

SCHOOL OF WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

Concept Note

National launch of the *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights* report

Venue: Serena Hotel, Kampala on Friday June 19, 2015. Time: 8.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Introduction: The School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University (SWGS)

SWGS is one of the iconic institutions shaped around building gender analytical capacities through unique gender-focused and feminist methodologies of teaching, research, and policy engagement. It is the leading institution in sub-Saharan Africa in advancing research on women and gender relations geared towards building knowledge and skills necessary for informing equitable development and narrowing social inequalities. The School, born out the women's movement struggles and draws its mandate from the government of Uganda's commitment to address gender inequalities and promote equitable and sustainable development of the country.

Established in 1991, the school has a fully equipped research facility and infrastructure with highly distinguished researchers who are recognised globally. It is well known as the base for intellectual discussions and exchange of knowledge to a very wide audience. The report informs a great part of the curriculum and will guide future course reviews and in the design of new courses that are best geared towards the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The school will perform the following roles:

1. Prepare an annotated agenda for the launching ceremony
2. Identify renowned individuals from academia, government and civil society
3. Identify a moderator for the event
4. Prepare a fact sheet on Uganda
5. Provide end product of a report on action points from the launch
6. Assist in identifying guests from the academia, research institutions, MDAs and CSOs.
7. Coordinate the event with UN Women PWW Team.

Background: UN Women's report on the *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights* report

UN Women has released a major report, *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights*, which brings together human rights and economic

policymaking to call for far-reaching changes to the global policy agenda that will transform economies and make women's rights and equality, a reality. It takes an in-depth look at what the economy would look like if it truly worked for women, for the benefit of all.

Progress makes the case that the alternative economic agenda it outlines would not only create fairer societies, it would also create new sectors of employment, for instance in the care economy.

The report is being published as the international community comes together to define a transformative new agenda for sustainable development, 20 years after the landmark Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, which set out an ambitious agenda to advance gender equality.

Since the Beijing Conference, significant advances have been made by many societies, particularly in advancing women's legal rights. However, as *Progress* shows, in an era of unprecedented global wealth, millions of women are still consigned to work in low paid, poor quality jobs, denied even basic levels of health care, without access to clean water and decent sanitation.

Globally, only half of women participate in the labour force, compared to three quarters of men. In developing regions, up to 95 per cent of women's employment is informal, in jobs that are unprotected by labour laws and lack social protection.

Women still carry the burden of unpaid care work, which austerity policies and cutbacks have only intensified. To build fairer, more sustainable economies which work for women and men, a future comprising more of the same will no longer do.

Through solid, in-depth analysis and data, this evidence-based report provides ten key recommendations for actions that governments and others can take in order to move towards an economy that truly works for women, to the benefit of all.

Progress sets out a vision of a global economy fit for women, where they have equal access to productive resources and social protection, which provides them with sufficient income to support an adequate standard of living. In such an economy, the work that women do would be respected and valued; stereotypes about what women and men can and should do would be eliminated; and women would be able to work and live their lives free from violence and sexual harassment.

In its key recommendations, *Progress* underlines that with the right mix of economic and social policies, governments can generate decent jobs for women (and men) and ensure that the unpaid care work that goes into sustaining all economies is recognized and supported. Well-designed social services (e.g. health, care services) and social protection measures (e.g. pensions) can enhance women's income security, from birth to old age, and enhance their capacity to seize economic opportunities and expand their life options.

Macroeconomic policies can and should support the realization of women's rights, by creating dynamic and stable economies, by generating decent work and by mobilizing resources to finance vital public services. Governments need to go beyond the old metrics of GDP growth and low inflation, and instead measure success in terms of the realization of human rights.

The changes proposed in the report will not only make the economy work for women, but also benefit the majority of men for whom the economy is not working either. The report argues that progress for women is progress for all.

The report was launched in seven locations globally on 27 April – London, New York, Mexico City, Nairobi, Bangkok, Alexandria and Sydney. In the Eastern and Southern Africa region, UN Women hosted a launch at the Serena Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya with Madame Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

The Executive Director of UN Women, Dr Phumzile Mlabo-Ngcuka has advised UN Women Country Offices to hold dissemination events with key stakeholders in government, development partners, UN, CSOs, private sector and academia. UN Women Uganda Country Office will hold an breakfast meeting to disseminate the report on 27 or 28 May.

To read the full report, visit: <http://progress.unwomen.org/>

Rationale

The rationale for this event is to launch the report in Uganda, to give the report publicity in Uganda, and to discuss how the report relates to Uganda.

Begoña Lasagabaster, the Director of the Policy Division of UN Women, has called on UN Women Country Offices to “identify ways to use the report to engage and influence policymakers, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector through a variety of activities” as the messages of the report have relevance for all UN Women activities over the next two years.

Objectives of the event

1. To launch and disseminate the *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights* report in Uganda.
2. To raise the profile of the *Progress* report in Uganda
3. To raise the profile of UN Women Uganda as knowledge broker and lead expert on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
4. To discuss how the report relates to the Uganda country context and the post-2015 development agenda and in the lead up to the funding for development conference in Addis in July

Targeted participants

A total of 100 participants are targeted including UN Heads of Agencies (10), Ambassadors/Heads of development corporations (10), donors (10), development funding partners (10), media (10), key government ministries (5), female parliamentarians (5) academia (5), women entrepreneurs (5), NGOs (10), CSOs (10) and UNCG and UN Convergence Group on Gender (10).

Proposed programme of the event

Overall Facilitator: **Prof. Grace Bantebya-Kyomuhendo**

Time	Topic	Responsible
7.50 a.m.	Registration	UN Women

8:00 a.m.	Welcome remarks by Hodan Addou, UN Women Country Representative	PWW Team
8:15 a.m.	Introduction of the report by Ms. Christine Musisi Regional Director, UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa.	<i>PWW Team</i>
8.30 a.m.	Panel discussion by: -Dr. Sarah Sewanyana, Economic Policy research Centre; Ms. Margaret Kakande MoFPED & Mr.	Makerere University, SWGS
9:45 a.m.	Plenary discussions	Makerere University, SWGS
10:05 a.m.	Address by Prof. Josephine Ahikire Dean of School of Gender and Women's Studies	Makerere University, SWGS
10.20 a.m.	Launch of the report by Hon Mururi Mukasa by Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development.	PWW Team
10.30 a.m.	Departure	

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