



**Office for Gender Equality of the Government of Montenegro
United Nations System in Montenegro**

MEDIA ADVISORY

On the occasion of 8th March, International Women's Day

What: The Office for Gender Equality of the Government of Montenegro and the United Nations System in Montenegro: FAO (The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), **IOM** (The International Organization for Migration), **UNDP** (The United Nations Development Programme), **UNHCR** (The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), **UNICEF** (The United Nations Children's Fund) and **WHO** (World Health Organization) **will hold a press conference on the occasion of 8 March, International Women's Day.**

Speakers at the conference will be:

Ms. Nada Drobnjak, Head of the Governmental Office for Gender Equality
Mr. Serge Ducasse, UNHCR Representative, Chair of the UN Theme Group on Human Rights

The main aims of marking 8th March this year is to **support the implementation of the recently adopted Gender Equality Law and to call on strengthening of gender mechanisms in the Government and in the Parliament.** This year we call on all actors in society to act with renewed urgency and understanding that there is no effective development of society in which women do not play a central role. Also, Montenegro took over all these obligations and the responsibility on writing the Initial Report on the **UN Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** by succeeding to this Convention on 23rd October 2006.

When: March 7th (Friday) 2008, at 1pm
Where: Hotel "Podgorica", Podgorica, Montenegro

* * *

International Women's Day is marked every year on 8th March by women's groups around the world. This date is also marked at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents almost ten decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

Over the years, **the United Nations action for the advancement of women has taken four clear directions:** promotion of legal measures; mobilization of public opinion and international action; training and research, including the compilation of gender desegregated statistics; and direct assistance to disadvantaged groups. Today a central organizing principle of the work of the United Nations is that no enduring solution to society's most threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment, of the world's women.

UN Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, and it is often described as an international bill of rights for women. This Convention defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

Contacts:

Kača Đuričković, UNDP Gender Programme Associate
Tel: ++381 81 231 251; Mob.: ++381 69 071 045; E-mail: kaca.djurickovic@undp.org

Ivana Vujović, Communications Assistant, UNCT Montenegro; Tel: ++381 81 231 251; Mob.: ++381 69 681 222; E-mail: ivana.vujovic@undp.org;