

However, the potential of the DCF is constrained by the fact that it is held only once every two years, p

He stated that the creation of UN Wom 712.0497 Tm (o)7t

Many States were accordingly encouraged to enforce legal frameworks to protect the rights of women and children. Adequately mandated and well-resourced national entities were established t

She stated that prejudices do not die easily and that she felt pressure to show that female leadership can be efficient and obtain results. There are many places where there is a real opposition to women, such as in access to certain jobs or in access to credit. A key law that was passed during her tenure as president was to establish salary equality for women and men performing the same work. There was also a pension reform so that women from the lowest three income quintiles will have pensions. Reproductive rights were broadened and the morning-after pill was legalized. Childhood support programmes were established, including nurseries and kindergarten for children from vulnerable families.

She concluded by stating that her outlook is optimistic, but that we need to w

11% in 1975 to 19% today. But it is not enough and we have to have significantly more progress in order for women to be considered equal to men.

Ms. Stewart also directed attention to the issues of financial credit and government policy. She stated that micro-credit is often a lifeline for low-income women and their families but that women's access to credit beyond micro-credit needs to be facilitated. She also stated that governments should create and strengthen policies to promote gender equality and empower women during the time of crisis because it is an opportunity, instead of overlooking. She concluded by emphasizing the importance of the progress made and the risk that this progress can still be reversed.

Policy messages from Annual Ministerial Review preparatory meetings

The **Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting** on “**Women and Health**” took place in Dakar, Senegal on 12-13 January 2010. More than 100 participants from government, civil socie6758 Tf 1 0 0 13.64 631.5298 Tm (p)T9098 Tm (e)Tj 1 0 1 0 0 13.64 631.52v

The Global Preparatory Meeting on “*Who feeds the*

1. *Engaging all sides and work hand-in-hand with Governments, the United Nations, Philanthropies, the Private Sector, leading individuals and members of other civil society groups;*
2. *Strong leadership is indispensable in both the public and private sectors to promote a culture of respect for women and girls and encourage their leadership potential;*
3. *Legislation to protect, prevent and prosecute those guilty of violence against women and girls is urgently to be stepped up;*
4. *Addi9698 Tm (t)Tj;*