on the issue of child marriage, with the AU delivering its formal position at the Summit (all adopted resolutions are expected to be made public next week).

The Executive Director held bilateral meetings with various dignitaries, including the President of Zambia, H.E. Edgar Lungu. He pledged his personal and governmental commitment to not only have laws that protect the rights of women and girls in place, but more importantly to change the attitudes and practices that perpetuate inequalities at all levels. He further accepted to be a champion for men’s leadership and signed on to UN Women’s HeForShe campaign, a commitment to advocate for the rights of women. The Executive Director invited all men to be champions of gender equality and women’s empowerment by signing up.

UN Women Launches Guide For Gender-Responsive HIV and AIDS Programming in the Extractive Industry

Durban, South Africa—UN Women launched a guide for Gender-Responsive HIV and AIDs in the extractives industry (EI) sector on 9th June 2015 in Durban South Africa.

The guide which is titled Mainstreaming Gender in HIV and AIDS Responses in the Extractive Industries Sector Guide seeks to provide a quick reference for the EI private sector, government policy makers and civil society to identify practical, gender-responsive actions to addressing the inter-linkages between the EI sector and HIV and AIDS.

During the launch, UN Women Deputy Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Simone ellis Oluoch-Olunya said that the guide was developed in consultation with companies in the extractives industry including medical practitioners, HIV and AIDS program staff as well as policy makers.

“On behalf of UN Women, I am very pleased to launch this Guide today which I hope will go a long way towards guiding policy makers and the management and staff of private sector companies in the EI, to more effectively and efficiently mitigate against the risks of HIV and AIDS,” she said.

The guide provides practical guidance in a number of areas related to HIV and AIDS at the work place including, provision of health care; awareness and education; workforce policies; workplace health and safety gender awareness for management and program staff; gender based violence prevention and caregivers and families.

It was generated from a research process which included a mapping and review of HIV programmes in the EI sector, to identify good and much needed gender- responsive practices – for effectively addressing the gender dimensions of the epidemic, within the workplace- and communities.

UN Women work in the area of HIV and AIDS aims to promote effective integration of gender considerations including policies, laws and strategies, in recognition of available data which indicates that gender-blind responses have proven to be largely inefficient, in dealing with HIV and AIDS in the region.

Commonwealth meeting recommends having more women in top positions

Nairobi - UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), in partnership with the Commonwealth and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) organized a two-day meeting aimed at advocating for more women in leadership positions. The participants were drawn from government institutions, the private sector, NGOs and civil society organizations. The event was aimed at advocating for more women in leadership positions. In his opening remarks Mr. Hassan Nur Hassan who represented Eng. Peter Mangiti, principal Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning said that the government of Kenya continues to take up initiatives to bridge the gender gap through formulation of laws and policies such as setting up “Huduma Bora Centers’, national policies on gender based violence, and the adoption of the Sexual Offences Act and the Political Parties Act.

The key note speaker for the event was Ms. Anne Abraham, Founder & CEO of LeadWomen in Malaysia. She said that women add economic, business and human capital value to the boardroom. She observed that those companies with a higher proportion of women in top management have better financial performance. She gave Malaysia as a good example of countries that have increased women representation to the boards from 7.6% in 2012 to 10.2% in 2015. In addition an online platform for recruiting women on boards was launched this year.

Dr. Shaheena Janjuha-Jivraj from Boardwalk presented research findings on the status of women in leadership across the Commonwealth which targeted the public and private sectors.

She noted that there was significant



(From Left to Right) Lynette Seebaran-Suite, Florence Butegwa, Margret Kobia chairing a plenary discussion

progress in the public sectors but the number of women on boards in the private sector still remains low, even lower in the senior executive positions based on the 30% benchmark set by Commonwealth. On moving ahead, she suggested the need for a more sustained and integrated approach which requires strong legal infrastructure, strong relationships across key stakeholders and good practice examples.

