Achim Steiner Appointed New UNDP Administrator

The President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has welcomed the appointment of Achim Steiner as the Organization’s new Administrator.

Mr Steiner’s nomination for UNDP Administrator was forwarded by Secretary-General António Guterres to the General Assembly, which on April 18 confirmed him as the Administrator of UNDP for a term of four years.

UNDP supports countries around the world to eradicate extreme poverty, strengthen good governance and prevent and respond to crises.

President of the UNDP Executive Board, Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN, said: “I know that I am speaking on behalf of all members of the Executive Board and all UNDP staff in warmly welcoming Achim Steiner as UNDP’s new Administrator”.

“Achim Steiner brings a wealth of experience, expertise and dedication to this hugely important role. I am certain he will make an enduring and positive impact on UNDP’s development work around the world,” he added.

Mr Steiner said: “I am honoured by the Secretary-General’s decision to appoint me as the next Administrator of UNDP and grateful for the trust and confidence Member States have expressed in the General Assembly today. I am very much looking forward to working with all UNDP staff and Member

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- Thriving Through Gender-Sensitive Public Procurement
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- UNOPS Provides Safe Passage for Local Communities

Upcoming Events:
- 3 May World Press Freedom Day
- 8-12 May 26th Session UN Habitat Governing Council
- 15 May International Day of Families
- 17 May World Telecommunication Day
- 21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 22 May International Day for Biological Diversity
- 23 May International Day to End Obstetric Fistula
- 25 May Africa Day
- 29 May International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
- 31 May World Non-Tobacco Day
Within the framework of the Kenya Media Sector Working Group, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in partnership with the Political Journalists Association of Kenya (PJAK), supported the training of 33 political reporters with a view to building their capacity on elections coverage and promoting safety of journalists during the elections process. The training took place in Naivasha, Kenya, from 7 to 8 April 2017. Training journalists on elections reporting is a priority for media stakeholders as a way of building professionalism in coverage of the Kenyan election period foreseen in August 2017. The capacity building focused on familiarising the journalists with the Code of Ethics and Guidelines on Elections coverage established by the Media Council of Kenya.

It also focused on safety of journalists during elections, conflict sensitive reporting, investigative journalism, peace journalism and enhancing better working relationship between media and police among other topics. “The media holds an important key to promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence, which will also contribute greatly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16, on peaceful, just and inclusive societies in Kenya” reiterated Lydia Gachungi, the UNESCO regional expert on safety of journalists and media development.

Some of the key recommendations emanating from this training included capacity building of political reporters on safety and security of journalists, the need for combined sessions with women politicians and aspirants to discuss how to effectively cover women in politics in Kenya and more capacity building on elections reporting, countering hate speech, media and propaganda and gender sensitive reporting.

The participants resolved to be the champions of change in covering the elections and undertook to be objective, factual, unbiased and report on accurate information to hold the fabric of the society together.

UNESCO builds the capacity of the Kenyan Media on Election Reporting

Mr. Jerry Rawlings, Secretary General of the Political Journalists Association of Kenya addressing the participants, during the training held in Naivasha, from 7 to 8th April 2017. (Photo by Lydiah Gachungi/UNESCO)
Forging Innovative Solutions For Women In Public Procurement

The State Department of Gender Affairs and National Treasury with support from UN Women are conducting the second phase of grassroots sensitization trainings to women on the 30% public procurement allocation for women youth and persons with disabilities that targeted women from the county level including Mombasa, Bungoma, Kisumu and Turkana. In collaboration with partners, over 1000 women entrepreneurs have been sensitized in Kenya.

“As a woman starting in this public procurement industry, the first hurdle you will face is the lack of finances to service the tenders once you secure one. The financial institutions take a long time to process loans and most women could not meet the requirements.” This is according to 26 year old Amina Hassan Mwafrika, a resident of Kilifi County and a beneficiary of the 30% public procurement business opportunities for women, youth and persons with disability.

UN Women in Kenya supported an assessment on the uptake of 30% public procurement business opportunities for women, youth and persons with disability at the county level commissioned by the State Department of Gender Affairs aimed at assessing the level of awareness and identifying existing barriers that prevent women, youth and PWDS from utilizing the Access to Government Procurement opportunities (AGPO). The assessment highlighted access to funding (in terms of requirements and timeliness) and awareness of the initiative as the main challenges women face.

Ms. Amina Hassan is part of a group of three women who own independent companies that deal with public procurement within the county. The three came together to address the challenge of financing they all faced independently.

