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INTERACTIVE EXPERT PANEL

**Key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015
development framework**

**PUTTING GENDER EQUALITY AT THE CENTER OF THE
POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

by

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Madame Moderator, Irina Velichko, Anita Nayar, Dr. Caren Grown, ladies and gentlemen.

I'm very pleased very ppo.2 (ry) -2 (h () -4323y) -2 (ry) -20 0 BT 50 j ET Q6 (N) mee -2 (h) -432

intergovernmental negotiations get underway, they are taking place under the gaze, and very high expectations, of the whole world.

However, before we can really look forward to what the post-2015 framework might contain, we need to look back and **reflect on the achievements and shortcomings of the MDGs.**

There's no doubt that the MDGs have been very influential in shaping the development landscape. While initial take-up was slow, over time they garnered broad political – and considerable financial – support.

They were concrete and time-bound, which helped to galvanize action on many fronts, including for promotion of gender equality and women's rights. They've been adapted to suit local contexts and needs, and used as a measure of progress, in many countries. And they are simple and straightforward to communicate.

But as we know, the MDGs have also been strongly criticized on a number of important grounds. National averages obscure inequalities within countries, global targets were interpreted as national targets, and there is an imbalance between the responsibilities of the South outlined in Goals 1-7, and the commitments of the North, set out in Goal 8. Most critically from a gender perspective, Goal 3 is quite superficial and does not include many aspects of gender inequality and the discrimination women experience – in employment and in broader economic engagement, as caregivers, in decision-making at all levels, and in the peace-building process. Most critically, violence against women, one of the most significant human rights violations, was not included at all.

and financial austerity, food and fuel crises, high levels of unemployment especially among young people, the impact of climate change, increasing conflict and fragility in many societies, rising inequalities within and between countries, and failures of governance and accountability – are changing the way we think about sustainable development, and the well-being and resilience

Thirdly, it must ensure that women **participate fully in decision-making**, in all contexts and at all levels – in households, communities and countries.

Finally, it would **craft better indicators**, to get at the heart of what needs to change for a transformative agenda. And it would assess progress across all other goals and indicators, by **disaggregating targets and indicators** by sex, age, income, location and other factors. As this is still a work in progress, I will be very interested to hear **your views** about our vision for a gender equality goal.

As you may know, UN Women, together with UNICEF, has been co-leading the global thematic consultation on inequalities. In addition to the Chairperson's Statement which explicitly calls for a gender equality goal, the final report from the consultation recommends the inclusion of an inequalities goal. It has been suggested that this may be used to argue that gender inequality should be folded into a broader inequalities goal.

But let's be clear about this. We need a gender equality goal, as well as other key goals that address universal issues, such as inequality, peace and security, freedom from violence and