

26 March 2013

Dear Members of the GEAR campaign,

I write to thank you for your strong support to women's empowerment and gender equality. This truly is the right time. As I have said countless times, the 21st century is the century for inclusion and women's equal rights as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations. You did the right thing in supporting the creation of UN Women and we will need your continued partnership and strong support moving forward.

As I leave UN Women as its founding Executive Director, I am proud of the achievements that UN Women could make in a short period of time. Together with you and other partners, we triggered progress to advance women's political participation and leadership, expand women's economic opportunities, increase women's engagement in peace talks and peace building, and to expand national plans and budgets that promote the advancement of women.

We have also made progress to end one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the world – violence against women. This is capped by the successful conclusion of the recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I salute the work of civil society organizations in support of a successful outcome and applaud the determination of UN Member States to reach an agreement on which we must act immediately and with urgency. These agreed conclusions are a beginning of action and not an end. UN Women is in a strong position to move forward with courage, conviction and commitment and in partnership with civil society.

Let me reassure you that that UN Women is poised to deliver to the aspirations on which it was founded and that it will continue to work with civil society as one of its key constituencies of focus and support.

I want to thank you for your work and trust you will continue to extend your support to UN Women, making it an even stronger organization capable of realizing the mandate entrusted to it.

Please accept my best wishes.



Michelle Bachelet
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director