

International Women's Day
UN Ghana Press Release / Statement

08 March 2016

Women and girls account for more than half of the world's population. It is therefore not surprising that the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, adopted in September 2015 by over 190 Member States of the United Nations, position women and girls at the centre of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that make up Agenda 2030.

As we commemorate International Women's Day 2016, with the theme "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it up for Gender Equality" we are reminded to find innovative ways to accelerate the 2030 Agenda and build momentum for the effective implementation of the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda, among others, calls on member countries to ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality education, end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere and eliminate all harmful practices, such as child-, early- and forced marriage.

In Ghana, the United Nations family's message is "Leaving no woman in Ghana behind".

The United Nations in Ghana thus calls on government and development partners and all of us to work together to ensure the inclusion of all underserved groups, including women and girls, in our development agenda, and for the effective implementation of the SDGs if we are to achieve the 2030 Agenda to end extreme poverty in all its forms, protect the planet, and ensure access to justice for all

"If we have to step it up for gender equality and make headway to achieve the 2030 Agenda, we must pay attention to underserved women" says Ms. Christine Evans-Klock, the UN Resident Coordinator. "We are talking about women with disabilities, vulnerable groups of girls and women, such as Kayaye, preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, investing in our youth, especially girls, to make sure they are in school and remain in school. We are talking about improving the productivity of women who toil the soil to grow what we eat and we are talking about ending child marriage" she added.

As we commemorate the International Women's Day today, we call on all policy makers to make sure no one is left behind by drawing up plans that include everyone and ensuring that there are adequate human and financial resources to put those plans into action and monitor their impact. A review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action last year indicates that there has been a critical gap between those who draw up the commitments and those who carry them out.

This is the time to move commitment into action, this is the time for gender equality.



Christine Evans-Klock
UN Resident Coordinator for Ghana