27 February 2015

Excellency,

I refer to my letter of 19 January 2015 by which I forwarded the Concept Note for the High-level Thematic debate on "*Advancing Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda*". I have the honour to transmit the Provisional Agenda for the High-level thematic debate scheduled for 6 March 2015.

As 2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Member States and other stakeholders have the opportunity to reaffirm political commitments and to accelerate implementation of the Platform for Action. I invite delegations to use the thematic debate to make specific expressions of commitment in support of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. These could take the form of announcements of, *inter alia*, legislation, policies, programmes or various initiatives to be captured in the President's Summary.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sam K. Kutesa

All Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Provisional Programme

High-Level Thematic Debate
Advancing Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda
6 March 2015, Trusteeship Council Chamber

Morning	
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	**2015 Observance of International Women's Day** **UN Women Video presentation (3 mins.)** **Opening remarks:** • **H.E. Mr. Sam K. Kutesa,** President of the General Assembly • **H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary-General of the United Nations **Statements by Heads of State or Government** • **H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, President of Liberia • **H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic**, President of Croatia • **H.E. Ahmet Davutoğlu**, Prime Minister of Turkey **Special Guests** • **Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, Executive-Director of UN Women • **Ms. Sivananthi Thanenthiran**, Executive Director, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW, Malaysia) • **Miss Nohelia** (Youth representative) **Keynote speaker** **Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean**, Secretary-General, La Francophonie and former Governor-General of Canada
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	**Interactive panel 1** Women's economic and political empowerment, including access to and control over economic and productive resources and active participation in governance and decision-making Chair: **H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, President of Liberia (tbc) Opening remarks and introduction of the panellists **Panellists** • **Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga**, Speaker of Parliament of Uganda • **Ms. Jane Stewart,** Special Representative to the United Nations and Director, International Labour Organization • **Dr. Naila Kabeer**, Professor of Gender and Development at the Gender Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science • **Ms. Aizhamal Bakashova**, PA Shazet (rural women's civil society organization, Kyrgyzstan) • **Dr. Patrick Ho**, Deputy Chairman and Secretary-General, China Energy Fund Committee

	Interactive exchange between Chair and panellists (Q&A format)
	Chair will open the floor to delegations and other participants for 2-3 min. remarks/interventions
Afternoon	
3:00 p.m.- 5:45 p.m.	**Interactive panel 2** Access to quality education and skills development as tools for empowerment of women and girls Chair: **H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic**, President of Croatia Opening remarks and introduction of the panellists **Panellists** • **Ms. Irina Bokova,** Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization • **Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin**, Executive-Director, United Nations Population Fund • **Ms. Yoko Hayashi,** Chair of the CEDAW Committee • **Ms. Geeta Rao Gupta**, Deputy Executive Director for Programmes, United Nations Children's Fund • **Ms. Mariana Mancilla**, Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud A.C., (Youth development organization, Mexico) Interactive exchange between Chair and panellists (Q&A format) Chair will open the floor to delegations and other participants for 2-3 min. remarks/interventions
5:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	**Closing session** • **H.E. Mr. Sam K. Kutesa**, President of the General Assembly