

UN Women Executive Director Sworn In

Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka took the oath of office as the Executive Director of UN Women during a ceremony at UN Headquarters presided over by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The announcement was made through the Spokesperson of the UN Secretary-General. The statement says: "Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka brings to this position a wealth of experience in advocating for women's issues with a combination of strategic leadership, consensus building and hands-on management experience. She was the first woman to hold the position of Deputy President of South Africa from 2005 to 2008. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka initially became a Member of Parliament in 1994, chairing the Public Service Portfolio Committee. She was Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry (1996-1999), Minister of Minerals and Energy (1999-2005) and briefly served as

acting Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in 2004."

"When it comes to issues of human rights violations and when it comes to women, there is a lot we have in common, irrespective of where we stand," says Mlambo-Ngcuka. In all the government portfolios Mlambo-Ngcuka has occupied, she has pushed for gender equality and recognition. At the Department of Trade and Industry she was behind the SA Women's Entrepreneurs' Network. At the Department of Minerals and Energy she played a role in many mining associations.

There is still much to be done, she says. "When you look at the face of poverty, it is a woman's face. The face of HIV/Aids is a woman's face. Women are not where they are supposed to be in leadership. In conflict, war and domestic violence, it is the woman who is a victim. We have a lot of work to do."

Mlambo-Ngcuka aims to expand the support base for the women's agenda, making it the responsibility of society at large. "Men are fathers of daughters,



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka chosen to head UN Women.

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brothers of sisters, husbands of wives. Those are people in their lives that they care for dearly. This is everybody's business," she says. "Education is the single biggest challenge for women across the globe." She says it's important that education is gender-nuanced. "In some cases women have received the best possible education, but it's not gender-nuanced enough to have given women the fighting spirit that makes them go out there and be go-getters," she says.

She would like UN institutions that deal with the private sector to be among her key partners to mainstream the empowerment of women in the private sector. Mlambo-Ngcuka hopes to provide a strong voice through the UN.

Celebrating the Legacy of Seneca Falls



Maggie Forster Schmitz and Ton deJong

On July 20, 2013, USNC-UN Women members and staff from UN Women and other UN offices traveled to Seneca Falls, NY, to commemorate the 165th anniversary of the signing of the Seneca Falls Declaration and to galvanize visitors in joining the cause of UN Women towards global gender equality. Addressing an audience in the Guntzel Theater of the Visitor's Center, Ton de Jong, Director of Resource Mobilization at UN Women, introduced UN Women, noting that while great strides have been made with regards to women's rights, the work of UN Women remains as crucial as ever. Highlighting UN Women's multi-pronged efforts in South Sudan, de Jong detailed how UN Women addresses multiple barriers to

gender equality, working in the areas of peace and security, economic empowerment, gender-based violence, and political leadership. USNC-UN Women president Maggie Forster Schmitz followed his talk with remarks about the historical legacy of Seneca Falls and how support for global women's rights is a continuation of the very battle for women's rights and suffrage that was being celebrated that day.

Notable was the participation of men in this event. De Jong organized the gathering in the spirit of last year's motorcycle ride in southern Africa, "Ride on! Speak Out!" Marking the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women, fifteen men rode across nine countries to raise awareness of gender-based violence and the key role of men in ending this pervasive abuse. A group of male UN employees also rode their motorcycles from New York to Seneca Falls to demonstrate that men, too, play a part in the struggle for women's rights.

Annual Conference hosted by Gulf Coast Chapter

The Gulf Coast Chapter hosted the annual conference on June 8. Carol Buchanan, Terry Brackett and Mary Dailey chaired the event at the Lido Beach Resort. The theme was "The Power of One." The conference addressed the issues of women and girls worldwide that are related to inequality, violence and feminized poverty. National and international leaders shared their experiences on how one person or one organization can make a difference.

Dr. Raymonda Burgman, former associate provost of New College and current director of HERS Institutes, was the



Terry Brackett, Carol Poteat Buchanan & Mary Dailey



Lalita Janke & Lee-en Chung

conference's kickoff speaker. Dr. Burgman related her experiences with students and highlighted the importance of mentoring.

