



## High-level Political Forum

### **UN Women statement, delivered by Ms Lakshmi Puri, Assistant-Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director, 20 July 2016**

Excellencies,

I am pleased to address you during this first session of the HLPF since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Last year, the international community adopted a universal, comprehensive and transformative gender equality compact as part of 2030 Agenda and made a pledge to leave no woman and girl behind.

Gender inequality remains the most pervasive form of inequality around the world, indeed the “mother” of all inequalities. The 2030 Agenda will not be achieved unless all women and girls live a life free from discrimination and violence, fear and want.

In a number of national voluntary reviews, governments made clear that there can be no sustainable development without women and that systematic gender mainstreaming is crucial for implementation. SDG5 is the targeted goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The transformative potential of the SDGs requires building on the interlinkages across all SDGs so as to ensure that women and girls are not left behind.

Earlier this year, the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women translated the concept of gender-responsive implementation into concrete priority action areas:

- Institutional arrangements are required to ensure coherence and coordination of effective and accountable institutions at all levels, including strengthening national gender equality mechanisms.
- Non-discriminatory legal and policy frameworks must be in place to ensure that those women and girls furthest behind are reached.

- An enabling environment for financing for gender equality is necessary to close long-standing resource gaps. Gender-responsive, inclusive and sustainable macroeconomic frameworks, ODA and domestic resource mobilization and allocation are needed to redress the historic underinvestment in gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Women's leadership and participation is pre-requisite to ensure inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, including an enabling environment for all civil society actors, including women's organizations.
- We also need a radical shift in the availability, accessibility, analysis and use of gender statistics through the development of new methodologies, increased capacity of national statistical offices and better coordination amongst partners at global, regional and national levels. UN Women is working with partners to make this gender data revolution happen.

Now is the time to translate institutional structures and planning processes into gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda with engagement of stakeholders, including women's organizations.

UN Women calls on all stakeholders to front load efforts in all areas to ensure concrete progress is already achieved by 2020 when the international community must be able to say that it has stepped it up and is on track to reach Planet 50/50 by 2030!