Greetings!

It is a great pleasure to be with you all again. We have important things to share that have recently transpired. On my part, I participated at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) at UNESCAP during 29 to 31 March 2017 held in Bangkok on progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I am sharing herewith a brief overview on the current situation.

We congratulate a great friend of APRC and a long-time member of ICW, Dr. Laura Finne-Elonen, on her election to the Municipal Council in Finland.

NCW Australia organized a Conference on “Future Directions Our Council Our Voice – Driving Cultural Change” from 13 to 16 June 2017 in Canberra. Highlight of the Conference was the launch of the “Young Women’s Group”.

We also have news from NCW India on having been granted ICW-CIF fund used for development projects in favour of women and girls. And we have news on PNG women contesting in national elections.

I hope you will enjoy reading these news!

Sincerely,
Dr. Monthip Sriratana Tabucanon
APRC President
Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

By
Dr. Monthip Sriratana Tabucanon
APRC President

Dr. Monthip S. Tabucanon participated at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) at UNECAP during 29 to 31 March 2017. This report provides a global overview of the current situation of the Goals, on the basis of the latest available data for indication in the global indicator framework.

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Despite the fact that the global poverty rate has been halved since 2000, intensified efforts are required to boost the incomes, alleviate the suffering and build the resilience of those individuals still living in poverty. Social protection systems need to be expanded and risks need to be mitigated for disaster-prone countries, which also tend to be the most impoverished.

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition have advanced significantly since 2000. Ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition for all, however, will require continued and focused efforts. More investments in agriculture, including government spending and aid, are needed to increase capacity for agricultural productivity.

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Since 2000, impressive advancements have been made on many health fronts. However, to meet the Sustainable Development Goals health targets by 2030, progress must be accelerated, in particular in regions with the highest burden of disease.
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all will require increasing efforts and for vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, indigenous people, refugee children and poor children in rural areas.

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gender inequality persists worldwide, depriving women and girls of their basic rights and opportunities.Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will require more vigorous efforts, including legal frameworks, to counter deeply rooted gender-based discrimination that often results from patriarchal attitudes and related social norms.

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Access to safe water and sanitation and sound management of freshwater ecosystems are essential to human health and to environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Progress in every area of sustainable energy falls short of what is needed to achieve energy access for all and to meet targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Meaningful improvements will require higher levels of financing and bolder policy commitments, together with the willingness of countries to embrace new technologies on a much wider scale.

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Increasing labour productivity, reducing the unemployment rate, especially for young people, and improving access to financial services and benefits are essential components of sustained and inclusive economic growth.
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Despite steady improvements in manufacturing output and employment, renewed investment will be needed in the least developed countries to build needed infrastructure and ensure the doubling of industry’s share of GDP in those countries by 2030.

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Progress in reducing inequality within and among countries has been mixed. The voices of developing countries still need to be strengthened in decision-making forums of international economic and financial institutions. Moreover, while remittances can be a lifeline for families and communities of international migrant workers in their countries of origin, the high cost of transferring money continues to reduce such benefits.

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

In recent decades, the world has experienced unprecedented urban growth. In 2015, close to 4 billion people — 54 per cent of the world’s population — lived in cities and that number is projected to increase to about 5 billion people by 2030. Rapid urbanization has brought enormous challenges, including growing numbers of slum dwellers, increased air pollution, inadequate basic services and infrastructure, and unplanned urban sprawl, which also make cities more vulnerable to disasters. Better urban planning and management are needed to make the world’s urban spaces more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. As of May 2017, 149 countries were developing national-level urban policies.

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Achieving Goal 12 requires a strong national framework for sustainable consumption and production that is integrated into national and sectoral plans, sustainable business practices and consumer behaviour, together with adherence to international norms on the management of hazardous chemicals and wastes.
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Planetary warming continued in 2016, setting a new record of about 1.1 degrees Centigrade above the preindustrial period, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2016. Drought conditions predominated across much of the globe, aggravated by the El Niño phenomenon. In the Statement, WMO also noted that the extent of global sea ice fell to a minimum of 4.14 million km² in 2016, the second lowest extent on record. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels also reached a record high of 400 parts per million that year. Mitigating climate change and its impacts will require building on the momentum achieved by the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which entered into force on 4 November 2016. Stronger efforts are needed to build resilience and limit climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The increasingly adverse impacts of climate change (including ocean acidification), overfishing and marine pollution are jeopardizing recent gains in protecting portions of the world’s oceans.

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Progress in preserving and sustainably using the Earth’s terrestrial species and ecosystems is uneven. The pace of forest loss has slowed and improvements continue to be made in managing forests sustainably and protecting areas important for biodiversity. However, declining trends in land productivity, biodiversity loss and poaching and trafficking of wildlife remain serious concerns.

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Violent conflicts have increased in recent years, while homicides have declined slowly and more citizens around the world have better access to justice. A few high-intensity armed conflicts are causing large numbers of civilian casualties. Progress promoting peace and justice, together with effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, remains uneven across and within regions.
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Despite some positive developments, a stronger commitment to partnership and cooperation is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. That effort will require coherent policies, an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors and a reinvigorated Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Congratulations to our friends!

