

UNITED NATIONS



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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

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COORDINATING ACTION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**Remarks on the 10th Anniversary of the
Trust Fund to End Violence against Women
New York, 16 February 2007**

Thank you, Noeleen.

Minister Gayflor,
Madam Justice Kimaro,
Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,
Ms. Kidman,

I am honoured to be with you today, and glad to speak to you so early in my tenure on a subject that merits attention at the highest levels. Violence against women is an issue that cannot wait.

A brief look at the statistics demonstrates the urgency with which we have to act. Already back in 1993, a World Bank study estimated that gender-based violence killed and caused ill health in as many women of reproductive age as cancer did, and was an even greater threat to their health than traffic accidents and malaria combined.

This is why it was so important that the General Assembly set up the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women 10 years ago. Through this system-wide mechanism, Member States, UN entities and civil society can come together to address the pandemic that violence against women represents.

Over the past decade, UNIFEM has managed the Trust Fund successfully, in terms of partnerships, strategic focus and fundraising. In the process, UNIFEM has brought together 16 UN agencies, eight international and regional organizations, and a large number of women's groups, all of whom have responded through the Trust Fund in a coordinated manner.

Today, ladies and gentlemen, is not only an occasion to celebrate. It is also an opportunity to renew and redouble our efforts.

Last year's report by the Secretary-General on ending violence against women called for measures to strengthen the Trust Fund as a tool for preventing violence against

women, providing redress, and taking account of lessons learned. The report called for increased resources for the Fund -- a call that was backed by the General Assembly in its recent resolution 61/143 on ending violence against women.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I am proud to be joined here today by my compatriot and fellow jurist Nathalia Kimaro, a Trust Fund Grantee who has worked tirelessly to sensitize the judiciary in Tanzania on violence against women, and to train judges to use international treaties and human rights conventions when ruling on cases in the courtroom.

For my part -- as a woman, a jurist, a Tanzanian and an African, I have long felt a deep and abiding commitment to doing all I can to defend and promote the rights of women. I have served, albeit briefly, on the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. I have worked hand in hand with UNIFEM in my national capacity, to advance the cause of women's empowerment. Now, as Deputy Secretary-General, I pledge to do all I can to keep the UN united for the advancement of women everywhere, and at the forefront of the cause of ending violence against women.

I look forward to working with all of you on that journey -- Member States, colleagues in the UN family, partners in civil society. The support of all of you is needed if we are to succeed. Let us keep up the fight.

Thank you very much.