



# WOMEN & POLITICS INSTITUTE

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## SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### **Women and the United Nations** **GOVT 485-003/685-003**

#### Course Information

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Meeting Date: October 9-10, 2010  
Time: 9:00AM – 5:00 PM  
Location: Ward 105

Instructors: Stephenie Foster  
Email: [sfoster@american.edu](mailto:sfoster@american.edu)  
Phone: 202 454-5555

Joan Libby-Hawk, UNIFEM

#### Course Modules

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This course is an overview of the United Nations (UN) and its organizing conferences, programs and funds that address issues relevant to women and families. Throughout its history, the UN has played an important as an international convener on these issues and has established numerous organizational structures focused upon them.

This course will first explore how UN World Conferences on Women, and how they have addressed critical and often controversial issues. The course will then discuss the various instruments and mechanisms available in the UN system to address the large number of issues concerning women throughout the world (including poverty and development, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, trafficking, violence against women, girls' education).

These key instruments and mechanisms include:

- UN entities, such as the new UN women's superstructure, the UN Commission on the Status of Women (the CSW), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United National Development Program (UNDP),
- International treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and
- UN Resolutions.

The course will also address the role and influence of civil society and non-governmental organizations in advancing women's rights using UN mechanisms.

Guest lecturers will join the course during its two days.

### **ASSIGNMENT AND GRADING**

Each student will write a 10-12 page paper addressing how to advance an issue of their choice using the various available UN mechanisms. This paper will account for 80% of the student's grade.

Class participation will account for the other 20%, and students will be expected to make presentations as part of the class discussions. Students should come to the class prepared with three essays (two pages, double spaced each) which address questions set forth on page 8 of this syllabus and be prepared to discuss their answers.

The final paper must be turned in to the front desk of the Government Department (Ward Building, 2nd floor) on **Friday, November 5, 2010**, no later than 5 PM. Papers must be time stamped by James Helms at the front desk. Late papers will not be accepted.

## **Saturday, October 9, 2010**

9-10 am

**Introductions**

10-10:45 am

**Overview: Where Does the United Nations Get its Authority and What is the Role of the Member States?**

### **Readings:**

Hilkka, Pietla. (2002). Engendering Global Agenda: The Story of Women and the United Nations. UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service.

Shoemaker, Jolynn and Adams-Allwine, Allison (2009). Women's Leadership and Gender in the United Nations.

10:45 – 11 am

**Break**

11 – 12:30 pm

**Building a Case for Women's Equality Using UN Mechanisms:**

**Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**

**Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889**

**Readings:**

Text of CEDAW

Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889

National Council for Research on Women blog, CEDAW Forum,  
[http://www.ncrw.org/search/apachesolr\\_search/cedaw%20forum](http://www.ncrw.org/search/apachesolr_search/cedaw%20forum)

12:30 – 1:30 pm

**Lunch:** Film, Beijing World Conference on Women 1995: Empowering Women.

1:30-2:30 pm

**Establishing Women’s Rights as Human Rights: History of UN World Conferences on Women: Why are they held and who attends?**

**First World Conference on Women – Mexico City, Mexico (1975)**

**Second World Conference on Women – Copenhagen, Denmark (1980)**

**Third World Conference on Women – Nairobi, Kenya (1985)**

**Fourth World Conference on Women – Beijing, China (1995)**

**Beijing World Conference for Women – Platform For Action; Beijing Plus 5;  
Beijing Plus 10**

**Guest speaker:** Sharon Kotok, U.S. Department of State Foreign Affairs Officer (retired)

**Readings:**

Text of Speech by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, “Women’s Rights are Human Right,” Beijing, China, September 5, 1995.

Maran, Rita (1996). After the Beijing Women's Conference: What will be done? *Social Justice*, 23(1-2), 352.

Streeter, Nicole (1996). Beijing and Beyond... *Berkeley Women's Law Journal*, 11, 200.

Leidenfrost, Nancy B (2000). Report on "Women 2000: Gender equality, development, and peace for the twenty-first century." Twenty-third session of the Beijing Plus Five United Nations Assembly Special... *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences*, 92(4), 80-82.