Dr. Laura Finne-Elonen

At the recent Municipal elections in Finland, APRC’s very loyal and great friend Laura, was elected to the Council and will have a heavy seat in one of the big Committees. According to Laura “(our present 28 Committees are rearranged to only 4 big ones, I wonder how that will work). I will get a seat in the Committee dealing with on construction and building issues, I think it is very interesting.”

Lucky Giire

Lucky has been offered a British Government Chevening Scholarship to study Master of Laws, at the University of London –SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) focusing on Somalin legal issues.
On June 15th 2017 Lucky was invited to address the House of Lords. Our Young women are flying high. Keep flying Lucky.

National Council of Australia Mid –Term conference.

The NCWA Mid Term conference was held in Canberra from 13th\textsuperscript{th} to 16\textsuperscript{th} June 2017.

The Theme of the conference was:

\textbf{FUTURE DIRECTIONS OUR COUNCIL OUR VOICE - DRIVING CULTURAL CHANGE}

\begin{figure}
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\includegraphics[width=0.4\textwidth]{Aunty_Violet_Sheridan.png}
\caption{Aunty Violet Sheridan, Ngunnawal Elder performed the “Welcome to the country “.}
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\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.4\textwidth]{Sir_Peter_Cosgrove.png}
\caption{Sir Peter Cosgrove}
\end{figure}

The Governor General of Australia Sir Peter Cosgrove opened the conference and welcomed the delegates to the Mid Term conference.
The Governor General of Australia, NCWA President Barbara Baike with NCW members who received awards at the recent Queen’s Birthday Honours.

APRC secretary Maureen with the Governor General

The high-light of the conference was the LAUNCH OF THE YOUNG WOMEN’S GROUP” This group was the brain child of the NCWA (specifically President Barbara Baikie, Secretary Yvonne Robson, Treasurer Angela Diamond and National Coordinator of Standing Committees Margaret Findlater-Smith). They gathered a few young women to help start it up.

Kate Wright the person who got the ball rolling’

According to Kate Wright, my contact the group (all based in Canberra) just started meeting regularly, gathering ideas about who we are, what we stand for, how we want to operate and what we want to achieve. These
processes are all still evolving but we hope to be well-established by the end of the year.

Young Women from around Australia with Prime Minister Turnbull At the Mid Term Conference in Canberra

The conference was well planned as there were times allotted for panel discussions followed with group discussions, with question and answers sessions. At the end of each discussion, reports with solutions were presented and these will be collated for future use.

The topics covered are universal, as the topics apply to any country. They ranged from Driving workplace gender equality, homelessness and security facing older women, Root causes of violence against women: Pornography, etc.

It was not all work and no play during the conference. Participants to the conference had breakfast at Parliament House, where the NCW Young women’s group was launched. The conference dinner was held at the Rydges Hotel. Delegates met with longtime friends and mingled with the members of the Young Women’s group.

Julie with a Jessica

Young women’s group
NEWS FROM INDIA

Sneh Lata Gandhi
President
Delhi State Council of Women
India

Now a days in India the traditional families of the lower strata of the society are too aspiring for a better quality of life for their girls & women. They are sending out their girls and women for education, developing skills to make them employable. So that they get opportunity to become self sufficient by earning and improving finances of their families.

The ICW, amongst the various stated objectives of improving women status & empowering them by its various activities, to improve & enhance their employability at local and community level in its member countries. National council of women are invited to submit subject proposal and development program to take up at their level in order to take forward to implement such programs.

To provide the ICW-CIF with additional resources to achieve these goals, Mdm. Lydie Rossini van Hissenhoven, Patron of the International Council of Women, made a bequest to ICW-CIF, *The Lydie Rossini Fund*, and stipulated that the funds be used for development projects in favour of women and girls around the world.
ICW-CIF granted fund to NCWI against the project submitted in May 2016. They informed that we would receive total grant of 4,500 Euros in two installments. We are grateful to them that we have already received 1500 Euros from ICW, after deducting NCW of India affiliation fees of 1000 Euros for 2015 & 2016. Second installment of 2000 Euros will be received after the satisfactory report of the project, which is fair enough.

As it was decided the project will be executed both in Shimla & new Delhi simultaneously at their respective centers.

With this fund we have purchased :-

1. Total 4 Embroidery machines (2 for Shimla & 2 for New Delhi)
2. Appointed two teachers. (1 for Shimla & 1 for New Delhi)
3. We have bought miscellaneous items like cloth, frames, scissors, needles, threads, tracing paper, drawing sheets, inch tape, scales, pencils, erasers for total 41 underprivileged students

Initially testing program was done to judge inclination of the students. It was quite encouraging to overall enthusiasm of the students and the teachers to participate and also enroll for the courses offered by making use of the new technique of embroidery through machines. Within a span of 4 months time the students have learnt and prepared their stuff for display.

The display was organized in an impressive manner in the summer camp show of the Delhi State Council of Women. This was a sort of show case of the talent developed by the students during their training period, which was highly admired & became popular with audience, the parents of the students & the members.

