



PLEDGE FROM UN WOMEN
GPE Second Replenishment Conference
June 26, 2014

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action recognizes that education is not only a “human right” but an “essential tool for achieving the goals of equality, development and peace”. The centrality of education for gender equality and women’s empowerment was reiterated by the Executive Board of UN Women, which requested UN Women to “emphasize the importance of education and training as an enabling instrument for women’s empowerment and leadership, to mobilize relevant United Nations bodies and stakeholders towards strengthening the provision of specialized education and training, in particular by using existing modalities and mechanisms.”¹

UN Women commits to working with partners, including governments, civil society, the private sector, UN agencies and multilateral organizations to accelerate progress in closing the gender gap in access to education and to ensure quality, relevant and transformative education for all, as outlined by the UN Secretary-General’s Education First Initiative. UN Women will strengthen partnerships to ensure that gender equality and women’s empowerment remains at the center of global efforts on education.

Convinced that the education of women and girls is a game-changer in all our focus areas of work, in implementing our Strategic Plan for 2014-2017, UN Women will stimulate the transformative power of quality education through innovation and technology to expand access to quality education and teacher training. We commit to paying attention to women and girls who have dropped out of school and need second chances and catch-up opportunities, and women and girls whose options in education have been particularly limited by armed conflict. We also aim to support Member States to strengthen the normative foundations for the global work on education and gender equality.

¹ Executive Board Decision 2011/3 (UNWOMEN/2011/13)