

## On the occasion of International Women's Day

Press conference  
Tuesday 7 March, 10:30am  
United Nations Room S-226

## Women in Decision-Making: From Politics to the Private Sector

Women still struggle to break through glass ceiling  
in government, business, media and other spheres

### **Ms. Carmen María Gallardo (El Salvador)**

Chairperson, Commission on the Status of Women

### **Mrs. Adekunbi Abibat Sonaïke (Nigeria)**

Vice Chairperson, Commission on the Status of Women

### **Ms. Rachel Mayanja**

Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

### **Ms. Anne Kathrine Slungård (Norway)**

Chair of the Statoil Board of Elections and  
former Mayor of the City of Trondheim

While women's participation in parliaments is now the highest it has ever been — at 16.3 per cent across worldwide parliaments — this represents only a marginal increase since 1975, when the participation rate was 10.9 per cent.

#### **What needs to be done to improve this situation?**

Similarly, women remain underrepresented as top executives in the private sector even in the developed countries, despite educational advances for women in many parts of the world.

Several countries, including Norway, have implemented quotas to increase the number of women on boards of directors of companies.

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