

# WOMEN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD)



STATEMENT BY PHUMZILE

DIRECTOR, UN WOMEN FOR

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S

ural and Urban Activists

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Executive Director of UN

a provision that allowed ranists to escane

rights defenders who have even lost their

The feminist movement must continue

highlighting the dilemma so many face of

reconciling income with care-for which

policy change and action is so needed.

lives for their cause.

Transforming Women's Lives

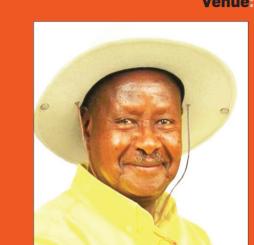
MLAMBO-NGCUKA. UN

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE

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TIME IS NOW:





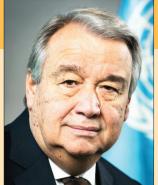
and look forward to: we shall today. the 8th of March 2018, commemorate International Women's Day (IWD). This progress made towards women's full and equal ourselves to further actions towards attainment of these goals.

Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives" presents an opportunity to shore up the global movement for women's rights, equality and justice. At country level, the theme chosen for this year's commemoration **Opportunities and Challenges**".

This theme recognizes the fact that although all women living in either the rural and urban face similar challenges, rural communities have unique needs that require special attention. According to the National Population and Housing Census Analytical Report 2017 76 population live in rural areas

a majority (82%) of these households residing





Antonio Gutteres UN General

e are at a pivotal moment for women's rights. The historical and structural inequalities that have allowed oppression and discrimination to flourish are being exposed like never before From Latin America to Europe to Asia, on social media, on film sets, on the factory floor and in the streets, women are calling for lasting change and zero tolerance for sexual assault, harassment, and discrimination of all kinds.

Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world. The activism and advocacy of generations of women has borne fruit. There are more girls in school than ever before; more women are doing paid work and in senior roles in the private sector, academia, politics and

Ms. Anna Mutavati

UN Women Deputy Country Representative

world is focusing on rural women

and girls within the context of 2030 agenda

of leaving no one behind. Women and girls

households and communities improving

Rural women have extensive knowledge

management, which bring additional

also play a significant role in protecting

overlooked

Uganda commemorates

International Women's Day, the

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is 23 per cent, rising to 40 per cent in rural women ages unrecognized. Women's representation in national parliaments girls will be subjected to genital mutilation over the next decade.

> public spaces and private homes, in norms. countries that pride themselves on their record of gender equality.

the United Nations. Gender equality is at UN headquarters, in our peacekeeping will focus resources on eliminating violence missions and in all our offices worldwide. against women and girls, a prerequisite for

ANTONIO GUTERRES UN SECRETARY-GENERAL | New York, 8

child marriage have been outlawed in many We have now reached gender parity for the first time in my senior management Let me be clear: this is not a favour to if we are to address the historic power team, and I am determined to achieve women. Gender equality is a human rights imbalances that underpin discrimination this throughout the organization I am issue but it is also in all our interests: totally committed to zero tolerance of men and boys, women and girls, Gender sexual harassment and have set out plans inequality and discrimination against More than a billion women around the to improve reporting and accountability. world lack legal protection against domestic We are working closely with countries sexual violence. The global gender pay gap around the world to prevent and address There is ample evidence that investing sexual exploitation and abuse by staff in in women is the most effective way to areas, and the unpaid work done by many peacekeeping missions, and to support lift communities, companies, and even victims

guarter, and in boardrooms it is even lower. women around the world as they fight Where women face discrimination, we Without concerted action, millions more to overcome the injustices they face - often find practices and beliefs that are whether they are rural women dealing detrimental to all. Paternity leave, laws with wage discrimination, urban women against domestic violence and equal pay organizing for change, women refugees at legislation benefit everyone. At this crucial Where laws exist, they are often ignored, risk of exploitation and abuse, or women moment for women's rights, it is time for and women who pursue legal redress are who experience intersecting forms of men to stand with women, listen to them doubted, denigrated and dismissed. We discrimination: widows, indigenous and learn from them. Transparency and now know that sexual harassment and women, women with disabilities and accountability are essential if women are abuse have been thriving in workplaces, women who do not conform to gender to reach their full potential and lift all of

Women's empowerment is at the heart The United Nations should set an example Development. Progress on the Sustainable and I hope it continues to resonate within for the world. I recognize that this has not Development Goals means progress for all **the United Nations and around the world**. always been the case. Since the start of my women, everywhere. The Spotlight initiative

n international organizations including tenure last year I have set change in motion launched jointly with the European Union equality and empowerment.

