

Innovative Tools for Information Sharing

*Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI),
Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW),
International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)*

OSAGI, DAW and INSTRAW will showcase four of its current best practices:

- **The Secretary-General's Database on Violence Against Women**

The database, launched in March 2009, is the first global tool that gathers information on measures taken by Member States to address violence against women. These measures include legal frameworks, policies and programmes, institutional mechanisms, services for women victims/survivors of violence, preventive measures and training, research and statistical data, and other measures. The information in the database is searchable in all six official languages of the United Nations, by type of measure undertaken, form(s) of violence addressed, country/region, the year a measure was undertaken, and keyword(s). The information contained in the database is based on responses by Member States to a questionnaire on violence against women. The database is updated on an on-going basis. This tool is designed to increase opportunities for exchange of experiences and promising practices in addressing violence against women. For further information, please contact Ms. Anne Eyrygnoux at eyrygnoux@un.org, or at + 1 (212) 963-0665.

- **UN Womenwatch innovations: UNGENews**

With a view to publicizing the work of the UN on gender equality and women's empowerment and to increase the use of UN gender resources and traffic to UN entities' websites on gender-related themes, UNGENews provides a one-stop hub of Really Simple Syndication (RSS)-based gender equality news of all UN entities. Launched in August 2009, UNGENews uses innovative open-source web-based technologies and is one of the first "RSS news aggregators" used by the UN to compile and showcase UN system-wide work, and to automatically link it up with social media. UNGENews collects news items on gender equality from the increasing number of RSS newsfeeds of UN entities and displays them on a single web page and news feed on the UN Womenwatch web portal. Recently, a feature which automatically displays UNGENews stories on Facebook and Twitter and provides e-mail alert subscription has been added. UNGENews is an off-shoot of Womenwatch, an inter-agency project managed by the Division for the Advancement of Women on behalf of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE). Womenwatch is a unique electronic gateway to information on all UN work on the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment and on the outcomes of the United Nations' intergovernmental processes in this area. For further information, please contact womenwatch@un.org. Visit UNGENews at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ungen/>

- Launched in 2008, United Nations Secretary-General's **UNiTE to End Violence against Women** campaign is a multi-year effort aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. UNiTE calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls. By 2015, UNiTE aims to achieve the following five goals in all countries: adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls; adopt and implement multi-sectoral national action plans; strengthen data collection on the prevalence of violence against women and girls; increase public awareness and social mobilization; address sexual violence in conflict. For further information, please contact Ms. Patricia Cortes at cortesp@un.org, or at + 1 (917) 367-3197.
- **The use of media and ICT to strengthen women's leadership and participation in politics and decision-making in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia**
 This project is implemented by UN INSTRAW in the Maghreb region, in partnership with a regional NGO (CAWTAR-Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research). Perhaps the most innovative aspect of the project is its methodology, which is participatory and action-oriented. It includes capacity-building, advocacy, political dialogue, and communication. Diversified and innovative tools, such as flyers, videos, thought-provoking short movies, radio campaigns, SMS, podcasts, and a Facebook group, are used, aiming in particular to improve women's image in the media. Moreover, an interactive dialogue through ICT has been promoted with special attention given to youth. The project's website is the only specialized site dedicated to women's political participation in these three Maghreb countries and is available in Arabic, English and French. The website is updated daily and publishes an electronic bi-monthly newsletter. It also includes a database of contact details of key stakeholders, useful links and publications, together with videos, interviews, polls and interactive spaces promoting dialogue among actors from different parts of the world. For further information, please contact Ms. Giorgia Depaoli at gdepaoli@un-instraw.org.