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EMBARGOED Until 10:15am Eastern (U.S.) on Thursday, September 18, 2008

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Media Advisory

Launch of UNIFEM's Biennial Global Report, *Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009*

Global report features new data and calls for stronger accountability systems to move from commitments on women's rights to results / UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to speak at UNIFEM launch event following press conference

UNIFEM will hold a press conference at the UN on Thursday, September 18th at 10:15 a.m. Eastern time to release the biennial global report, *Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009, WHO ANSWERS TO WOMEN, Gender and Accountability*.

The new report is being published at the halfway point to the 2015 deadline for achieving the MDG's and six days before the Secretary-General of the UN will convene a High Level Meeting to examine the world's progress towards meeting the MDG's.

"Progress" presents new data providing clear evidence that women's empowerment and gender equality are drivers for reducing poverty, building food security, reducing maternal mortality, strengthening justice, and enhancing the effectiveness of aid.

- WHAT:** Press conference to launch UNIFEM's bi-annual Global Report, *Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009*.
- WHEN:** At 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2008.
- WHERE:** United Nations Secretariat Building, Room #226.
- WHO:** Ines Alberdi, Executive Director, UNIFEM
Anne-Marie Goetz, Advisor, Governance, Peace and Security, UNIFEM & main author
Christiana Thorpe, Electoral Commissioner, Sierra Leone (tbc)
Activist from India's Right to Information Movement
- NOTE:** **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** will speak about the new UNIFEM report at an event in the Delegates Dining Room at 12 noon the same day, September 18th. If you wish to attend, **please confirm your participation** at the contact below. Please note that the UN Spokesperson's noon briefing will start at 12.30 pm on that day.

For **EMBARGOED** copies of UNIFEM's *Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009* and supporting materials, more information about the press briefing in room 226 or to confirm your participation at the subsequent event in the Delegates Dining Room where the **Secretary-General** will make public remarks about the report, please contact Jonathan Rich at jonathan@jcrcommunications.com or 347-262-9115.