**March 2018** 

women harms us all.

countries. Women's participation makes peace agreements stronger, societies more stands, on average, at less than one We at the United Nations stand with resilient and economies more vigorous. us, in our communities, societies and economies.

of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable I am proud to be part of this movement

ate: Thursday, March 1, 2018 This year's theme captures the persecution if they married their victims. vibrant life of the women activists We acknowledge those who have taken this global push for gender equality.

What we see today is a remarkable gathering of strength among women all to increase the diversity and the number over the world, demonstrating the power opportunity and accountability, drawing the powerful new generation represented child marriage.

out to gain access to justice, such as stories are believed.

We commend the women who spoke out in the International Criminal Court where reform in countries such as Tunisia, to end

whose passion and commitment have to the streets in India to decry the murder won women's rights over the generations. and rape of young children, turning and successfully brought change. We protests into broader-based movements celebrate an unprecedented global that engage entire communities. We movement for women's rights, equality, honour the indigenous leaders who have safety and justice, recognizing the tireless stood up for their custodial rights to land work of activists who have been central to and traditional practices, and the human

of people working on gender equality, of speaking with one voice, as they call for bringing in individuals and groups-such as men and boys, young people and faithmomentum from grassroots networks based organizations-to support and and coalitions that stretch right up to shape the agenda, so young men and oovernment leadership. These movements boys learn to value and respect women grow from the work of multigenerational and girls and so men can change the activists—from the late feminist human way they behave. Today's activism needs rights leader Asma Jahangir of Pakistan, to to alter the way we listen to women and the way we look at them, recognizing the by young women like Jaha Dukureh of The power of stereotypes to influence how we Gambia, UN Women's Regional Goodwill value people, A movement of women that Ambassador for Africa on ending FGM and can address these issues is critical, but we also need a movement of male feminists.

Healthy societies have a wide mix of This has to be a tipping point; an end to voices and influences that provide the impunity and the silent suffering of women checks and balances, the differing threads in rural and urban areas, including women of experience and perspectives, and domestic workers. Today's activists must the debate that shapes good decision- empower those most likely to be left making. Where voices are missing, there behind, the majority of whom are women. is an important gap in the fabric of society. as our latest report. Turning Promises into When those quietened voices count in the Action reveals, Across all regions, women millions we know there is something are more likely to live in extreme poverty wrong with our world. Similarly, as we see than men. This gender gap is as high as and hear those voices rise in strength and 22 per cent for the 25 - 34 age groupsolidarity, we feel the power of something women's peak reproductive years, starkly right.

We salute those who have bravely spoken

those from the #MeToo movement, who UN Women has a special relationship in recent months have found their voice with the women's movement; we arose in social media in more than 85 countries from that activism. Civil society has had to expose those who have preyed on a historically crucial role in leading global the less powerful and shown how when action on gender equality by promoting women support one another, they help reform, highlighting the complexities of to overcome stigma and ensure that their the challenges facing women, influencing policies, participating in monitoring, and upholding accountability. We must deliberately create stronger support for women's political activism and a broader

their testimonies have held to account space for women's civil society voices those who used rape as a weapon of war. so that our efforts combine to target We celebrate activists who campaigned those who truly need change most. The for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, culture of gender-based poverty, abuse transgender and intersex people, and we and exploitation has to end with a new recognize those who advocated for legal generation of equality that lasts.