Presentation on the roles of men in promoting women’s leadership stirred a lot of interest on the second day. Mr. Cyprian Nyamwamu, Fuure of Kenya Foundation who outlined the main focus of his organization namely on supporting women in political leadership through campaigns, pushing for administrative and public service fairness as well as mentoring the boy child to respect the position of women in the society. In his response Dr. Aramanzan Madanda, UNDP accredited expert on Gender Equality in Public

Administration said that individuals need to be careful not to re-invent patriarchy under the guise of engaging men and disempowering women. Ms. Florence Butegwa from UN Women ESARO talked on post 2015 Development agenda, she stated that the main focus still remains only on political leadership, especially at the local government level. She recommended the adoption of the integrated approach and urged women to take action themselves and to go after what they want despite the challenges facing them.

During the group session segment, policy recommendations to increase women participation in leadership positions included tax incentives to companies driving gender diversity, mandatory gender diversity disclosure for listed companies on the stock exchange, improving the quality of women in leadership in the public sector at decision making levels and monitoring for budgeting for cross-cutting issues including women in leadership.

A Women's Investment Fund - New Faces New Voices in Rwanda

Kigali – New Faces New Voices (NFNV) - Rwanda Chapter was officially launched on 10 June 2015 in Kigali, at the International Conference “Transformative Financial Solutions for Women”. The two-day conference was hosted by H.E. Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of Rwanda, and former First Lady of South Africa Graça Machel, who is the Founder of New Faces New Voices. The newly set up



H.E. Madame Jeannette Kagame and Madame Graça Machel with the Board members of New Faces New Voices - Rwanda Chapter. Photo credit: Christian T. Mulumba/UN Women

Rwanda chapter envisaged the implementation of an investment bank for women as one of the practical solutions to women's economic empowerment in Rwanda.

NFNV, is a Pan-African movement, backed by the African Development Bank, advocating for women's participation in finance through a network of national chapters. UN Women provides technical and financial support to NFNV and sits on the Board of its National Chapter.

In her welcome remarks, Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa Chairperson NFNV Rwanda mentioned that:

“women's financial inclusion in Rwanda was 36% by 2012. Most of them are limited to just holding an account.” NFNV intends to work substantively to increase women access to finance, increase capabilities of women and their business skills, increase the influence, the voices and representation of women in financial institutions. By acquiring the status of an organization limited by shares and by guarantee, NFNV Rwanda Chapter plans to work towards self-sufficient operations that would generate income to boost their projects.

The First lady of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. Jeannette Kagame commended the launch of NFNV in Rwanda and mentioned in her opening statement that: “looking at the lessons learned from the Genocide, it is clear

that exclusion and discrimination benefit nobody. “Real transformation would be achieved when every woman is financially included and empowered”. The First Lady of Rwanda emphasized that she was excited to champion NFNV on condition that, “as long as we keep the focus, deliver results are accountable to all women, even at the grassroot level. The goal should be to lift one million Rwandese out of poverty in a thousand days.”

While addressing the audience, NFNV Founder, Ms. Graça Machel said that, her role was to challenge the various chapters, “don't be satisfied by the small things you achieve. Think big, act big and achieve big!” She added that the Rwanda Chapter should take advantage of the Government of Rwanda which has given them a conducive environment to make NFNV's vision a reality.

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First Lady H.E. Jeannette Kagame delivering her opening statement. Photo credit: Christian T. Mulumba/UN Women

A Women's investment Fund ... continued



Panel discussion: Delivering Practical Solutions for Women's Economy. Photo credit: Christian T. Mulumba/UN Women

and information,” he stressed.

A panel discussion moderated by Julie Gichuru, TV news anchor and successful entrepreneur from Kenya themed “Delivering practical solutions to women’s economy” followed and the panelists included, Dr. James Mwangi, CEO of the Equity Bank, Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza, Minister of East African Community of Rwanda, Ms. Diana Ofwona, UN Women Representative in Rwanda and Mr. Manoj Parshar, Regional Manager, Financial Markets and Private Equity at International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Ms. Diana Ofwona, emphasized that the missing link in the achievement of gender equality and financial inclusion of women is “Real money in women’s pockets.” She added that it was imperative to stop the disfranchisement of women who are left at micro and subsistence levels. “UN Women recently published a report on Progress of the World’s Women 2015 – 2016 which shows what the economy would look like if it had women at its heart” she added. She also mentioned that policies needed to be formulated and engendered to

facilitate women’s access to finance. One of the key constraints she pointed out was financial literacy of women.

