End-of-Year Management Letter on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Reporting of SEA Allegations

In accordance with Section 4.6 of the Secretary-General’s Bulletin on “Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse” (ST/SGB/2003/13), and in accordance with UN Women Executive Board Decision 2018/3 para.10 which requests that UN-Women, as mandated by the Secretary-General, present its annual certification to the Executive Board at each annual session, I, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women, hereby certify that UN-Women has reported to the Secretary-General all allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse that have been brought to its attention and has taken all appropriate measures to address such allegations, in accordance with established rules and procedures for dealing with cases of staff misconduct. UN-Women is using the Secretary-General's reporting mechanism, iReport SEA Tracker, an electronic tool which centralizes sexual exploitation and abuse allegations data that can now be reported in “near real time” and be readily available on the public Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) website Data on Allegations.

Furthermore, UN-Women has made available to all staff members and affiliated personnel training focused on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. UN-Women has also raised awareness of its staff members, affiliated personnel and beneficiaries of assistance, insofar as applicable, through appropriate means, regarding the prohibition of sexual exploitation and abuse and ways of reporting such acts.

Upon the Executive Board’s request, UN-Women undertook an external, independent victim-centered review of its policies and procedures on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse (and sexual harassment). UN-Women endorsed all the recommendations from the independent review under the four areas of accountability (governance, prevention, reporting and investigation and assistance) and is in the process of implementation accordingly.

With regards to the implementation of the provisions of the UN Protocol on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving implementing partners, UN-Women has aligned its policy framework and partner agreements with the Protocol. UN-Women is committed to UN system-wide efforts in developing common assessment tools and training of implementing partners.

Recognizing the importance of transparency and accountability in the United Nations system with respect to fighting sexual exploitation and abuse, this has been done in good faith.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
30 January 2020