

**EMPOWER WOMEN: 30 YEARS OF THE UNITED NATIONS EFFORTS TO
PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY
EXHIBIT OPENING**

4 March 2005 at 1:30 pm

1:30 -1:35 pm

Carolyn Hannan

Director, Division for the Advancement of Women

Excellencies

Mrs. Annan

Distinguished Delegates

Colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the launching of this exhibit: **Empower Women: 30 years of United Nations efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women**. The exhibit is organized in the context of the on-going ten-year review of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Commission on the Status of Women. The exhibit very graphically illustrates a key message in the statement by the Secretary-General at the opening of the Commission: "...there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women."

The exhibit will draw participants attending the Commission on the Status of Women over the coming week as well as other visitors to the United Nations Building during the next two months.

We are honoured by the presence of **Mrs. Nane Annan**, a lawyer by training, an accomplished artist, and wife of the United Nations Secretary-General. The achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women is a cause which Mrs. Annan has unceasingly promoted and supported over the past decade. Mrs. Annan has

been particularly dedicated to the empowerment of young girls. It is extremely fitting that Mrs. Annan will make welcoming remarks at this exhibit.

Mrs Annan you have the floor.

1:35 – 1:40 pm **Nane Annan**
(5 minutes)

1: 40 – 1:42 pm **Carolyn Hannan**

Thank you Mrs Annan.

It is now my privilege to welcome **Mr. José Antonio Ocampo**, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations, who will introduce you to the exhibit.

1:42 – 1:52 pm **Jose Antonio Ocampo, USG, DESA**
(7-10 minutes)

1: 52 – 2:00 pm **Carolyn Hannan**

Before we open and view the exhibit, I would like to make some brief acknowledgements. I would like to thank Real Design Associates who designed and curated the exhibition; Magnum Photos for generously contributing photographs from their nominee young photographers, as well as facilitating the use of other photographs from their agency; the Duggal studio has for producing and installing the major portion of the exhibit and the United Nations exhibits team for overall guidance and support. Finally I thank members of the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the staff of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

I would now like to ask **Mrs. Annan** to cut the ribbon and officially open the exhibition.

Thank you Mrs Annan, and thank you Under-Secretary-General Mr Ocampo. We now invite you to view the exhibit and we ask you to take a moment and sign the guest book before you leave.

2:00 - 2:15 pm Ribbon-cutting, photo opportunity, walk through and viewing of the exhibit with Mrs. Annan and Mr Ocampo. Carolyn Hannan, Sylvie Illana Cohen, Yasna Uberoi and Margot Perlman to guide the guests through the exhibition.