

PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka as UN Women Executive Director, August 19th 2013



Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and its Pan African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (FAS-PAC) as well as the members of the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) welcome the United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's appointment of Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka as the new Director General of UN WOMEN.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka a South African national succeeds Ms. Bachelet as the second Executive Director of UN Women; the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women established in July 2010.

The appointment of Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of South Africa, was announced by the UN Secretary General on 10 July 2013.

Mr. Ban declared that Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka brings to her new position a wealth of experience in advocating for women's issues "with a combination of strategic leadership, consensus building and hands-on management experience."

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka was the first woman to hold the position of Deputy President of South Africa from 2005 to 2008, and has also served as Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry, Minister of Minerals and Energy, and briefly as acting Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.

Among her many activities, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka established Umlambo Foundation in 2008 to provide support to schools in impoverished areas in South Africa through mentorship and coaching for teachers and in Malawi through school improvements with local partners.

She holds a Master's degree in Philosophy in Educational Planning and Policy from the University of Cape Town (2003) and a BA in Education from the University of Lesotho (1980).

To this end, the Executive and Advisory Board, management and staff of FAS seize the opportunity to extend our sincere congratulations to Ms Mlambo-Ngcuka on her appointment to this high and core position. We commit to supporting her in her mandate to enable and foster the empowerment of women, eliminating discrimination between women and girl as well as achieving equality between women and men around the world.