Equity Bank CEO , Dr. James Mwangi echoed her words stating that, in order to create a transformative society, two things needed to be taken into consideration; “education, and economic empowerment of women.” According to him, policies need to be changed and gender issues need to be addressed also as an economic empowerment issue. For Dr. Mwangi, the financial activities that women are involved in need to be mainstreamed with sufficient investment in order to facilitate inclusion.

Mr. Manoj Prashar of IFC said that “it is very important to empower women right away”; a certain degree of literacy is therefore needed according to him. Mr. Prashar added that, in today’s world, money has become a commodity and knowledge of economy in the financial world is imperative. “Progress implies networking

and information,” he stressed.

In her intervention, Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza commended the achievements made in Rwanda by creating a more conducive environment for women and for the innovative aspects as seen in the various sectors. She then stressed that “the main challenge for women exclusion is not lack of finance but bringing the demand and the supply together. She argued that women need to partner with various institutions such as banks and insurance companies to know the type of guarantee that is required from them. She also emphasized that information is important saying, “women hardly know what is available”.

The interventions led to a fruitful debate appreciated both by the audience and the chief guests . NFNV will plan the launch of an investment fund for women as one key priority to address the issues presented. NFNV – Rwanda Chapter will be hosted at the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) building for a period of one year.

UN Women and the Green Belt Movement (GBM) join the world in marking the World Environment Day

Nairobi, Kenya—On Friday 5th June 2015, UN Women joined hands with the Green Belt movement (GBM) in celebrating this year's World Environment Day, in a year that the global community also marks the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Informed by the theme: '7 Billion Dreams: One Planet, Consume With Care', the event was marked by a tree-planting ceremony at the Prof. Wangari Mathai corner, the location where the late Nobel Laureate led a group of citizens to demonstrate against the illegal grabbing of land within the forest. This action, for many, brought attention to the work and significance of the efforts of the Late Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Mathai, who, through her single-minded determination, was able to draw attention to the illegal sale of huge tracts of this forest- an act which eventually led to its protection.

In her opening speech, Ms. Aisha Karanja, the Executive Director of GBM spoke on the significance of the site of the commemoration, saying it represented the empowerment of women; it represented freedom for women; it is



Wanjira Maathai, daughter of the late Prof. Mathai and current GBM Chair, at the tree-planting session in which members of GBM and UN Women took part in. Photo: UN Women

everything that is an empowered woman. She encouraged stakeholders to emulate Prof. Mathai for her bold steps in saving Karura Forest, by doing 'little things' to make the environment a better place for every individual on the planet. In her concluding remarks, she shared a quote from the late Nobel Laureate, saying: "For these billion dreams to happen, for the Beijing Platform for Action to happen, we must rise and walk".

The daughter of the late Prof. Mathai and current GBM chairperson Ms. Wanjira Mathai spoke on the commemoration of the Beijing Declaration, stating that we have done well, but we are not there yet, as she encouraged people to improve and protect the environment more by giving facts on the environment and the impact it has on our livelihoods. Keeping alive the late Nobel Laureate's dream of conserving the environment, she said, "Let the question that you children ask be how did you do it, rather than what were you thinking?" The event was crowned by a colorful tree planting session in which members of GBM, UN Women, the Kenya Defense Forces, the Kenya Forest Services and school children, joined in planting 500 trees to mark the day.



