Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to share with you UN Women’s illustrated Annual Report for 2013/2014, showcasing our initiatives on gender equality and women’s empowerment around the world.

The report highlights UN Women’s work with governments, civil society and UN partners to increase women’s political leadership, enhance economic empowerment, end violence against women, engage women in all aspects of peace and security, and make gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting.

In 2013, UN Women consolidated its position as a global leader for gender equality and the empowerment of women. We strengthened key norms and standards, increased UN coordination, and delivered results for women and girls around the world, focusing on strategic priorities that make a real difference.

Looking ahead, we know that investing in women and girls will be critical to the post-2015 development agenda. As 2015 will also mark the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, we have launched a campaign to galvanize social and political mobilization to accelerate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a comprehensive blueprint for gender equality that can inform debate on the post-2015 agenda.

Mr. Jan Eliasson
Deputy Secretary-General
New York
UN Women can’t 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 continue working with you to make gender equality a lived reality.

Yours sincerely,

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Under-Secretary General and Executive Director