“I initially used to run, a small unregistered business dealing with poultry and groceries. The returns were meager and could barely support me and my family. After being exposed to the benefits of registering my business during training on AGPO by the county government, is when I decided to try it out.” She recalls.

“The journey has not been smooth and to climb the public procurement ladder and competitively compete with men, who own big business, I decided to put myself out there, get that experience and build my profile.” Said Ms. Amina

“This meant that I had to find sources to fund these tenders and not getting this in time meant that I had to forfeit the tender. I serviced my first tender with my personal savings but this could only go so far as I had other tenders to service too.

Like Amina, Marion Suleiman is 21 years old and already a director to her own company. She attributes her success to the trainings she has had so far and has so far managed to secure two tender in Supplies of electrical appliances. However, she too faces financial challenges as the tenders were small and the remaining profit cannot take service another tender after deducting her upkeep.

“I gained interest in starting my own company once I finished my high school and realizing this was one of my proudest moments. It took me six months upon registration to get my first tender and through it all, my main obstacle has been financing.

POOL FUNDING

From this emerged a tale of resilience among these women through innovative approaches to solve this obstacle by forming an umbrella to self-fund each other.

Already there exists funding institutions that we could approach but it was either the requirements were too high to meet or the turnaround time for processing the funding was too long and by the time you have the liquid cash it was too late and you had to forfeit the tender to others with the financial muscle. Upon securing and funding a tender,
the payment would take longer than anticipated and you could not service any tender secured in the meantime.

“During one of the trainings is where I met Marion and a few others and we decided to form an umbrella that would help us finance each other.

The idea was to pool our resources so as to self-fund our tenders. This was because most of the time only one of us would have secured a tender and we would help her service it and once her payment comes through, she would assist fund the other and so on and so forth.

As per the UN Women Commissioned assessment, Kilifi County despite setting aside 1.5 Billion in the 2016/2017 financial year for the special groups, utilization is still low by the groups with the registered and qualified persons with AGPO certificates standing at 863 of which 285 are women, 565 youth and 13 PWDs.

According to Marion, women need to be bold and venture more in business and not fear the challenges that comes with it as it is through these that they thrive.

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_Continued from Page 3_

**Kenya launched its First Education for Sustainable Development Policy**

![ESD Policy Launch in Kenya](Photo by UNESCO)

The Education for Sustainable Development Policy for the education sector was launched at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development on March 21st 2017. It constitutes an essential milestone for Kenya, providing a competency-based curriculum for quality education, emphasizing the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Education for Sustainable Development Policy for the Education Sector in Kenya was launched in the presence of a diverse category of stakeholders including senior Ministry of Education officials, County Directors of Education, County Regional Directors of, Country Directors of the Teachers Service Commission, the Parents Association, the Ministry of Environment, Development Partners and academics. Dr Belio Kipsang, Principal Secretary for Basic Education presided as Chief Guest.

The ESD policy provides the framework for a competency based curriculum for quality education. Kenya is also working on the development of a mechanism to monitor SDG4 on inclusive quality education. The Kenyan curriculum reform lays special emphasis on teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as a “strong pathway” in the national curriculum.

The overall role of the ESD policy is to serve as a goal and catalyst for the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya through education, which is also in line with the African Union’s Agenda 2063 which “calls for action on catalyzing education, and a skills revolution to build knowledge, human capital, capabilities and skills to drive innovations on the continent.”

The need to build human capacity also implies increasing awareness and knowledge of the teaching fraternity to ensure that all young people are equipped with the required values and attitudes for critical thinking, which is a core characteristic of ESD for lifelong learning. Principal Secretary, Dr Belio Kipsang underlined the fact that “the quality of education is as good as the quality of the teachers.”

This regional event covers the thirteen countries of UNESCO in Eastern Africa namely Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. It focused on information and communication technology in education, climate change, peace and security and its contribution to Higher Education.

The objectives of the conference revolved around strengthening existing reform to promote science research at national and regional levels for socio-economic and environmental development, promoting resilience strategies vis-à-vis climate change by pooling intellectual education and promoting regional integration through sub-regional and regional harmonization and quality assurance frameworks. In this regard the conference was the opportunity to discuss with Member States on next steps regarding the ratification and signing of the Addis Ababa Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States.

