This issue of UNIDO Gender Newsletter will focus on recent developments of gender equality in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and awareness raising initiatives. Furthermore it provides a summary of the Briefing to Member States, held by the GMSC on UNIDO activities regarding gender equality and women’s empowerment.

**Gender Equality beyond 2015: The Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) refer to an agreement of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 (Rio+20) to develop a set of future international development goals. As the 2015 target date for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, UN Member States, UN and civil society organizations, academia, research institutions and others undertook a wide range of activities to identify the priorities of a post-2015 development agenda. The UN General Assembly’s Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals forwarded to the Assembly its proposal for a set of SDGs on 19 July this year. The proposal contains 17 goals with 169 targets covering a broad range of sustainable development issues, including stand-alone goals for inclusive and sustainable industrialization and gender equality and the empowerment of women.

During the 69th session of the General Assembly which took place in New York, Mr. Fernando Wahnon Ferreira, the Permanent Representation of Cape Verde to the UN, said the post-2015 agenda must place people at the center of the objectives and goals to be agreed upon. He also stated that ensuring gender equality and equity also “turns out to be a smart choice”, as no country can aspire to develop and establish social peace while excluding its female population. The UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, will publish a report in November that will set the tone for intergovernmental discussions on the SDGs. Two officials will be appointed to create the programme for government debate next year. The final set of goals are due to be presented at a special session of the General Assembly next September and implementation is expected to commence in 2016.

In contrast to the MDGs, which were officially applicable to all, but have been marketed as anti-poverty goals for poor nations, the SDGs will be universal; making all countries accountable to the global development process. Gender equality as a stand-alone goal within the SDGs will be strategically important in order to remove barriers to progress that currently exist in the other proposed goals.

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**Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

- **A Million Voices: The World We Want**: A report summarizing the findings of public consultations and surveys that engaged more than 1.3 million people in all 193 UN Member States
- **My World 2015**: A platform to voice the six most important issues for the upcoming SDGs. [Vote now](#)
Briefing to Permanent Missions on UNIDO activities regarding gender equality and women’s empowerment

On the 12th of September 2014, the UNIDO Gender Mainstreaming Steering Committee (GMSC) held a Member State briefing which opened with key remarks by the Deputy to the Director, Mr. Taizo Nishikawa. Ms. Nilgün Tas, Chairperson of the GMSC and Chief of the Competitiveness, Business Environment and Upgrading Unit (PTC/BIT/CBU), lead the discussion highlighting milestones in UNIDO’s efforts to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women both within the Organization and throughout its technical cooperation services. Ms. Tas was accompanied by fellow GMSC members including, Ms. Hedda Öhlinger-Femundsenden, Gender Officer, and Mr. Alois Mhlanga, Industrial Development Officer (PTC/ECC/RRE).

The presentation stressed the centrality of gender equality in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) and pointed out that there is still room for improvement in women’s representation in science and technology. To demonstrate the linkage, Ms. Tas showcased good practice examples of technical cooperation projects that integrate gender dimensions in a meaningful and practical way.

The briefing was well attended and UNIDO was commended by the Member States for its progress and achievements to date and encouraged to further promote gender equality and empowerment of women in all its programs, projects, policies and organizational practices. Member States also touched upon key issues involving the mainstreaming of gender in the Organization; including, how to further improve UNIDO’s efforts in strengthening the institutional arrangements for more effective implementation of its gender policy, how to enhance the mainstreaming of gender in its technical cooperation projects to improve the overall effectiveness and sustainability of projects and to produce longer-term positive impacts and how to advance the Organization’s own gender parity goals.

The HeForShe UN Women’s Solidarity Movement

On the 20th of September 2014, the HeForShe campaign was launched with a speech by UN Women Goodwill Ambassador and British actress Emma Watson at the United Nations headquarters in New York. HeForShe is a solidarity movement aiming to involve men and boys as advocates and agents of change in the effort to achieve gender equality. The campaign aims to mobilize one billion men over the next 12 months for gender equality. “We need boys and men working with us. HeForShe is a global solidarity movement to end gender inequality by 2030. When women are empowered, the whole of humanity benefits”, said UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Close the GAP!