Members of Kenya Defense Forces put down their guns to plant a tree. Photo: UN Women

Kenya Kicks Off First National Conference for Women in the Security Sector



Dignitaries including PS MoD, Ambassadors of Finland, UK, DIG Ms Kahindi, CS Amb. Omamo, PS Amb. Juma, Ms Kavuma of UN Women, Brigadier Kabage of IPSTC, and Deputy Ambassador of Republic of China with Kenya Defence Force

Nairobi, Kenya—In recognition of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and in response to the call in the resolution urging consultation with women in the area of peace and security, the Ministry of Defense in partnership with UN Women organized a national conference on “Women in the Security Sector” held in Nairobi on 17-18 June 2015, themed “Partnership for Peace-Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the Security Sector in Kenya.”

The conference brought over 200 participants from all security agencies in Kenya and it was attended by high level dignitaries, including High Commissioners and Ambassadors from the United Kingdom, Finland, Brussels and also personalities drawn from academic institutions and security sector practitioners from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Denmark and Colombia to share experiences on advancing gender equality and women empowerment in the security sector.

The overall objective of the conference was to provide a platform for women in the security sector to share experiences, highlight their roles, contributions as women and the importance of their participation and representation in the security sector.

Ambassador Raychelle Omamo Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry Of Defense, the Chief Guest of the event, spoke passionately about the importance of promoting gender equality and elevating the profile of women in the sector, she also reiterated that women are the “threads that hold our community together” and encouraged women especially those in the security sector not to give up on achieving gender balance.

Despite the efforts made on domesticating and implementing UNSCR 1325 in Kenya, there is more to be done to give full effect to its provisions, highlighted UN Women Country Director, Zebib Kavuma, who also expressed her wish that the “discussions and the

recommendations emanating from this conference will help inform not only the discussion around the role of women in peace and security, but also policy and legislative frameworks that are conformed to the constitution and international normative frameworks”. Ms Kavuma also reiterated that “We must invest in long-term solutions, advocate for increasing the number of women in all the services, support national bodies to develop plans and initiatives focused on responding to the security rights and needs of women and girls.”

During the two-day conference, participants discussed the progress which Defence, police and other security institutions achieved in implementing UNSCR 325 Resolution and gender equality principles. Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ms. Grace Kahindi, the first women in Kenya to hold this position also shared the long journey women in the police service have travelled to reach where they are today which she said had not been easy.

Kenya Kicks Off of First National Conference for Women in the Security Sector-continued

which Defence, police and other security institutions achieved in implementing UNSCR 1325 Resolution and gender equality principles.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ms. Grace Kahindi, the first woman in Kenya to hold this position also shared the long journey women in the police service have travelled to reach where they are today, “which by no means was an easy one” she reminded all.

“A crucial element in ensuring holistic peace and security in Kenya, there is need to strengthen security institutions in becoming more gender responsive, one’s that strive to promote gender equality and women’s leadership in decision-making, and focus on responding to the security right and needs of women and girls of this country” said Ms. Kavuma.

Ambassador Monica Juma, Principle Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, also an expert on the subject of the conference presented the key note address on, ‘Women’s role in the security sector: A practitioner’s perspective’. She provided recommendations on how to increase the number of women in the sector, which included changing perceptions and culture that tends to portray women as weak through behavioral change and also by encouraging men in the sector to push their daughters to aspire to join security institutions and make it their career of choice because they have what it takes to do the job.



Cabinet Secretary Raychelle Omamo; Amb Monica Juma, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Interior; Tetu MP Ndung'u Gethenji, Chairman of the Defence and Foreign Relations Committee and Zebib Kavuma, Country Director, UN

The testimonials shared by the first women to fly a chopper in the Kenya Defense Forces, another who is the Chief Electrical Engineer on board Kenya’s biggest naval ship, yet another who become the first fly a fighter jet in this country, she said, proved that women are very capable, thus there is need to support and encourage girls to study math and physics. But in reality “Labs in boys’ schools are better than girls’ because people imagine they should be studying things like drama and the arts.” She highlighted. “Even look at simple things like boots, security contractors manufacture them from a size 9 and some of us women wear a size 3. And yet, security is no longer a bouncer body type affair”, therefore there is the need to work with the security industry to ensure they offer the right equipment and gear for women in the security sector.

