



**Remarks by Hodan Addou at the Closing Ceremony and Award of Certificates of  
the SWGS- Isis-WICCE outreach Training Programme**

**30 September 2015**

**School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University**

**Salutations:**

Josephine Akihire, the Dean, School of Women and Gender Studies

Ruth Ochieng, Executive Director, Isis-WICCE

Staff of Isis-WICCE and School of Women and Gender Studies

Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon,

It is a great honor and pleasure for UN Women to be associated with the Gender and Feminist Theory Skills Enhancement Training Programme. I would like to congratulate the School of Women and Gender Studies and Isis- WICCE for this much needed training program that invests in a cadre of the feminist experts and professionals. I would also like to congratulate Isis-WICCE staff for completing the training successfully and encourage you for your continued commitment to gender equality and women's rights.

The conclusion of this gender and feminist theory capacity building programme coincides with the historic adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals by world leaders in New York.

The Sustainable Development Goals set bold and transformative gender equality targets under goal 5 and the process of localizing of SDGs has already started. But we also need to keep the focus on women as key actors for achieving each of the 17 new Sustainable Development Goals. The new sustainable development agenda offers a real opportunity to drive lasting change for women's rights and equality, and to bring universal, comprehensive and transformative change in women's and men's lives.

The choice of indicators to monitor the implementation of the SDGs is of critical importance and can to a large extent determine whether policy efforts are channeled adequately and the 17 goals and 167 targets are achieved or missed. Choosing the appropriate indicators and thorough and effective monitoring of progress on gender equality across all goals will be important to ensure that women and girls are benefiting implementation. It is therefore crucial that institutions such as School of Women and Gender Studies and other women's organizations work closely with various departments, agencies, line ministries in government, in particular the UBOS, National Planning Authority, Ministries of Finance and Gender to recommend measureable indicators to effectively monitor how the SGDs are implemented for women and girls.

The ambition of the 2030 Agenda must be matched with an equally ambitious level of investment with transformative financing commitments, including dedicated funding for women's-rights organizations and institutions. This can only

happen if governments, donors and private sector increase budget allocations to gender equality programmes and realize all policy commitments. We need to strengthen our collective efforts to hold the governments, development partners and private sector accountable to commitments made at international, regional and national levels, using knowledge and feminist analysis to inform planning and advocacy.

At UN Women we expect School of Women and Gender Studies in strong partnership with organizations such as Isis-WICCE to work closely with the Ministry of Gender, UBOS, NPA and others in monitoring the implementation of SDGs and participating in national dialogues and accountability mechanisms. We shall continue to work with you to advocate for implementation of commitments stipulated in national planning frameworks.

The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the General Assembly coincides with several milestones, including the 20 – year anniversary review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the High – level Review and Global Study for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and Global Climate Talks in December. In all of these processes, governments, civil society and private sector acknowledged the key role of gender equality in sustainable development, and agreed on the need to increase financing in this regard.

Furthermore, this past Sunday, over 80 world leaders made concrete commitments and firm pledges to overcome gender equality gaps at a historic event co-hosted by UN Women and the People's Republic of China.

As we celebrate the significant progress made, we must also be self-critical and take active steps to not just get caught up in the memories, but to take the difficult next steps and leverage the achievements toward action on translating commitments to accomplishments.

At UN Women we recognize the key role played by civil society and the academia in advancing gender equality and we shall continue to work with you to achieve this goal. We count on civil society to continue reminding us of the need to challenge deep structural barriers that continue to impede progress for women and girls. At last Sunday's global leader's meeting in New York, civil society representatives sent messages of hope for change, they made a strong call for time-bound results and accountability. UN Women pledges to use its presence and convening power to respond to this call.

Let us step it up for Planet 50-50 by the year 2030.

I thank you for time and attention.