2:30-2:45 pm

**Break**

2:45 – 3:30 pm

## **Key Organizational Structures: What is the framework?, What does the new UN Superstructure mean for women?**

Entities Specializing in Gender Issues: New entity merging four previous entities: "UN Women"

- o OSAGI - Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women
- o DAW - United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
- o UNIFEM - United Nations Development Fund for Women
- o INSTRAW - United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

### **Readings:**

Crosette, Barbara, "After 65 years, A UN Agency for Women, The Nation, <http://www.thenation.com/article/37121/after-65-years-un-agency-women>

Hilkka, Pietla. (2002). Engendering Global Agenda: The Story of Women and the United Nations. UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service.

Manalsuren, Nergui (2009, May), Time Has Come for a New UN Agency: Interview with Stephen Lewis. *Minerva* #34, 21-22.

Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign (2009, May). Building a United Nations that Really Works for Women. *Minerva* #34, 23-24

3:30 – 4:30 pm

### **UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and Millennium Development Goal No. 5 (Improve Maternal Health)**

**Guest speaker:** Sarah Craven, Chief of Washington Office, UNFPA

**Reading:** Sinding, Steven W. (2005) Keeping Sexual and Reproductive Health at the Forefront of Global Efforts to Reduce Poverty, *Studies in Family Planning*, 36(2), 140-147.

Yamin, Alicia Ely, & Deborah P Maine. (1999). Maternal mortality as a human rights issue: Measuring compliance with international treaty obligations. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 21(3), 563-607.

4:30 - 4:45 pm

**Wrap up and review**

**Sunday, October 10, 2010**

9:30 – 9:45 am

**Recap and review day**

9:45 – 10:30 am

**Class discussion/presentation of potential papers**

10:30 am – noon

**UNDP and Millennium Development Goals**

- 1) **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- 2) **Achieve universal primary education**
- 3) **Promote gender equality and empower women**
- 4) **Reduce child mortality**
- 5) **Improve maternal health**
- 6) **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
- 7) **Ensure environmental stability**
- 8) **Develop a global partnership for development**

**Readings:**

End Poverty 2015, Millennium Development Goals

UN website on MDGs: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/global.shtml>

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Products/ProgressReports.htm>

**Universal Primary Education**

Desai, Sushrut (2007, December). GENDER DISPARITY IN PRIMARY EDUCATION. *UN Chronicle*, 44(4), 44-45.

Cotton, Ann (2007, December). THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING GIRLS AND WOMEN. *UN Chronicle*, 44(4), 49-51.

**Maternal & child health**

Yamin, Alicia Ely, & Deborah P Maine. (1999). Maternal mortality as a human rights issue: Measuring compliance with international treaty obligations. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 21(3), 563-607.

**Combating HIV/AIDS**

McLellan, Faith (2001). Human rights: A critical framework for the response to HIV/AIDS. *The Lancet*, 358(9276), 144.

Lewis, Stephen (2008). Opportunities Lost: The UN's Failure to Fight the HIV/AIDS Crisis. *Harvard International Review*, 30(1), 80.

**Combating violence**

Renzetti, Claire M (2005). Gender-based violence. *The Lancet*, 365(9464), 1009-10.

Antonazzo, Monica (2003). Problems with criminalizing female genital cutting. *Peace Review*, 15(4), 471-477.

Kawewe, Saliwe & Robert Dible. (1999). United Nations and the problem of women and children abuse in Third World nations. *Social Justice*, 26(1), 78-98.

12-1:30 pm

**Lunch: Role of Civil Society in Advancing the Women's Agenda**

**Guest speaker:** Nora O'Connell, Vice President, International Development and Legislative Affairs, Women Thrive Worldwide

1:30-1:45 pm

**Break**

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm

**Gender and Security Sector Reform at the UN**

**Guest speaker:** Jacqueline O'Neill, Lead Advocacy Coordinator, The Institute for Inclusive Security

2:30-3:30 pm

**Role of the Private Sector**

**Readings:**

UN Global Compact

Women's Empowerment Principles

3:30 – 4 pm

**Women at the UN**

4:00-4:30 :

**Class evaluations**

## **Women and the United Nations**

### **Questions to Answer**

**Assignment: Please prepare answers to the three of these questions in writing before the class begins. Each of your answers should be two pages, double spaced.**

1. Discuss the three new substantive elements of crucial importance for women that were established by the UN Charter.
2. What changes in the UN effectiveness (if any), do you see with the new UN superstructure and the creation of a UN superagency on women?
3. Compare the major achievements of the three UN World Conferences on Women in 1975, 1980, and 1985.
4. Discuss the involvement of non-governmental organizations in working with the United Nations.
5. Discuss the role of the private sector.
6. What is the impact of the Beijing Conference on governments across the globe?
7. Discuss the United Nations infrastructure with regards to women? What are the various entities and how do they interact?
8. Discuss the role of the Member States in setting policy.
9. What is the role of the UN in post-conflict or post-disaster situations, with respect to addressing the needs of women on the ground?

