

**SPECIAL EVENT ON ENGAGING PHILANTHROPY TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND
WOMEN S EMPOWERMENT**

22 FEBRUARY 2010, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITMENTS

Sarah Ferguson, Duchess

“As a mother myself, and from meeting with mothers in countries and cultures across the globe, I believe that the nurturing power of mothers can change the landscape of economic, political, and social issues. As a result, and to work towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, I am developing a new initiative to harness the collective power of mothers. In collaboration with the UN Office for Partnerships, NGOs, UN officials, and private partners, this initiative will launch through an innovative technological platform where mothers around the world will be convened to share, learn, support, and empower each other.”

Ms. Maria Borelius, CEO, Hand in Hand International

Hand in Hand International is committed to support the creation of 10 million jobs among poor, rural and marginalized women through the establishment of micro-enterprises across Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and South America. This, in turn, will help 40 million people out of poverty, as each job supports around four people.

Dr. Tariq Cheema, CEO, World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP)

In order to tackle the gender equality deficit and empowering women in Muslim societies, a rational discussion will be effective when lead by the Muslims within the context of their religious-cultural norms. WCMP announces the launch of a unique initiative entitled “Employment through Enlightenment” that will raise awareness among the male population, as well as offer skill-building opportunities to females. As a first step, a working group will be assembled with the task of developing effective strategies for this worldwide campaign. The campaign will work closely with mosques, schools, media and other community-based organizations. WCMP encourages and invites the international community to partner in this effort. WCMP is a global initiative working with humanitarians and institutions in order to mobilize human and financial resources in addressing critical challenges facing the world today, including addressing the issue of women’s rights in Muslim-majority countries.

Ms. Mona Kali, Executive Director,

Dubai Women Establishment, under the leadership of their President Her Highness Sheikha Manal Al Maktoum, focuses on the issues of women’s employment and promoting a culture of respect and mutual understanding. Dubai Women Establishment contributes to the economic and social development through gender sensitive policy design, research, leadership development programs, and networking events. Dubai Women Establishment will support the United Nations initiatives to achieve gender equality.

Ms. Heidi Kühn, Founder, Roots of Peace

Roots of Peace will form an alliance to facilitate de-mining and replanting in Afghanistan. Roots of Peace will mobilize and engage women to play key role in setting forth a call to action for United Nations Landmine Awareness Day.

Ms. Francine LeFrak, Founder, Same Sky

In recognition of the call to action by the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and his efforts, Same Sky will focus its efforts towards developing projects with women artisans to sell in global markets looking towards Haiti and other countries. Same Sky will provide these women with sustainable income and further the empowerment of women around the world.

Ms. Irene D. Pritzker, President, IDP Foundation

IDP Rising Schools aims to boost the development of existing, but underprivileged non-government schools for disadvantaged children throughout Ghana. The Program is committed to ensuring that participating schools achieve gender equality, among both staff and students. Partnering with Sinapi Aba Trust provides added assistance to Ghanaian women through a