Dear Reader, this issue of UNIDO Gender Newsletter will focus on the role of women in the new post-2015 development agenda. In this connection we are proud to present an interview with UNIDO’s Representative in New York, Paul Maseli, who is following and contributing to many of the processes leading up to the UN Member States arriving at a new development framework following the target date for the MDGs in 2015. We wish you all a good reading!


GMSC: How will the post-2015 framework differentiate itself from the MDGs in terms of gender equality and industrial development?

Paul Maseli: The intergovernmental discussions on the post-2015 framework to this point indicate a trend that is different from that of the MDGs. More focus is being placed on gender mainstreaming in the economic dimension of sustainable development. For example, in the last “tweaked” document of the OWG Co-Chairs suggested subareas under FA5 that emphasized “ensuring equal access to education at all levels” but also “ensuring equal employment opportunity for women and equal pay for equal work.” Similarly, FA9 “Industrialization” had subareas on “encouraging industrial entrepreneurship and enterprise formation” and “enhancing science and math, engineering and technical skills.” This signals that closer inter-linkage is being drawn between gender equality and industrial development than in the past. The increased emphasis of the economic dimension will lead to more empowerment of women as “economic agents”

GMSC: How do you see gender equality being reflected in the economic-, social- and environmental scope of the post-2015 framework?

Paul Maseli: Many Member States expressed strong support for prioritizing gender equality and women empowerment in the discussions on potential SDGs. Numerous calls for a stand-alone goal on the issue have also been made. There is no question about the issue gaining increasing attention as a cross-cutting area that has inter-linkages to all other development priorities. Nevertheless, for the same reason it is unclear how the issue will be reflected in the SDGs. There are also many Member States that think because of its cross-cutting nature, the issue should be embedded as a target under each SDG. In sum, while gender equality and women’s empowerment issue could be upheld as a one of the SDGs in the post-2015 framework, the possibility of it becoming a cross-cutting target under other SDGs remains.

GMSC: What does the UNIDO New York Office do to ensure that the post-2015 agenda will recog-
nize women as agents of change in inclusive and sustainable industrial development?

Paul Maseli: UNIDO NYK has participated in the past two sessions of Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANGWE) held in NY. During these sessions that discussed the post-2015 agenda, UNIDO NYK has highlighted the importance of women’s empowerment in the industrial sector, particular with regard to women entrepreneurship.

In addition, the issue brief on Sustained and Inclusive Economic Growth, Infrastructure Development, and Industrialization, in which UNIDO took the lead in producing for the Technical Support Team (TST) to OWG, made the case for framing a sustained economic growth goal that emphasizes inter alia increase in employment of women and policy interventions by governments at national level aimed at sharing care more equally between men and women, guaranteeing equitable access to education for all and addressing inequalities and the specific needs of women. UNIDO NYK has also provided inputs under Focus Area 5 “Gender equality and women’s empowerment” to the TST. They include a target on ensuring “elimination of inequalities in formal employment and wages between men and women,” “equal access to vocational training and industrial skills,” and “equal access to education at all levels.”

GMSC: The participatory approach of the post-2015 agenda has involved member states and stakeholders from the civil society. How have the stakeholders from the civil society approached the issues of gender equality and industrial development?

Paul Maseli: In general, those stakeholders have confirmed the linkage between gender equality and economic growth overall. There has been a particular emphasis on the importance of promoting entrepreneurship and fostering the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). In this context, some European Member States have underscored that this should be implemented in conjunction with gender equality, to ensure that female entrepreneurs get the adequate support needed.

Outcomes of the 58th Commission on the Status of Women 10 - 21 March

Two weeks of consultations ended with a strong call to prioritize gender equality and the human rights of women as a stand-alone goal in the set of post-2015 development goals, and to increase the acceleration of progress towards reaching the MDGs in order to achieve sustainable development. Notably, the agreement accentuated that gender equality must underpin all other goals. Reflecting on the MDGs, it was recognized that the new development framework needs to have a stronger focus on women’s access to decent work, the gender wage gap, employment in the informal sector, control and ownership of productive assets, and women’s participation in public- and private-sector decision-making to overcome the structural barriers to gender equality.

In the light of this, the emerging issue of the 58th CSW, “Women’s access to productive resources”, stressed the need for a broad conception of rights and practices to enhance women’s economic empowerment.
A s part of the global conversation on the post-2015 agenda, “The World We Want” has gathered the voices from governments, civil society, international institutions and the private sector into a vibrant discussion about the next steps of development. Crowding voices from all corners of the world, the consultations from this participatory forum, will be reflected by the UN and the world leaders for the consultations in post-2015 agenda. Through creative online and offline methods the global survey MYWorld.org gives individuals the opportunity to choose six of sixteen possible issues they think would make the most difference to their lives. Currently the segment “Equality between men and women” is ranked as number 8. Join the consultations and select your priorities for the better World We Want.

GMSC’s Recruitment Skills Training 14th April - 9th May

The Gender Mainstreaming Steering Committee (GMSC) in cooperation with the Human Resources Branch (HRM) offers hiring managers of UNIDO a Competency-based Recruitment Skills Training. The training will enable you to learn, refresh and practice state-of-the art competency-based recruitment skills. Special attention will be paid to diversity (gender and geographical representation) considerations in UNIDO’s recruitment activity. In addition, the training will give you the opportunity to observe and receive feedback on your own recruitment skills through practical exercises. The trainings are open for all hiring managers of UNIDO until the 9th of May. Book your place here!

Close the Gaps! - Facts and Figures

- Companies with the greatest representation of women in management positions turn a 34% higher profit
- If women farmers had the same access to tools and credit, there would be up to 150 million fewer hungry people
- If women’s paid employment rates were raised to the same level as men’s; the eurozone’s GDP would be 13 percent higher
- Investment in girls education may well be the highest return investment available in the developing world
- OECD ODA for gender equality has tripled in 2006 compared with 2002, going up from US$2.5 billion to US$7.2 billion

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