**Background Information**  
**Women and the United Nations**  
**GOVT 485-003/685-003**

**UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (“UN Women”)**

On July 2, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously to create this new entity, resulting from years of negotiations between UN Member States and advocacy by the global women’s movement. UN Women merges and will build on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system which focus exclusively on gender equality and women’s empowerment:

- Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW, established in 1946)
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW, established in 1976)
- Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI, established in 1997)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, established in 1976)

UN Women will be operational by January 2011. According to the UN press release:

[UN Women] will be a dynamic and strong champion for women and girls, providing them with a powerful voice at the global, regional and local levels. It will enhance, not replace, efforts by other parts of the UN system (such as UNICEF, UNDP, and UNFPA) that continue to have responsibility to work for gender equality and women’s empowerment in their areas of expertise.

UN Women will have two key roles: It will support inter-governmental bodies such as the Commission on the Status of Women in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms, and it will help Member States to implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, as well as forging effective partnerships with civil society. It will also help the UN system to be accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress. ...

The operations of UN Women will be funded from voluntary contributions, while the regular UN budget will support its normative work. At least US\$500 million — double the current combined budget of DAW, INSTRAW, OSAGI, and UNIFEM — has been recognised by Member States as the minimum investment needed for UN Women.

**United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/>

The Commission on the Status of Women (hereafter referred to as “CSW” or “the Commission”) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide. The CSW was established in 1946 as a mechanism to promote report on and monitor issues relating to the political, economic, civil, social and educational rights of women.

### **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)**

<http://www.unifem.org/>

UNIFEM is dedicated to advancing women’s rights and achieving gender equality. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programs and strategies that foster women's empowerment. UNIFEM works on the premise that it is the fundamental right of every woman to live a life free from discrimination and violence, and that gender equality is essential to achieving development and to building just societies. UNIFEM also focuses on enhancing women’s economic security and rights, ending violence against women, reducing the prevalence of HIV and AIDS among women and girls, and advancing gender justice in democratic governance in stable and fragile states. UNIFEM works with countries to formulate and implement laws and policies to eliminate discrimination and promote gender equality in such areas as land and inheritance rights, decent work for women, and ending violence against women. UNIFEM also aims to transform institutions to make them more accountable to gender equality and women’s rights, to strengthen the capacity and voice of women’s rights advocates, and to change harmful and discriminatory practices in society.

### **OSAGI - Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women**

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/>  
(under ABOUT US)

The Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI)'s main objective is to promote and strengthen the effective implementation of the Millennium Declaration, the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) held in Beijing in 1995 and the Outcome Document of the special session of the General Assembly on Beijing+5. The Office plays a catalytic role and develops new strategies and programs to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women in all sectors of society, through:

- Advising the Secretary-General on gender issues in such a way that they can be fully integrated into the overall policy direction of the United Nations, drawing attention to issues of particular concern to women globally so that they are given the required attention in the work of the Organization; representing the Secretary-General at fora on gender issues and the advancement of women; assisting the Secretary-General to render the global Secretariat more sensitive to gender issues;
- Facilitating, monitoring and advising on the overall policy goals of the Organization with regard to gender analysis and for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all activities of the United Nations; providing advocacy for gender issues and gender mainstreaming throughout the United Nations system, advice and support to senior managers on gender-related issues in their areas of responsibility;
- Assisting in the design of policies and strategies for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat and the United Nations system, especially with regard to higher level posts and including the creation of a working environment conducive to women having equal opportunities with men; supporting all heads of departments and offices in their efforts to achieve this goal and monitoring progress with Office of Human Resources Management.
- Providing leadership to the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security under Security Council resolution 1325 and other Task Forces.

### **DAW - United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women**

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/>

Mission Statement: Grounded in the vision of equality of the United Nations Charter, the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) advocates the improvement of the status of women of the world, and the achievement of their equality with men –as equal actors, partners, and beneficiaries of sustainable development, human rights, peace and security. Together with Governments, other entities of the United Nations system, and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, DAW actively works to advance the global agenda on women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, and ensure that women's voices are heard in international policy arenas.