Some of the broader topics that was also discussed included the role of women in tackling emerging security threats including radicalization and countering extremism, the role of women play in protecting vulnerable communities, environment and in Conflict Resolution & Peace Building: Perspectives from Northern Kenya was presented by Sen Naisula Lesuada.

A number of resolutions and recommendations emanating from the conference were shared to the policy makers to help inform the discussion around the role of women in peace and security, but also policy and legislative frameworks that are conformed to the constitution and international normative frameworks on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Malawi Launches the African Queens and Women Cultural Leaders Network

Malawi—The UN family, in partnership with the Ministry of Gender Children Disability and Social Welfare supported the launch of the African Queens and Women Cultural Leaders Network (AQWCLN)-Malawi Chapter during a reception hosted by the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare. The launch was held at Sun-bird Hotel on 23rd June.

The African Queens and Women Cultural Leaders Network is an association of Queen's, Queen Mothers, Princesses and other Women Cultural Leaders launched in 2013 in Uganda with the aim of improving the lives of women, girls and children in Africa. AQWCLN capitalizes on its distinct advantage that its members are custodians of culture who command great respect of their subjects and can therefore mobilize and inspire their communities through a continent wide cultural revival to implement programs to protect and promote the rights, welfare and development of women and children.

The Minister of Gender Children Disability and Social Welfare, development partners, members of civil society, private sector, Members of Parliament, the UN family in Malawi, were in attendance at the colorful launch which was also attended by The United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for HIVAIDS Steve Bedi who spiced up the launch with his jazz performance.

Jessy a secondary school student narrated how she got married to an abusive husband at early tender age. In her remarks, Queen Toro shared that traditional leaders are key to social economic development of a country. She said the launch of AQWCLN in Malawi signifies a critical tool of intervention in eradicating harmful cultural practices while at the same time leveraging positive cultural practices aimed at empowering African women and the girl child. She also indicated that culture cannot be used as a justification to perpetuate harmful practices.

The vision of the Malawi Chapter of



HRH Torro pictured with Minister of Gender Hon. Kaliati, and senior chiefs

AQWCLN include the development of by-laws to promote girls education, create child marriage free zones, eliminate violence against women and girls, promote access to Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Education, getting to Zero HIV infections for an HIV free generation, promote Positive Cultural Practices, values and eradication of all harmful practices as well as economic empowerment of women using cultural knowledge and skills to support the girl-child. The Malawi Chapter vision also includes the mobilisation of men and boys as partners to support the girl-child.

Moving forward, the Malawi chapter will establish own resources (music, art, clothing industry, culture based tourism in order to guarantee sustainability. To crown the occasion the senior traditional leaders signed the chief's declaration on promotion of Human rights and ending harmful cultural practices.

On 21st June, Her Royal Highness, the Queen of Toro visited GEWE impact areas funded by EU and UN in Salima. Situated close to 100 kilometers away from Lilongwe, Chief Mwanza's interventions include formation of the GBV committees; the community action groups; Mother groups; Girls that have been rescued from marriages and dropped out due to pregnancies and have gone back to school; Married adolescent girls alongside their hus-

band who have been trained in joint decision making over their sexual reproductive health rights and are also engaged in income generating activities; the by-laws that have been developed and are functional in addressing the harmful practices in the area.

On 22nd June, a total of 7 female and 7 male senior chiefs (at the levels of the Paramount and senior traditional authority) also took advantage of the visit to interact with the Queen. They used the opportunity to take stock of the achievements and bottlenecks encountered by traditional leaders in the promotion and protection of the girl child with the objective of strengthening efforts and commitments in eliminate harmful cultural practices, eradicate child marriages and empower women and girls.

Chiefs are very instrumental in addressing issues related to child marriage, HIV, harmful cultural practices, prevention, response and management of violence, girls' education, and promotion of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights with a focus on ending adolescent pregnancies and are spearheading interventions with their communities to ensure that Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is promoted in order to address the cultural issues that fuel child marriages, HIV AIDS; GBV, adolescent pregnancies among others.

