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Press Release

Kinshasa, 8th March, 2017 in commemoration of the International Women's Day: The theme for International Women's Day 2017, focuses on "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030". The world of work is changing, and with significant implications for women. On one hand, we have globalization, technological and digital revolution and the opportunities they bring, and on the other hand, the growing informality of labour, unstable livelihoods and incomes, new fiscal and trade policies and environmental impacts, all of which must be addressed in the context of women's economic empowerment.

In 2015, world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, placing gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Achievement of the goals, including ending poverty, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, reducing inequalities within and between countries, and achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, rests upon unlocking the full potential of women in the world of work.

Measures that are key to ensuring women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work must include bridging the gender pay gap, which stands at 24 per cent globally; recognizing women's unpaid care and domestic work and addressing the gender deficit in care work; as well as addressing the gender gaps in leadership, entrepreneurship and access to social protection; and ensuring gender-responsive economic policies for job creation, poverty reduction and sustainable, inclusive growth. Additionally, policies must count for the overwhelming majority of women in the informal economy, promote women's access to innovative technologies and practices, decent work and climate-resilient jobs and protect women from violence in the work place.



The Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) was established on December 4th, 2008 in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda, when the Inter-parliamentary Agreement establishing the FP-ICGLR was signed. During its Plenary Assembly held in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, in 2010, the FP-ICGLR decided to establish its head office in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The FP-ICGLR is an inter-parliamentary organization bringing together the National Parliaments of the 12 Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) namely: the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Uganda, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia.

The FP-ICGLR intervenes in the following areas:

- Democracy and Good Governance;
- Peace and Security;
- Humanitarian and Social Issues;
- Economic Development, Natural Resources and Regional Integration;
- Issues of Gender, Children and Vulnerable persons.

The FP-ICGLR urges National Parliaments to put in place legal instruments that will adopt laws and policies to encourage and enforce the participation of women in all spheres of the economies of the Member States of the ICGLR. In the Great Lakes Region alone the gender parity has not been achieved and countries are not performing well in the implementation of the SDGs. We are urging National Parliaments to make a “Bold Step for Change” to accelerate gender parity by continued efforts to bridge the gap through purposeful collaboration and advocacy and to advance and unleash the limitless potential that women offer to their economies.