The format of the conference was constituted by: Plenary sessions, featuring prominent academics, policy makers (Ministers), opinion leaders (private sector & civil society), students and representatives of development organizations known for the themes of the conference. Parallel sessions based on the three sub-themes: renowned scholars and development practitioners from the Eastern Africa region and from other African and world regions will present papers for discussion based on their areas of expertise in the three sub-themes of the Conference: information and communication technology in education, climate change, peace and security. A Ministerial Roundtable on the Addis Ababa Convention.
Pushing For Resilience to Attain Women Leadership

In the last ten parliaments, Kenya has had a total of seventy-five women, fifty of them elected while the other 25 were nominated. With an increase from 9.8% to 19% representation, Kenya is now ranked 76th of the top 100 countries in the World Classification of Women in National Parliaments.

As the country moves closer to the general election, the State Department of Gender Affairs through the support of UN Women in Kenya is conducting a series of countywide civic education sensitization that aims to strengthen the capacity of women to participate in the electoral processes both as candidates and as voters. The training targets Bungoma, Kisumu, Mombasa, Kwale, Kakamega, Nyeri, Eldoret, Kiambo, Kitui, Machakos, Turkana and Taveta counties in ensuring women are not sidelined in the electoral processes.

The civic education is intended to ensure that women have sufficient information, capacity and space to participate in the coming general elections. The civic education seeks to increase the understanding of women on political issues to enable them participate in political processes more effectively.

The training focused on five key areas that include: Need for more women in elective positions; Historical background of women in political leadership; Legal provisions on election; Campaign management of women aspirants and forging a way forward.

The Mzalendo report puts women representation countrywide in Parliament for both the National Assembly and Senate at 21%. Coast region is among those with low representation in terms of women leadership with all the elected members of County assembly of Mombasa from the last general election all being male with the only woman having been nominated.

Ms. Maimuna Mudao an aspiring candidate for the position of Women Representative, who has previously vied for elective position for the position of Member of Parliament, is optimistic that with the change in the dynamics since the first time she vied, the landscape is different.

“I have previously contested for the position of Member of Parliament (Kisumu), in Mombasa county in 2004 and 2007 and since then a lot has changed in terms of electoral processes, enactment of the new constitution, integrity issues and even the dynamics of voters as currently there is more awareness of gender issues which is a step towards the right direction for us as aspiring women leaders.”

Challenges women face:

According to Maimuna, if women can manage to have representation in the ward level of at least a third, then this will have a significant impact on the women at the grassroot level as formulated policies at the county level will be engendered.

To get as many young girls to go for the ward so my campaign is more of supporting the young girls at least if we can get a third here (It would be great). It is unfortunate that two of the best women who were trained by UN Women and who by now would be forces to reckon with passed away.

She further points that political party’s plays critical role in ensuring that women are elected by offering them the required space to contest.

“At least one third of women leadership should have taken root from the political parties as this is where most women fail from and that has not happened. We have not seen political parties give room to women candidates at the party level so far and maybe this will change.”

Maimuna attributes this to the general perception that the affirmative action has given women specific seats and therefore they do not need to contest for others. So when women contest for political seats more men would say that but you already have a seat. The argument doesn’t seem to reflect that this was just an affirmative action.

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The dynamics of Mombasa as an urban area is different from the rural area as positions are on demand making it even more difficult for women to vie for political positions. This is in addition to the harassments from the male counterparts facing those who wish to vie for elective positions. Sarah Wakoli, a registered aspirant for the position of Member of County Assembly (MCA)

Way forward:
Such sensitization trainings when well-targeted are effective as it is the same women who vote and also making them aware of the laws and legislations and the provisions of the constitution in as far as political leadership goes.

“The women need to understand that they need other women in elective position as it is only through their presence in leadership positions that laws and legislations touching on their daily life can be achieved and not me as a candidate benefiting myself.”

Sarah Wakoli, a registered aspirant for the position of Member of County Assembly (MCA) who attended the training highlighted the importance and need to have similar trainings as it offers a platform for aspiring women leaders and voters to come together to ensure that women leaders are elected countrywide.

“As much as there are challenges facing women including threats and harassment from our male counterparts, women need to be resilient and forge ahead as it is through participation in elective processes that will ensure women are included in leadership.” She explained.

