

**CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS, RE-COMMITTING TO ENDING GENDER DISCRIMINATION:
STEP IT UP FOR PLANET 50-50**

19 -20 May 2016, Shangri-La Hotel, Jakarta

Background

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is often referred to as the international women's bill of rights. Ratified or acceded to by 189 countries to date, CEDAW provides a powerful framework and legal obligation for countries to move towards achieving gender equality.

Despite widespread ratification of the Convention, however, full implementation of its provisions has lagged. Reports of the CEDAW Committee, the 20-year Review of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2015, and the Millennium Declaration all stress that State Parties need to fully implement CEDAW to achieve gender equality. This includes developing and operationalizing policies, legislation, plans and mechanisms that address discrimination against women and promote and protect their rights, and enhancing public and state accountability to that end. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to change the course of the 21st century, addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence against women. SDG 5 aims to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" and provides a strong framework for recommitting to gender equality and women's empowerment.

CEDAW in South East Asia

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment or UN Women has been supporting the promotion of women's human rights in South East Asia since 2004. In 2004, UN Women, then known as UNIFEM, launched a five-year regional programme to promote CEDAW in seven (7) countries with the support of Government of Canada. This was called the CEDAW Southeast Asia Programme or CEDAW SEAP. Through this programme, UN Women worked with partners in government and civil society to increase awareness and understanding of the Convention and advance women's human rights through support for legal and judicial reforms, gender-responsive plans and budgets, and enhanced monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

In 2011, again with the support of the Government of Canada, The Regional Programme on Improving Women's Human Rights in Southeast Asia (or CEDAW SEAP Phase II), was launched by UN Women. CEDAW SEAP II is a five-year regional programme covering eight (8) countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Viet Nam. This second phase of the regional programme focuses on strengthening legislative frameworks on women's human rights, enhancing capacities to advance women's access justice, and strengthening accountability mechanisms and capacities for monitoring CEDAW implementation. The programme which focused on identifying and eliminating various forms of discrimination, both de jure and de facto, provides a head start for the CEDAW SEAP countries in the implementation of SDG 5.

Celebrating Achievements, Re-committing to Ending Gender Discrimination: Step It Up for Planet 50-50

As the Regional Programme on Improving Women's Human Rights in South East Asia comes to an end in June 2016, a regional meeting to celebrate the achievements in the programme will be held on 19-20 May in Jakarta Indonesia. The Consultation also offers an opportunity to all stakeholders of UN Women to re-commit to ending gender discrimination, and to "Step It Up", Committing to Gender Equality by 2030.

"Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality" asks governments to make national commitments to address the challenges that are holding women and girls back from reaching their full potential. Everyone has a role to play to make gender equality a lived reality by 2030.

Objectives

- Affirm the importance of CEDAW in achieving progress in gender equality and fulfillment of women's human rights;
- Share and showcase the results of CEDAW SEAP II, and facilitate an exchange of lessons learned in CEDAW implementation;
- Take stock of emerging challenges and opportunities in women's human rights promotion, and strategies for sustained collective action; and
- Reach out to a wider public, and build and renew commitments to CEDAW and women's human rights.

Expected Results

- Gained common understanding of the existing challenges to women's human rights in the region, especially intersectional forms of discrimination
- Shared knowledge based on results of CEDAW SEAP II, and lessons learned in CEDAW implementation
- Identified key programming areas including next steps for strengthening inclusion of LGBTI issues in UN Women's programs in the region

Participants

Representatives of Global Affairs Canada, ASEAN Human Rights bodies, UN agencies, women's rights activists, NHRIs, religious/faith-based leaders, NHRIs, CEDAW Advisory Group, UN Women NGO and GO partners at regional level, UN Women staff, UN Women External Evaluators

Venue and Duration

The meeting will be held at Shangri-La Hotel, Jakarta on 19-20 May 2016.