



Press Release

For immediate release

Date: 8 July 2015

Media Inquiries

In New York, Oisika Chakrabarti, +1 646 781-4522;
E-mail: oisika.chakrabarti[at]unwomen.org
In Addis Ababa, Monika Bihlmaier, +251941615108,
E-mail: monika.bihlmaier[at]unwomen.org

Transformative Financing Will End Gender Inequality by 2030

UN Women calls for dedicated resources to deliver on commitments

New York/Addis Ababa — On the eve of the Third International [Conference on Financing for Development](#), UN Women is calling for transformative financing to end gender inequality by 2030. High ambition, backed by stepped-up action to make the right investments, puts that goal within reach for all women and girls.

The Financing for Development conference, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13-16 July 2015, will bring together high-level officials from across the world to agree on a set of far-reaching commitments to finance sustainable development, including those linked to official development assistance, trade, debt, taxation and technology, among other issues. The meeting provides a critical opportunity to ensure the centrality of gender equality in the mobilization and allocation of all sources of financing, public and private, domestic and international.

Studies show women everywhere need dedicated and consistent investment and resources. To implement gender equality objectives of the post-2015 development agenda, political will and commitment to unprecedented levels of financing – in scale, scope, and quality— and from all sources, are needed.

“We have an enormous opportunity,” says Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director. “As we look towards the new development agenda, it is clear that its sustainability will be strongest, and most enduring when it is based on equal, financially resilient, and inclusive communities. We have to act now to vastly increase financing, from all sources and at all levels, in line with women’s rights. Now is the time for governments to put gender equality and women’s empowerment at the heart of all discussions, all agreements.”

Financing for Development is considered one of three global events in 2015 that could transform the course of development over the next 15 years, and as the first

in the series, is expected to set the tone for the other two. They include a September summit to agree on a post-2015 sustainable development agenda and a December summit with an anticipated new deal on climate change.

For decades, chronic underinvestment in women's empowerment has hampered progress on women's rights and gender equality. Conducted by UN Women, a recent [review of progress](#) on implementation of the landmark 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, endorsed at the Fourth World Conference on Women, found advances towards gender equality have been slow and inconsistent, often attributable to financing gaps. In some countries, these gaps are as high as 90 per cent.

Earlier in 2015, this financing shortfall was recognized by UN Member States at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, resulting in a Political Declaration pledging to close the gap. The Addis conference, therefore, can be the first major step to move this agenda forward.

Beyond increasing the amount of financing, including through official development assistance and domestic resources such as taxation, countries need to adopt public policies that address the root causes and consequences of gender inequality and discrimination in all areas of life. In this regard, women must participate fully in decision-making at all levels, and action should be taken to mainstream gender in national planning and budgeting processes.

Furthermore, the private sector must uphold the human rights of women and be held accountable for contributing to progress, such as by empowering women in the workplace. Women's organizations, integral to the long struggle for equality and having built a cohesive, inclusive movement for gender equality, must also receive significantly more funding to perform their advocacy and mobilization roles.

During the Addis Conference UN Women will join UN Member States to launch the [Addis Ababa Action Plan on Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment](#). This Plan aims to outline key policy and financing priorities to translate the pledges in the Addis Ababa Accord and Action Agenda into prioritized, well-resourced actions for meeting new and existing commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment to in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

With the World Bank Group President, Jim Yong Kim, and the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UN Women will host a side event called "Financing for Gender Equality—Results and Good Practices." It will engage ministers, civil society and business representatives to champion high-impact financing success stories. UN Women is also supporting an event hosted by the Ethiopian government on African women's role in the sustainable development goals.

Fostering the active role of civil society in the financing for development processes, UN Women has been collaborating with women's groups and civil

society organizations from the global South, so that their priorities can be reflected in the outcomes of the Addis Conference. Before the conference opens, UN Women is supporting the Women's Forum and the Civil Society Forum to mobilize advocates to continually press for action on gender equality. UN Women's participation in official proceedings and the Business Forum will stress key messages such as the urgent need to close the funding gap to make post-2015 gender goal a reality.

More information on UN Women events and participation at the Conference, click [here](#).

- Learn more: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/financing-for-gender-equality>
- Follow the conversation on Twitter @UN_Women, #FFgenderequality, #FFD3
- To attend or cover UN Women events at the Financing for Development Conference, media must be accredited. Media Accreditation details available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/news-media/media-accreditation.html>
- Interviews with senior officials are available, please contact media contacts listed.

[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. For more information, visit www.unwomen.org. UN Women, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, New York. Tel: +1 646 781-4400. Fax: +1 646 781-4496.