International Women’s Day 2015:
“Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!”

This year’s theme for the International Women’s Day (IWD) celebrated on 8 March, “Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!” sets the focus on women’s achievements and the related challenges. Special attention is given to women’s rights and gender equality to call upon women and men to join the movement. The first United Nations International Women’s Day was celebrated on 8 March 1975 during International Women’s Year, and so began a tradition that is now 40 years old. In September 1995, the United Nations brought together almost 50,000 women and men from civil society, international organizations and national governments for its Fourth World Conference on Women, which produced the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In celebration of the 20-year anniversary of this groundbreaking event and the subsequent Beijing+20 review in July 2013, this year’s IWD aims to provide a fresh impetus to the fight against gender discrimination.

The Beijing Declaration emphasizes 12 distinct areas of concern: poverty; education and training; health; violence; armed conflict; economy; power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms; human rights; media; environment; and the girl child. Despite many achievements in education and economic participation, 20 years after its adoption, women and girls still make up 70% of the world’s extreme poor. In many countries, women are still carrying out most of the unpaid work, care and chores, and are restricted to lower-skilled and lower-paid jobs, limiting their ability to participate in and benefit from industrial development and economic growth. Gender equality and women’s empowerment are central to UNIDO’s work as it is not only a matter of human rights, but also a precondition for sustainable development and economic growth, which are drivers of poverty reduction and social integration. When women and men are more equal, economies grow faster, more people are lifted out of poverty and the overall well-being of societies is enhanced. Central to UNIDO’s mission of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) is the urgent need to harness the economic potential of women – half of the world’s population. Women are powerful drivers of ISID and their role is poised to be even greater in the future.
Click here to read a statement by UNIDO’s Director-General LI Yong on the occasion of this year’s IWD

For further information on the IWD please check:
http://www.unwomen.org/~/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/pfa_e_final_web.pdf

**New Guides on Gender Mainstreaming ISID Projects**

The UNIDO Gender Team, in close cooperation with the respective PTC Branches, have developed theme-specific guides on Gender Mainstreaming Projects in the context of ISID. The guides aim at supporting all UNIDO staff, as well as national and local counterparts, agencies, international and private-sector partners and individual experts, in applying a gender perspective to their work and in mainstreaming gender at each stage of the project cycle. They provide a general background of gender concepts and the gender dimensions, as well as a step-by-step roadmap of gender mainstreaming in the different stages of the project cycle. Specific tools, checklists, and templates to facilitate the work of project managers and their teams have been elaborated, such as a gender categorization tool, a gender mainstreaming checklist, a model gender charter, template terms of references for gender experts, theme-specific gender analysis questions, a template ethical code of conduct, a checklist for gender-responsive training, as well as a guide on integrating gender into evaluations of programmes and projects. In addition, the guides comprise theme-specific logical frameworks with potential gender-relevant outputs and indicators.

The following guides are now available:

- Guide on Gender Mainstreaming [Energy and Climate Change](#) Projects
- Guide on Gender Mainstreaming [Agribusiness Development](#) Projects
- Guide on Gender Mainstreaming [Environmental Management](#) Projects
- Guide on Gender Mainstreaming [Montreal Protocol](#) Projects
- Guide on Gender Mainstreaming [Trade Capacity Building](#) Projects.

Another guide on Gender Mainstreaming Business, Investment and Technology Projects is currently under development and will be made available in April 2015.
New Gender Mainstreaming Intranet page and OpenText platform

To further support UNIDO staff in effectively applying a gender perspective to their work, the Gender Team is pleased to announce a newly designed Gender Mainstreaming Intranet page as well as a Gender Mainstreaming platform within UNIDO’s knowledge management system.

The pages provide the following information:

- **General information** on gender mainstreaming and gender equality at UNIDO
- **Gender policies**, such as the UNIDO Policy on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, UN System-wide Gender Policies and UN System-Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP)
- **Gender-relevant UNIDO publications**, the most recent being “Empowering Women – Empowering Humanity: UNIDO and the Beijing Platform for Action”
- **UNIDO Gender Newsletters**
- **Factsheets** of gender-focused UNIDO projects
- **UNIDO’s theme-specific guides on Gender Mainstreaming ISID Projects**
- A comprehensive collection of gender mainstreaming reference materials from other organizations, in particular relating to UNIDO’s thematic priority areas
- A [Country Database](http://www.unido.org/en/resources/publications/flagship-publications/international-yearbook-of-industrial-statistics.html) which provides gender information per country and can be useful for project teams, e.g. at the project identification and formulation phase
- **Gender Assessment of UNIDO Publications Report** providing general suggestions on how to ensure that UNIDO publications and advocacy material adequately use and promote gender analysis, sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive language

A number of documents and materials such as information on UNIDO’s work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, all gender-relevant UNIDO publications, including the guides on gender mainstreaming ISID projects, gender-related project factsheets, as well as the UNIDO Gender Newsletter, are also available on the gender pages on the UNIDO website.

Gender gap data in UNIDO’s International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics

For the first time, this year’s International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, includes data on the existing gender gap in manufacturing employment. Table 1.10 presents the share of female employees in total employment in individual divisions. The statistics show that, in developing countries, the share of female employees is much lower, except for sectors such as the production of apparel and footwear. Still only a limited number of economies are collecting and reporting data on female employment at the division level. Let us hope that the International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics 2015 will serve as an incentive for other economies to contribute in the future.

For further information please check:

Close the GAP!

Empowering Women - Empowering Humanity:
UNIDO and the Beijing Platform for Action

UNWOMEN website on International Women’s Day 2015

The Beijing Platform for Action Turns 20

Infographic: Educated women & girls = Empowered societies

Spread the word on Twitter!

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Best wishes from the Gender Team: Nilgun Tas, Theresa Tomaschitz, Clara Pfannkuch

For any comments, further information or contributions, please contact: gender@unido.org