Kenya Association of Women in Police; A first within the Security Sector



L to R: Prof Maria Nzomo, Cabinet Secretary Raychelle Omamo; Joseph K Boinnet, Inspector General of National Police Service, Sicily Gatiti Chairlady of KAWP, Zebib Kavuma, Country Director UN Women and Grace Kaindi, Deputy Inspector General of Police cutting the cake launching KAWP (Photo by UN Women)

Nairobi, Kenya—The Kenya Association of Women in Police (KAWP) officially launched the association on 17th June 2015 in a colorful ceremony held in Nairobi which was presided over by high level dignitaries and officials including Amb. Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Amb. Monica Juma, Principle Secretary- Ministry of Interior, Deputy Inspector General, Ms Grace Kahindi and Ms. Zebib Kavuma, UN Women Country Director. The Chief Guest of the launch was Mr. Joseph Boinnet, Inspector General of the National Police Service (NPS).

Kenya Association of Women in Police (KAWP) was established in 2013 through UN Women support as a platform that seeks to champion the rights of women and promote gender equality and professional development of women within the service.

Since 2010 UN Women Kenya has been working closely with the National Police Service to promote women's leadership within the force, increasing

the number of women in police and other security organs, and support NPS bodies to develop policies, action plans and initiatives focused at responding to the security needs of women and girls, which lead to the establishment of KAWP.

“For UN Women, the Association creates an even larger platform for efforts placed by the Government and other institutions in the portion of women in leadership positions within the National Police Service and also fight against GBV and SGBV and generally the protection of women and children's rights” said UN Women Kenya Country Director.

Ms. Kahindi emphasized

that the establishment of KAWP in its self is a major milestone and a new chapter for the women within the National Police Service. Ms. Kahindi, the Patron of KAWP, was also the first female Provincial Officer in Kenya, she acknowledged that women have potential to be effective leaders if given a chance. “We will try to reclaim our voice through this association. As women we have remained invisible in this profession, so let's claim our space” she concluded.

The National Police Service currently has 42,593 officers out of which only 4,724 are women, therefore women constituting only 18% of the service.

Mr. Joseph K. Boinnet, Inspector General, National Police Service committed to promoting gender equality and women empowerment within the National Police Service and has promised to work closely with KAWP to ensure the well-being of women in the service are addressed, therefore encouraging more women to join, thus leading to an increased number of women within the police. Mr. Boinnet signed up as the newest member of KAWP and also to UN Women's global solidarity movement, declaring “I am a HeforShe”.



Joseph Boinnet, Inspector General of Police- National Police Service sign as HeforShe Champion during the KAWP launch

UN Women provides Transformative Leadership Training for Tanzanian Women MPs

Dodoma, Tanzania – Women Members of Parliament further strengthened their leadership and campaign skills during a training on leadership and election processes held at the Parliament in Dodoma 12-14 June 2015.

Supported by USAID and Embassy of Finland through UN Women Tanzania's Wanawake Wanaweza Project and coordinated by Tanzania Women Parliamentary Group (TWPNG), the seminar was facilitated by transformative leadership experts from the Africa Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership (ACTIL), a partnership between UN Women and Kenyatta University, Nairobi.

Speaking at a recent training in Dodoma, Professor Catherine Ndungo (Director Kenyatta University Institute of African Studies and ACTIL facilitator) highlighted the critical transformation for women that this training aims to achieve. "We want them to go out there to the field with the mindset that they can convince the voters to vote for them, with a mindset that they can address the issues that the electorate is facing and with a mindset that they can succeed because we think they are capable. They have the potential which should be utilized to transform not only Tanzania, but Africa at large," said Professor Ndungo. "We want women to adopt the mindset that they are capable of leading!"

