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(w. report)*

Dear Colleague,

✓ I am pleased to share with you UN Women's illustrated Annual Report for 2014-2015. The report highlights key results achieved by UN Women in strengthening global norms and standards, increasing women's leadership and political participation, enhancing economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, engaging women in all aspects of peace, security and humanitarian action, and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting.

The year 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which remains a defining blueprint for women's empowerment. A global review of implementation, with a record submission of 167 national reports, has shown that enormous gaps remain to fulfill promises outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action.

We have been a strong advocate for putting women and girls at the centre of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, including through a stand-alone gender equality goal, and we will stand behind its implementation. UN Women will continue to strive to accelerate progress for women and girls worldwide in order to achieve "Planet 50:50 by 2030".

✓ UN Women cannot work alone – true progress on gender equality and women's empowerment requires the joint efforts of all our partners. I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude for your crucial support and commitment, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to make gender equality a lived reality.

Please accept, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Phumile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director

Ms. Susana Malcorra
Under-Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York

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