### STATEMENT BY UN WOMEN DEPUTY COUNTRY **REPRESENTATIVE ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018**

and free of toxic chemicals. In all of this, and a thriving role in the digital revolution. • Recognize, reduce and redistribute governments play a vital role: providing Being born a girl should not automatically women's burden of unpaid care and marketing.

provides 85% of the total exports for the better future for us all. country. Therefore, the dedication of this are central to the sustainability of rural role they play in the world.

targets for improvement of the agricultural long-term viability of farming resources to resilience against the study conducted in 2015 on the Cost of conditions are harsh. negative effects of climate change on rural the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity • Establishment of financial facilities and innovative agricultural methods, setting up and agricultural value chains, both as gender inequality gap is therefore catalyst boost agricultural productivity. and entrepreneurs. Women farmers can and national development.

methods that are environmentally friendly Information Communication technologies quality and quantity of production.

it-through government investments women in particular. in basic infrastructure and in time- and • Strengthened implementation of laws that Rural women contribute to most of the labor-saving technology. Only once these protect women and girls from all forms global food production, reaching as high as inequalities are purposefully levelled, will of violence, including prevention of child 80% in Africa and 60% in Asia. In Uganda, both women and girls, whether rural or marriage. Equally urgent are investments the agricultural sector employs over 72% urban, be able to take their place at the in nationwide programmes that engage of the total labour force, and of these, heart of the achievement of the Sustainable men and boys in changing harmful social over 80% are women. The sector further Development Goals, and the growth of a norms and attitudes that fuel gender

vear's International Women's Day to rural At UN Women we believe that investments improving rural women's access to women is quite befitting because of the key in the following areas can help in uplifting affordable and guality sexual and the status of rural women and girls:

rural livelihoods and overall wellbeing, Despite the impressive contribution to system that guarantees ownership of rural but their role and significance is often the agricultural industry by rural women, land by women as this would increase the Making the promise of the Sustainable

into consideration. For instance, women irrigation technology, including access recommended above. Elsewhere and and experience in food security and receive only 1% of agricultural credit, own to gender-responsive extension services indeed in some parts of Uganda, rural nutrition, land and natural resource only 2% of the agricultural land, and receive will enhance the agricultural productivity women and their organizations are on the only 5% of credit extension resources. A of rural women even when the climatic move to claim their rights and improve their

livelihoods. Through training and skills revealed that Uganda loses USD64 million products that are designed to suit rural successful businesses and acquiring new development, rural women and girls can in agricultural productivity because of women farmers' needs and conditions skills, pursuing their legal entitlements play a much greater role in food production prevailing gender inequalities. Bridging the would greatly enhance their resilience and and running for political positions. It is

are organically formed and take into Women and activists around the world to consideration rural women's needs. These seize the moment, celebrate, take action biodiversity through use of indigenous Rural girls have an equal right to their will facilitate women farmers' access to and transform women's lives everywhere. crops and agro-ecological farming urban peers to a good education, careers in genuine farm inputs and increase both

the social and physical infrastructure that lead to a future of unpaid caring for domestic work. In this regard, increased enables rural women's participation in family members. Addressing this requires investment in electricity, transport and sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural recognizing the importance of care work water infrastructure will reduce the burden production, processing, transport and as well as reducing the time spent on of unpaid work on families in general and

inequality and violence against women.

 Urgent investments are needed towards reproductive health services, including • There is a need to have a land tenure family planning and maternal health care

Development Goals a reality, to leave industry have sadly failed to take this reality • Investment in appropriate and affordable no one behind, needs urgent action as livelihoods and wellbeing. They are using possible and it can be done. Today and current and future agricultural workers for stimulating agricultural productivity • Revival of cooperative societies that every day, we urge everyone to join UN

The time is NOW







## **MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. 2018 Theme: "Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls: Opportunities and Challenges" Venue: Busuubizi Core Primary Teachers' College (PTC), Mityana District.

H.E.Yoweri Kaguta Muse President of the Republic of Uganda

The global theme for this year: "Time is



Hon. Janat .B. Mukwaya (Hajat) Minister of Gender, Labour & Social Developmen



Minister of State for Gender and Culture



retary Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

s all Ugandans have come to appreciate in rural areas. More rural households (90%) of land rights of women and children. They participate in agriculture compared to the urban households (46%).

is the Day that we dedicate to taking stock of the This evidence shows us that rural women and dignity as well as protection and promotion of the people whose activities yield economic their rights in all spheres of life as enshrined in production, care and support to families as our Constitution. On this Day we also recommit well as engaging in community management activities. They also fuel local and national economies through their contribution to agriculture and rural enterprises. A large proportion of them are involved in agricultural work either as unpaid or contributing family workers. Therefore, the empowerment of rural women and girls is not only central to the well-being of individuals, families and rural is "Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls: and inclusive development of the country.