Its main responsibilities include:

- To support formulation of policy, global standards and norms on gender equality and women's empowerment at global level, including through analysis and research;

- To promote, support and monitor the implementation of international agreements on gender equality and empowerment of women, including the Beijing Platform for Action, at international and national levels;
- To support the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol;
- To promote the mainstreaming of gender perspectives across all sectors, both within and outside the United Nations system.

### **INSTRAW - United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women**

<http://www.un-instraw.org/en/instraw/about-us/what-we-do.html>

UN-INSTRAW is a United Nations entity mandated to develop research and training programs that contribute to the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality worldwide. Through alliance building with UN Member States, international organizations, academia, civil society, the private sector and other actors, UN-INSTRAW:

- Undertakes action-oriented research from a gender perspective that has a concrete impact on policies, programs and projects;
- Creates synergies for knowledge management and information exchange;
- Strengthens the capacities of key stakeholders to integrate gender perspectives in policies, programs and projects; and
- Builds a sustainable, transparent and efficient institution.

### **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**

<http://www.undp.org/>

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is placed in 166 countries, working with them on their independent solutions to global and national development challenges. UNDP helps developing countries attract and use aid effectively. In all its activities UNDP encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women.

### **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/>

UNFPA is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programs to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect. UNFPA also focus on issues such as; Reproductive health, making motherhood safer, supporting adolescence and youth, preventing HIV/AIDS, promoting gender equality, protecting human rights, assisting in emergencies, and building support.

### **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. The Convention is the only human rights treaty which affirms the reproductive rights of women and targets culture and tradition as influential forces shaping gender roles and family relations. It affirms women's rights to acquire, change or retain their nationality and the nationality of their children. States parties also agree to take appropriate measures against all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of women.

By accepting the Convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms, including:

- to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women;
- to establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the effective protection of women against discrimination; and
- to ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises.

### **Security Council Resolution 1325**

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325.html>

Security Council Resolution 1325 was passed unanimously on October 31, 2000. This is the first resolution ever passed by the Security Council that specifically addresses the

impact of war on women, and women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace. Among other recommendations to UN and national entities, the Resolution calls for: Prosecuting people for crimes against women (often such crimes are committed with impunity); extra protection of girls and women in war zones as they are more often deliberately victimized; Appointing more women for peacekeeping operations; and Involving more women in negotiations, peace talks and post-war reconstruction planning. There is also an emphasis on sexual violence in situations of armed conflict.

### **Security Council Resolution 1820**

<http://www.state.gov/s/we/c26140.htm>

This is a reformed version of Security Council Resolution 1325. It confronts sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. Key provisions of the resolution recognize a direct relationship between the widespread and/or systematic use of sexual violence as an instrument of conflict and the maintenance of international peace and security; commit the Security Council to considering appropriate steps to end such atrocities and to punish their perpetrators; and request a report from the Secretary General on situations in which sexual violence is being widely or systematically employed against civilians and on strategies for ending the practice.

### **Security Council Resolution 1888**

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/sc9753.doc.htm>

Security Council Resolution 1888 was passed unanimously on September 30, 2009. It mandates peacekeeping missions protect women and children from sexual violence during armed conflict. Among other measures, the resolution called on the Secretary-General to rapidly deploy a team of experts to situations of particular concern in terms of sexual violence, to work with United Nations personnel on the ground and national Governments on strengthening the rule of law. The Security Council also affirmed that it would consider the prevalence of rape and other forms of sexual violence when imposing or renewing targeted sanctions in situations of armed conflict.

### **Security Council Resolution 1889**

<http://womenpeacesecurity.org/media/pdf-scr1889.pdf>

Security Council Resolution 1889 was passed unanimously on October 5, 2009. Resolution calls for a wide range of measures to strengthen the participation of women at all stages of peace processes, focusing on the period after peace agreements have been reached, as it began an intensive day-long discussion on the topic. The Security Council also reaffirmed Resolution 1325 on “women and peace and security”, and condemned

continuing sexual violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations. It urged Member States, United Nations bodies, donors and civil society to ensure that women's protection and empowerment was taken into account during post-conflict needs assessment and planning, and factored into subsequent funding and programming. It also called on all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and integration programs, in particular, to take into account the needs of women and girls associated with armed groups, as well as the needs of their children. Finally, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report within 12 months focused on women in post-conflict situations, and to ensure cooperation between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative on sexual violence in armed conflict.