The training was a reminder even for the highly experienced politicians that every election campaign is different and new strategies need to be employed said gender and governance specialist and ACTIL facilitator Barasa Nyukuri. "Whatever worked yesterday might not work in the next cam-



Hon. Anna Abdallah, member of parliament and Chairperson Tanzania Women Parliamentary Group (TWPNG) shaking hands with UN Women's senior advisor policy and strategic planning Usu Mallya. Photo-Credit UN Women/Stephanie Raison

paign so we need to always look for innovative strategies and adoptive methods to cope with the campaign strategies. Competition and leadership is not by invitation – women must stand to be counted like their fellow competitors the men," he said.

Female MPs supported by the project noted that the training was particularly useful for women attempting to make the transition from special seats to direct constituency election this year. The excitement and anticipation for this year's campaign is palpable among the MPs trained. For example, Hon. Esther Nicholas Matiko stated "I am going to make history – a woman will become a member of parliament, elected from a place where they believe that women have no voice.

"The training has added value to me, I will be the new Esther. To be who I am today, sixty per cent of it is due to the seminars, the exposure that UN Women has done for us," said Hon. Matiko, MP and member of the Tan-

zania Women Parliamentary Group.

Discriminatory attitudes towards women's political participation and leadership are not unique to Tanzania. Speaking about the project at a recent donor meeting, Ms Anna Collins-Falk, UN Women Representative in Tanzania, stressed the significance of a transformational and comprehensive approach to leadership training, tailor making it to the needs of different groups. Ms Collins-Falk further noted that "this training has really highlighted the importance of building regional partnerships, to learn from each other as we tackle some of the challenges to women's leadership and political participation that we see across East Africa, and even beyond. This is the first ACTIL training in Tanzania and we can see this as a beginning of something long-term, where also Tanzanian women leaders will in turn share their experience with others in the Africa Region".

UN Women Civil Society Advisory Groups Map Way Forward



Members of the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional and South Africa National Civil Society Advisory Groups

Johannesburg,—For the first time since their appointments, the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Civil Society Advisory Group (RCSAG) and the South Africa National Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) held a joint meeting in Johannesburg on 10th June 2015.

The main objective of the meeting was for the CSAG members to understand the current ongoing global/regional processes such as the upcoming Financing for Development (FfD) conference, B+20, AU year of Women's Empowerment etc and discuss collaborations to ensure that Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is a key component of these processes.

The meeting also provided them with an opportunity to come up with concrete measures to ensure linkages and synergies between regional and national CSAGs.

In addition to the opening remarks by Auxilia Ponga UN Women Representative of the South Africa Multi-Country Office, Bishop Malusi Upumlwana, vice chair of the SA CSAG and Itumeleng vice chair of the regional CSAG, three presentations were made that formed the basis for discussions and recommendations.

The presentations were made by, Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya, UN Women Deputy Regional Director for Eastern

and Southern Africa, Dinah Musindarwezo, Executive Director FEMNET and Sifiso Dube, of Gender Links.

Some of the key points that came out of the meeting is the need to start the implementation of the SDGs at the lowest levels as this would then form the basis for development of policies.

Since member states focus is at high levels, it is, therefore, the role of the civil society to ensure that there is work on the ground towards the realization of the SDGs as this will feed into national goals and consequently the global goals.

The participants observed that there is a need to raise awareness on Financing for Development (FfD) and how it integrates with gender equality and women's empowerment programmes. FfD was identified as the means towards the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda and that there was a need for targeted gender financing in FfD. This then calls for the development of African Feminist Demands which includes clear mapping of the outcome of FfD and what needs to be done ahead of the July FfD meeting and also after the meeting.

It was recognized that Africa's economic growth is quite rapid and that it needs to be very well managed to ensure that it translates to reduction of poverty in the continent.

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UN Women Civil Society Advisory Groups Map Way Forward –continued

The CSAGs have a role to play in this by ensuring that gender issues are addressed to ensure that women are included in this economic growth being experienced in the continent. The participation of the CSAGs in this agenda is particularly vital because the civil societies are represented up to community levels and can therefore use their structures to ensure the inclusion of women, not only in the economic arena but also in the political fields. UN Women, also has its own critical role to play in this which is supporting the mobilization to ensure that vision 2063 is realized. CSAGs are the voice to bring gender justice.