> Government has put in place legal and policy frameworks as well as interventions in various sectors which have created an avenue for creating a favorable environment for women and girls to realize their rights and potential.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) as a cornerstone of all laws in Uganda percent of Ugandans are rural based and 24% provides for the protection and promotion of are urban dwellers. Hence the majority of the rights of women and girls in all spheres of women and girls who form 51% of the entire life. The Local Government Act 1997 provides for women's representation in decision making at all levels of governance. Because land is a One (1) in every 7 (seven) households obtain key factor of production. The Land Act, 2010 their livelihood from subsistence farming, with Cap 227 and Land Policy (2013) contain provisions for security of tenure and safeguard

Minister Janat Mukwava and other ministry officials inspect a UWEP-funded tree nursery women's project in Moroto Municipality during a monitoring exercise.

outlaw discrimination against women and children in respect of ownership, occupation and use of land, and Section 40, provides for mandatory consent before disposal, mortgaging girls in Uganda constitute a larger portion of or transferring of land where the family derives sustenance

Furthermore, the Public Finance Management Act (2015) provides for ring-fencing finance allocation for programmes for gender equality and empowerment of women. As a flagship Pogramme for women's economic empowerment, the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) managed by the Ministry of Gender. Labour and Social Development had by December 2017 disbursed communities, but also to overall socio-economic | a total of UGX 18,480,722,372 to finance 3,499 women projects across the country

### These projects have a total membership of 44,570 women directly benefiting from the funds

The Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) has financed a total of 13.107 projects supporting 163,130 beneficiaries, of whom 74,140 (45%) are female, By end of 2017, the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment of Elderly Persons (SAGE) programme had benefited 153,221 older persons of which 91,277 (60%) are female and 61 944 (40%) are males

Investment in health infrastructure across the country has improved accessibility of women to health facilities to obtain specialized services such as antenatal care, immunization, family planning, adolescent reproductive health services and HIV/AIDS care and counseling. Regarding water and sanitation. over 78% of the households accessed improved water sources in 2016/17, an increase from 68% in 2012/13. Seventy seven percent (77%) households in rural areas had access to improved water sources compared to 80% in urban areas. Policies that support girls' education such as the Universal Primary Education (UPE), the Universal Secondary Education (USE) and the Gender in Education Policy have led to increased literacy rates, enrollment ratios in primary and secondary schools as well as attainment. Despite these milestones, there still exit challenges and gaps to be filled.

Women and girls in the rural areas comprise the majority of people living in poverty and



Minister Janat Mukwaya with a YLP-funded youth group that produces soap

experience multi-dimensional inequalities, still high among women and particularly young Rural women face challenges in terms of access ealth care and education, financing and technologies for climate resilience. They also face disadvantages and exclusion rooted in the power inequalities associated with gender roles.

productive and reproductive roles within their security. families and communities. Much of their labour - Prevent and respond to any kind of violence remains unpaid and unrecognized, including against women and girls. their disproportionate share of unpaid care and - Scale up use of modern ICT tools among girls spend more time and effort in collecting of critical information. education and income-generating opportunities. There are still some customary, traditional - Eliminate negative cultural practices that and religious practices which discriminate against women and girls and undermine the full mplementation of some laws. Negative cultural practices like child and forced marriages teenage pregnancies. Female Genital Mutilation continue to affect the girl-child. In spite of the existence of laws on children, awareness of these laws among people in communities is still ninimal

Gender inequalities that constrain women's decision-making power and participation in their households and their communities still exist and evidence shows that despite the progress made in tackling HIV and AIDS, prevalence is

women. Appreciation goes to all stakeholders to productive resources such as owning land, for their contribution to the process of women's accessing agricultural inputs, water, transport, empowerment and call on you to keep up the momentum

### As we commemorate this day, let us not forget to front and escalate those actions that bring more opportunities to rural women and girls. narticularly:

- Rural women and girls continue to face serious Extension of financial services, creating challenges in carrying out their multiple employment opportunities and ensuring land
- domestic work. For example, rural women and women. They play an effective role in exchange
- water and fuel, which compromise their Boost water, sanitation and healthcare services in rural areas, and lastly,
  - promote violence against women and girls such as child-marriages, teenage pregnancies, Female Genital Mutilation, unfair distribution of property and other forms of gender-based violence

Wishing you all fruitful celebrations.

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