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‘Kama Sio Sasa ni Sasa Hivi’

BREAKING THE BARRIERS: The Voice of a Mother who has defied all Cultural Odds to run for a Political Seat in a Male Dominated Society in Northern Kenya

Abdia Gole is a graduate of Business Management from one of the leading Universities in Kenya. Abdia, a mother of one and a youth declared to run for the Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Gorbo Ward in 2015. This was seen as a joke invoking the anger of Council of Elders who hold absolute right to divide all political and leadership positions, albeit to men only. Women place in this community is reproduction and house hold related chores. It is a taboo for women in this part of the country to hold any leadership position and worst of all, to compete with men.

Sky is the limit for Abdia Gole, the first woman to run for the Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Gaorbo Ward, Marsabit County. “The council of elders from Gabra community have asked me to step down for a man” said Abdia.

Gabra community is one of the 14 pastoral communities living in Marsabit County. The community is highly patriarchal and women have no space in any governance structures let alone an elective position. To them, Abdia going for an MCA seat is an abomination and unheard of.

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Marsabit County, located in the Northern part of Kenya, is characterized by sporadic conflict which results to deaths, loss of animals and livelihood. Communities here are mainly pastoralists rearing camels, cows and goats. From 2016 to 2017, the county has been worst hit by drought. This exacerbated communal war as competition for water and pasture heightened.

Communities in this area are characterized by intermittent conflict driven by search for natural resources including water for both human and livestock. The effect of climate change has caught up with the county being the worst affected region in Kenya by drought.

This has been the case for years where communities attack each other in turns. So to the Gabra community, any leadership position therefore should be given to a warrior – a man. Someone who can finance and lead a war. Women are never regarded as warriors in this community, nor as leaders.

Electoral political seats are normally negotiated by the men-only Council of Elders across all communities. Hon. Abdia is not ready to accept any call to resign from running for MCA. The elders have in many times asked Abdia to ‘Wee kaa tukikosa mtu tutakushugulikia’ – move out of politics we will get you something else.

Working together to support women candidates

Community Initiative Facilitation and Assistance (CIFA Kenya) supported by UN Women Kenya in the frame of the Strengthening Electoral Processes Project (SEPK) is working with elders to break these cultural barriers and to change attitudes of elders to ensure they accept and support women candidates and leadership. CIFA is currently training women and elders to ensure women inclusion within the councils of elder’s decision making table.

“I am going door to door campaigning, to urge women and youths to vote for me. That our time is now or never” said Abdia. According to Abdia, women only require support to ensure their inclusion with the Council of Elders structures and decision making tables.

The CEO of CIFA, Mr. Adan Wako, is starting discussions with the chairman of the council of elders for them to support women vying for spaces in leadership positions and more so, to support Abdia. “The Idea is to convert the councils from the top before calling for the meeting with women to discuss the way forward in involving women in the council’s governance structures and processes. This will help break the barriers that women in Abdia’s community have experienced over the years relegating them to second class citizens in their own country. It is time to celebrate women heroines like Abdia who through their efforts are paving way for an inclusive society where future generations will embrace the girl child and women leadership in society.

Thriving Through Gender-Sensitive Public Procurement

I initially worked as a banker until 2007 when I joined a construction company,” 38-year-old Madline Sambu begins. As I wonder how an accountant ends up to run a construction company, Madline explains that when she joined the construction company in 2009 she got an opportunity to do short courses in engineering which resulted to her expertise in the field.

Madline runs a construction company which deals with roads and building construction. I meet her in a training on cess to Government Procurement Opportunities held by State Department of Gender supported by UN Women in Bungoma County. As she narrates to me
the achievements and challenges through her journey she sounds very optimistic.

Her company has been running since 2014 where it began as an enterprise and later changed into a limited in 2015. “The AGPO certificate I hold and the information I have gained through this kind of trainings have opened many doors for me to do business with the county government.” She explains.

“Currently I am running with 3 projects; 2 road constructions and a health center which is 85% complete.” Madline has also headed various road construction in the past in Makueni and Lamu county.

Madline explains with a lot of pride that were it not for AGPO her son would not have gone through aviation school. “I am a single parent and the money I earn through my company has helped me pay for my son’s fees in aviation school and thanks to AGPO he is now in Ghana practicing.” She reiterates.

She has educated other women led businesses in the county on how to apply for tenders. Other than being in construction she also partners with other women to run water projects which involve drilling of boreholes in the county, supplying cereals and books to schools in the county. The only challenges she faces in her business is delayed payments from the county and high regulations on funding.

The State Department of Gender supported by UN Women is running a second series of capacity building trainings on Access to Government Procurement Opportunities. This is in the frame of UN Women’s mandate to empower women economically. In collaboration with partners, over 1000 women entrepreneurs have been sensitized in Kenya. The trainings are targeting women from the county level including Mombasa, Bungoma, Kisumu and Turkana.