Sifiso Dube spoke about the barometer to measure gender progress and implement gender processes that has been developed for the Southern African Development Community and in which the East African Community (EAC) had expressed interest but was yet to implement. It was recommended that UN Women engages the EAC Secretariat to advocate the use of the barometer to the EAC ministers with support from the SADC secretariat.



Another recommendation from the meeting was the need to engage governments to fund gender activities such as meetings for gender ministers.

It was also recognized that there are diverse groups within the category of women and so it was important to take this into account when addressing women issues to ensure that the needs of all the diverse groups are addressed.

Another recommendation was the need to ensure that there is constant communication with the CSAGs to keep them abreast of any campaigns, meetings e.t.c that they can participate in especially at the local level since this is where the action takes place. It was also agreed that complex issues such as taxation and FfD should be demystified so that even CSOs at community levels understand and are able to participate in the discussions.

In view of the fact that the UN Women South Africa MCO covers five countries, it was felt that there is a need to form a CSAG for the MCOs with representation from all the five countries.

Women, youth and persons with disabilities gear up for political participation in Tanzania



Group of aspirants during training Photo: UN women/Stephanie Raison

need to pursue their dreams. Through interactive sessions and on going mentoring, aspirants learn how to effectively run an election campaign. This includes speech writing to developing a manifesto, building a campaign committee, mobilising and effective use of financial and human resources. To date 1,119 women, 701 young people and 105 persons with disabilities from different political parties are participating in the project.

election and his dream he says is “To serve as a mirror for persons with disabilities, for them to see that if I can do it then they can do it too, and to show the public that persons with disabilities can achieve great things”.

To complement these results, UN Women is also working with political parties and electoral management bodies to create a more conducive environment for these aspirants. Thus far, UN Women staff are working with the legal drafting team within the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties to revise the Political Parties Act, Election Expenses Act and the Political Parties Code of Conduct to incorporate principles of gender equality and social inclusion of youth and people with disabilities. Moreover, plans are now in place to implement specific actions that promote gender equality within the National Electoral Commission and Zanzibar Electoral Commission (which has gone further to develop a gender and social inclusion policy) which includes election preparation processes and voter education and registration. “This is a long term investment for gender equality and democracy in Tanzania” says Ms Anna Collins-Falk, UN Women Tanzania Country Representative, “but we are already now inspired by the many women, youth and people with disabilities aspiring for public office. They are standing up, speaking out and ready to take up their newly found leadership skills.”

Tanzania— As elections approach in Tanzania, UN Women is challenging traditional attitudes around the rights and capacities of marginalized groups for leadership and decision-making. As a result, unprecedented numbers of women, youth and people with disabilities are coming out as aspirants for political positions. In the past these groups were often marginalized in party nominations, but now they are standing up and demanding their right to vie for seats.

In partnership with the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, Tanzania Women Cross Party Platform Legal and Human Rights Centre and Tanzania Media Women’s Association, and with support of USAID and Embassy of Finland, UN Women Tanzania’s *Wanawake Wanaweza* project is equipping aspirants from across the country with the knowledge and skills they

The transformation in the aspirants’ capacity and confidence as a result of this project is electrifying. Speaking to aspirants at a recent training in Mwanza, Ms. Johari Omary, who plans to vie for a district councillor position stated “if I had known in the last election what I have learnt from this training, I would have had a much better chance of winning. Now I have learnt that I need to build a campaign committee with team members and volunteers in every village to support me in my campaign”.

Another illustration of the project’s impact is demonstrated through Mr Seleman Idrisa’s testimony. He has been suffering from impaired vision since he was twelve years. Mr Idrisa affirmed that the participatory methods used during training have helped him to become more confident and daring. This is his first time vying for

UP-COMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
7 th and 8 th July 2015	UN Women's Executive Director visits to South Sudan	Juba, South Sudan
13 th – 16 th July 2015	International Conference on Financing for Development	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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



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