Media Advisory

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Announcement of UN Women Executive Director’s first visit to Hanoi, Viet Nam

Ha Noi – Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director will begin her first official visit in Viet Nam as the first country in Southeast Asia from 29-31 March 2014 after being sworn in August 2013.

During her three-day visit in Hanoi, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka will engage in dialogues with governmental, non-governmental and development partners on the status of women and gender equality in Viet Nam; the role and programme of UN Women at the global level and in the country.

High-level dialogues will include:

- Viet Nam’s achievements and challenges in promoting gender equality;
- Violence against women and girls in Viet Nam and the role of youth in preventing/responding to violence against women and girls;
- Economic empowerment of women and focus on migrant workers empowerment and social protection services; and
- Reaffirmation of UN Women commitment to support Viet Nam on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Enclosure: Meeting Highlights, Biographical sketch of Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

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. www.unwomen.org; http://asiapacific.unwomen.org
Meeting Highlights

1. UN Women Executive Director will have high-level meetings with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister of Foreign Affairs Pham Binh Minh and Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Pham Thi Hai Chuyen to discuss the Government’s efforts to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment, and encourage continuing attention to reducing the gender gap through adequate resource allocations; to reiterate UN Women’s commitment to support the government implement its commitment to gender equality; and to seek support for a transformative single goal on Gender Equality in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

2. UN Women Executive Director’s visit includes a dialogue with secondary students in Chu Van An school on safe schools and the role of youth in preventing violence against women and girls. This is an opportunity to engage with young people and teachers to highlight the importance of school-based approaches that reaffirm the values of gender equality, respect, care and youth participation which are central to ending violence against women and girls.

3. UN Women Executive Director will have a discussion with migrant workers in Long Bien market to listen to their difficulties and concerns. She will present the commitment from UN Women to support gender equality and women empowerment in migration and call for actions to support men and women migrants for better access to basic social protection services.

4. UN Women Executive Director will also deliver a key note address at the Policy Dialogue on “Increasing Inclusion of Women and Girls in the Social Protection System: A Development Priority”. There she will engage with high-ranking Government officials including Madame Pham Thi Hai Chuyen, Minister of Ministry of Labour – Invalids and Social Affairs, civil society organizations, international organizations and gender experts.

Note: UN Women Executive Director will give interviews to invited reporters on 31 March 2014 in Hanoi.

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Biographical Sketch

Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was sworn in as Executive Director of UN Women by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at 8:45 am on 19 August 2013. Photo: UN Photo/Evan Schneider

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. She was sworn into office on 19 August 2013 and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position, having devoted her career to issues of human rights, equality and social justice. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka has worked in government, private sector and civil society and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa.

From 2005 to 2008, she served as Deputy President of South Africa, overseeing programmes to combat poverty and bring the advantages of a growing economy to the poor, with a particular focus on women. Prior to this, she served as Minister of Minerals and Energy from 1999 to 2005 and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry from 1996 to 1999. She was a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 1996 as part of South Africa’s first democratic government.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka began her career as a teacher and gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA in Geneva, where she established a global programme for young women. She is the founder of the Umlambo Foundation, which supports leadership and education. A longtime champion of women’s rights, she is affiliated with several organizations devoted to education, women’s empowerment and gender equality.

She has completed her PhD on education and technology at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom.

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