Lake Naivasha, World Water Day 2017

On the occasion of World Water Day 2017, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, in collaboration with UN Environment, participated in the clean-up of Lake Naivasha, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The clean-up, organized by Clean-Up Kenya, a Nairobi based group, drew the participation of 157 volunteers, mobilized mostly from the networks of the three organizations, including the Youth Forum of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO.

The initiative had a two-fold objective, namely; a call to action to save Lake Naivasha’s ecosystem, and sensitizing Naivasha residents in particular, and Kenyans in general, on the importance of maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

The cleanup at Lake Naivasha took place at five official sites, namely; Kenyatta Avenue, Nakuru-Nairobi Road, Karagita, Karagita public beach and Kamere. Over 3 tons of litter ranging from plastics, glasses, clothes, rubber and papers, were picked at the sites, highlighting the growing problem of marine litter.

The litter was sorted on site, with about 70% taken to Karagita Community Cooker where the litter will be used as fuel. In his remarks, Mr. Kiogora Murithi, Director of Environment at Nakuru County, encouraged more such collaborations in the future involving citizens, communities, governments civil society, and other stakeholders, including international organizations. In addressing the challenges of waste management in general, and in particular, protection of common heritages such as lakes, rivers, oceans Mr. Murithi noted that “as a county we also support the ban by the National Government on the use of plastic.”. Representatives of UNESCO and UN Environment supported the initiative, stressing the need to “keep Kenya clean and clear” and promoting environmental awareness needed to keep the conservation going and mindful of the need to recycle materials.
UNOPS Provides Safe Passage for Local Communities

In South Sudan’s southern greenbelt, three seemingly modest bridges built by UNOPS promise to bring major improvements to residents’ livelihoods in Yei River State.

At an official handover ceremony in Juba on 4 April, South Sudanese Minister of Roads and Bridges Rebecca Joshua Okwaci praised the project as important contribution to not only economic development, but also peacebuilding in the area. The bridges, located along feeder roads in a region known for its agricultural potential, will help connect “areas of production with the areas of consumption,” as well as enhance residents’ access to services, Ms. Okwaci said.

Lack of transportation infrastructure is one of the key challenges facing South Sudan, as the young nation struggles with an ongoing civil conflict and its associated economic woes. The majority of the country depends on subsistence agriculture, but farmers often find it difficult to bring their goods to larger markets, where they may earn more money for their produce. Access to health and education facilities is also restricted. An annual rainy season quenches the thirst of the yellowed, dusty landscape, but also makes many roads impassable and rivers treacherous.

The Kaya, Koni and Koyibu bridges, completed by UNOPS in January 2017, enhances connectivity between the key towns of Yei, Morobo and Kajo-Keji. The handover ceremony was held at the Ministry of Roads and Bridges, and attended by senior South Sudanese officials and a UNOPS team, led by the Country Director Paul Cruickshank.

UNOPS proactive and transparent approach in taking responsibility for the event and implementing corrective action has helped to ensure its continued strong partnership with USAID, as well as the South Sudanese Ministry of Bridges. The South Sudan Operations Centre is currently delivering $101.9 million in projects, including those in partnership with USAID and the ministry; contributing directly to humanitarian and development goals in the country.

“We’re very proud to have brought tangible improvements to local communities as well as safe access to services and goods,” Mr. Cruickshank said. “The Kaya and Kayibu Rivers are particularly dangerous to cross in the rainy season, so we hope residents will make full use of these bridges (and the Koni Bridge) to cross safely.”

The project was also warmly received by Governor of Yei River State David Lokonga Moses, who noted the structures will not only bring economic benefits but also contribute to other areas of development, the need for which have only been heightened in light of ongoing conflict.

“These bridges are acting as hope,” said the honourable governor.

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23rd Anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda at UNON-07 April 2017

Some of the Diplomats who attended the event

University students in a minute of silence

One of the Diplomat laying a wreath of flowers in honour of those who died in Rwanda

Abdul Lamin from UNESCO addressing students during the discussion session

Some of the university students in solidarity with the Rwanda people

Director Rwanda addressing students and invited Diplomats

One of the Diplomat laying a wreath of flowers in honour of those who died in Rwanda

One of the students asking a question during discussion session.
17 Sustainable Development Goals to Transform our World by 2030

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
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