### **Millennium Development Goals**

*<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>*

There are eight goals consisted in the millennium development, they are end poverty and hunger, universal education, gender equality, child health, maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, environmental stability and global partnership. The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and the entire world's leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest people.



## Press Release

For immediate release

Date: 21 June 2010

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVES WORLDWIDE SUPPORT WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PRINCIPLES Making Equality a Corporate Priority**

**New York** — The [United Nations Development Fund for Women](#) (UNIFEM) and the [United Nations Global Compact](#) today announce the [39 lead signers of the CEO Statement of Support for the \*Women's Empowerment Principles – Equality Means Business\*](#), which were launched at the UN on 8 March 2010. Chief executives expressing their commitment to advancing equality between men and women, the cornerstone of the seven Women's Empowerment Principles, come from all regions of the world and represent diverse global and national companies. Among them are: Symantec, US; Eskom Holdings Limited, South Africa; Infosys Technologies Limited, India; Total, France; Levi Strauss & Co., US; The Westpac Group, Australia; Sunjgoo Group/MCM, South Korea; Copel-Companhia Paranaense de Energia, Brazil; and Olympic Group, Egypt. CEOs from consulting and investment companies, including Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Ernst and Young, Calvert Group, Ltd. and Pax World Management LLC added their support underlining the business case that investment in women results in more sustainable and profitable companies.

UNIFEM Executive Director Inés Alberdi said: "These initial signers of the CEO Statement are practicing the very first Women's Empowerment Principle that leadership promotes gender equality. These executives are affirming the high-level support necessary for the Women's Empowerment Principles to gain traction in individual companies and their cultures."

The CEO Statement of Support encourages business leaders to use the seven Women's Empowerment Principles as guide posts for actions that advance and empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community, and communicate progress through the use of sex-disaggregated data and other benchmarks. Signers underscore that equal treatment of women and men is not just the right thing to do — it is also good for business and needs to be a priority. The Principles offer a practical approach to advance women and point the way to a business and social environment that is both fairer and more prosperous for everyone.

President and CEO of Levi Strauss & Co. John Anderson said: "As one of the first companies to sign onto the CEO Statement of Support for the Women's

Empowerment Principles, we remain dedicated to the advancement of women globally. Women comprise a significant portion of apparel sector workers. By investing in access to proper health care, a safe, non-discriminatory work environment and opportunities for asset building targeted to women, we're not only investing in our workers, we're investing in a healthy and sustainable workplace for all."

More than ten CEOs sent statements supporting their commitment to the Women's Empowerment Principles, in addition to adding their signature to the CEO Letter of Support.

A partnership initiative of UNIFEM and the UN Global Compact, the *Women's Empowerment Principles – Equality Means Business*, offers the business community a new tool to work with the United Nations to advance the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women. A high-level private sector forum will be held in New York to coincide with the UN's 2010 September Summit on the Millennium Development Goals. Today's leading signatories urge other leaders across the global business community to join them, a call that will be broadly made at the upcoming UN Global Compact Leaders Summit on 24–25 June, when more than 1,000 CEOs, ministers, heads of civil society and the UN will convene in New York to discuss how to build a new era of sustainability — an era where environmental, social and governance issues are deeply integrated into business based on both material and ethical rationales.

Women continue to be vastly under-represented in top positions and on boards — their numbers have been increasing only very slowly over the last decade. To move the dial, Women's Empowerment Principle 1 urges company leaders to make gender equality a top priority.

### **About the United Nations Global Compact**

Launched in 2000, the United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies around the world to align their strategies and operations with ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and to take action in support of broader UN goals. Through the development, implementation, and disclosure of responsible corporate policies and practices, business can help ensure that markets advance in ways that benefit economies and societies everywhere. The Global Compact is not a regulatory body, but a voluntary leadership platform for dialogue and learning. With more than 8,200 signatories in more than 135 countries, it is the world's largest corporate responsibility initiative. [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)

The Women's Empowerment Principles, the product of a collaboration between UNIFEM and the UN Global Compact informed by an international multi-stakeholder consultation, are adapted from the Calvert Women's Principles®. The Calvert Women's Principles were originally developed in partnership with UNIFEM and launched in 2004 as the first global corporate code of conduct focused exclusively on empowering, advancing and investing in women worldwide.