Kay Colson, vice president of Fund Development for USNC, chaired the first session, "The Power of One Organization." The panel consisted of representatives of organizations that have implemented programs that empower others. Panelists included Jonna Keller, First Security Investments Inc.; Sue Morusiewicz, Humanity Working to End Genocide; and Alyssa Rakovich, Morgan Stanley.



Maria Guelfi, Luci Hamilton & Maggie Forster Schmitz

"The Power of One Individual," featured people who have impacted women's lives around the world. Lee-en Chung of Sarasota, president of Ivy Ventures, moderated the panel. Members were Beth Neville Evans, the Ixtatan Foundation, Guatemala; Leita Kaldi, who was a hospital administrator in Haiti; and Betty Burquetas, who served in the Peace Corps in the Solomon Islands.

The luncheon keynote speaker was Maria Leticia Guelfi, UN Women's program specialist for the Latin America and Caribbean sections. Guelfi spoke on the programs that UN Women has implemented in this area, highlighting programs addressing the economic

empowerment of women and those focused on ending violence against women.

The Gulf Coast Chapter has an active program for high school students, Learners to Leaders. Concurrent with the luncheon, a youth leadership training session was conducted by Marisa Rivera, president of MPowerment-Works. "The Power of Youth," a roundtable discussion, featured youth representatives from several organizations, including the Boys & Girls Club, Girls Inc., and local high schools. Students shared the programs in which they were involved, highlighting what young people can do to make a difference in their communities.

In the final session, "Powerful Positions Abroad," panelists discussed international work experience. Moderator Jeffrey Olesen, a former ambassador and career member of the U.S. Senior Foreign Service, is president of the Sarasota/Manatee Chapter of UNA/USA. Panelists included Herman Bell, retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel; Maria Leticia Guelfi, UN Women; Kelly Kirschner, a former Peace Corps volunteer; and Eilene Oldwine, formerly with the U.S. Agency for International Development and currently a consultant with the Millennium Challenge Corp.

The major sponsors of the conference were First Security Investments Inc. of Southwest Florida, Morgan Stanley, Regions Bank, Nuovo Salons and Spas, and Chanel.

Our Fantastic Four New Board Members!

Los Angelino Jean Jewell is the Director of Administration for the Los Angeles office of Kelley Drye & Warren LLP. She's managed corporate offices for years, including her own company. We are excited about her treasure-trove of skills that relate to being organized and running things. A Yale graduate, she was instrumental in handling relationships and sponsorships as a Board member, past president, and Volunteer of the Year with the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Association of Legal Administration (GLA ALA). It's a fun acronym to

say all at once. We're GLAAAAAD to have her on board!



A journey that began in Nigeria and ended at Harvard and on our board is a fascinating one indeed! Meet Iyabo Obasanjo, medical researcher extraor-



dinaire and former Nigerian Senator. Yes, we can pause while you say wow. With degrees in Veterinary Medicine, Epidemiology, and Comparative Medicine from institutions like Cornell, UC Davis and more, Iyabo has lots and lots

of letters after her name. Not only is she embarking on our board, but she has recently begun an Advanced Leadership Fellowship at Harvard University, where she is focusing on building advocacy for African women's issues.

Say hello to Lori Vandermeir! This native Californian was born at San Francisco's fabled Presidio. The daughter of a career Army soldier, she spent her childhood traveling to military bases around



the world. And now, thankfully, she's stationed with us! Lori is the California Communications Director for the National Organization for Women, based near Orange County, CA, and is also a brilliant ally for aspiring politicians who require her communications and messaging talents for their campaigns. A gifted intrawebs person, she can bring home the web design, and fry up social media strategy in a pan.

We intend to recycle but in no way reduce our excitement about Robyn Beavers, a Stanford graduate and expert in sustainability and renewable energy. The founding member of Google's Green Business & Operations strategy team, she has served as a Recovery Act Fellow for the Department of Energy, and was instrumental in helping Vestas Wind Systems blow through the creation process of their NGO, WindMade. Now her career is a waterfall of success with the Slingshot water purification system and Stirling power generator, and as the SVP of Innovation for NRG Energy, whose echo-ous name belies their hugeness. Astoundingly wonder-



fully, Robyn was featured on Makers. Com: Women Who Make America, a historic video archive showcasing inspiring and diverse stories of successful women. Please tell us you've seen Makers like twenty times already!

