



Press brief on UN Women, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

31 December 2010

UN Conference Room-Kathmandu, Nepal

UN Women, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women will be operational from 1st January 2011. The UN Women was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 2 July 2010 to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide. It is a result of years of negotiations between UN Member States and advocacy by the global women's movement and is also a part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact.

UN Women will merge and build on the important work of the following four previously distinct parts of the UN system, which focus exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment:

- Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW, established in 1946)
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW, established in 1976)
- Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI, established in 1997)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, established in 1976)

The key roles of UN Women are: 1) to support inter-governmental bodies such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms; 2) to help Member States to implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it and to forge effective partnerships with civil society and; 3) to enable member states to hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

UN Women will be the lead driver and lead voice advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment globally. It will be a dynamic and strong champion for women and girls, providing them with a powerful voice at the global, regional and local levels. Grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the UN Charter, UN Women will, among other issues, work for the: elimination of discrimination against women and girls; empowerment of women; achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. UN Women will provide substantive support to UN bodies on all aspects of gender equality issues.

UN Women will work with UN partners at the regional and country levels to ensure that demand for technical expertise from national partners and regional organizations are met. At the country level, it will provide technical and financial support to national partners, helping them to develop the ability to address their priority challenges. UN Women will also support UN Country Teams to strengthen and coordinate action on gender equality. It will enhance, not replace, efforts by other parts of the UN system, which will continue to have responsibility to work for gender equality and women's empowerment in their areas of expertise.

Ms. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile has been appointed as the Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General to head UN Women. The Under-Secretary-General will be a member of all senior UN decision-making bodies and will report to the Secretary-General. UN Women will be headquartered in New York.

UN Women Nepal looks forward in 2011 for greater collaboration with partners to further strengthen the work on gender equality and women's empowerment.

For more information, you may also refer to the website www.unwomen.org or contact:

Smriti Gurung
Programme Assistant
UN Women (effective from 1st January 2011)
201/42 Ramshahpath,
Thapathali, Kathmandu
Tel: 4255110/4254899
Email: smriti.gurung@unwomen.org



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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