Teachers and girls working with the four machines
WHEN it comes to Papua New Guinea politics, it always seems to be the men’s game: a dirty little game where women don’t stand much of a chance.

That’s why you hardly hear women talking politics; because they tend to believe the position of women is the kitchen or household. Women are also often regarded as weak decision-makers. Things are changing, thanks to education, and women are coming out alongside their male counterparts.

But PNG women still face several obstacles to participation in political life due to cultural and economic barriers. Contesting against men is not easy because women do not often receive the support they need to compete. And voters do not fully appreciate the benefits of having a mix of men and women in government.

Every national election, the candidates’ posters plastered throughout the provinces show few female faces. This year there has been a slight – a very slight – increase in the women running for office: 33 more than in 2012 to make a total of 169 in a field of about 3,000 candidates.

The Southern region has 60 women candidates, then Momase with 47, Highlands with 43 and Islands with only 19.
Southern Region

Sixty women are contesting Central, National Capital District, Gulf, Oro, Western and Milne Bay provinces.

Central has the biggest number with 14 women candidates. Rufina Peter of the Trust PNG Party is one of three women contesting the Central Regional seat. Two sporting icons - Julianne Leka Maliaki and Iammo Gapi Launa - and another six female candidates are trying to win the Rigo Open seat, currently occupied by Ano Pala. In Goilala Open, chemical engineer Matilda Tagu Koma of the Social Democratic Party is contesting against current sitting MP William Samb and nine other men.

The National Capital District has 13 women candidates contesting four seats. Three women are contesting the NCD regional seat held by Governor Powes Parkop. They include journalist Veronica Marmei from Chimbu Province and they face 36 other male candidates. Marmei has been a journalist for 23 years and wants to make a difference by focusing on women’s empowerment and providing financial security to women.

Among the three women contesting Moresby North-West is founder and executive director of the first PNG women’s microbank, Janet Sape. The other two women trying to win the seat from Michael Malabag and 34 other male candidates are Lynnette Kerekere and Sallyanne Mokis.

In Moresby North-East, Shelley Launa of the Wings Party is one of six female candidates.

The only female likely to challenge Justin Tkatchenko, sitting MP for Moresby South, is Anna Skate of the People’s National Congress Party. She is a daughter of former prime minister the late Bill Skate who founded the People’s National Congress Party now led by prime minister Peter O’Neill. Tkatchenko is a member of the same party.

Gulf Province has 12 women candidates, seven in the regional seat, two in Kerema and three in Kikori. Maso Raka is running for the regional seat for the People’s Party citing her experience and saying that the people of Gulf have suffered far too long.

Other strong women contestants for the Gulf regional seat are Martha Kaia Manggal, Priscilla Opa Kare, Anna Hou and Elisabeth Bradshaw, who is one of two women running under the banner of the Coalition for Reform Party. She is a young, vibrant, outspoken and highly educated with experience in the oil and gas sector including ExxonMobil.

Susanah Apopo (Melanesian Alliance Party) is one of the three females running for the Kikori Open seat while Margaret Fareho and Agnes Haro Harihi are contesting Kerema Open.

Other women candidates in the Southern region come from Northern and Western provinces (eight candidates each) and Milne Bay (five).

Three women are contesting the Northern Regional seat, four women in Sohe Open and one in Ijivitari Open. Priscia Mauwe, Anista Matbob and Jean Parkop,
wife of NCD Governor Powes Parkop. are the three candidates contesting Northern Regional.

Sohe Open’s sitting member Delilah Gore is being challenged by three women: Helen Porari (Paradise Kingdom Party), Maureen Duang (Pangu) and independent Alicia Toroi.

Dr Joy Travetz, wife of the current Ijivitari MP, is the only female candidate for Ijivitari against 32 men.

In the Western Province, two women are contesting the regional seat, three for Middle fly, one for North fly and two for South fly.

One of the two women standing in the regional seat is independent Elizabeth Matit. In Middle fly Erica Sama (Pangu) is among the three women and in South Fly independent Ume Wainetti is contesting against another women and 49 male candidates.

In Milne Bay, businesswoman and mother of four Gillian Torie is the only woman candidate in the regional seat. Writer Imelda Yabara and Maria Tomofa are contesting Alotau Open and Monalisa Saragum (PNG One Nation Party) and Dr Rona Nadile are standing for Samarai-Murua.

The Kiriwina-Goodenough and Esas’ala electorates do not have women contesting the elections.

Momase Region

Momase has 47 women contesting in Madang, Morobe, East Sepik and West Sepik provinces.

In Madang Province, 15 women are up against 253 men. Two are running for the regional seat, four for Rai Coast Open, three for Usino-Bundi and Bogia, and one in Madang, Middle Ramu and Sumkar.

Mary Yalingu Kamang (PNG Party) and Ingina Kamuti Gelua (PNG Youths Party) are contesting the regional seat and commentator Kessy Sawang (PNG National Party) is contesting against three female candidates in Rai Coast Open.

Josephine Mandawe (PNG Party) is standing for Usino-Bundi Open and in Bogia Open we have Lucy Buck and two other women. In Sumkar Lillian Paul (Model Nation Party) is the only female contesting against 36 men and Inabe Ombongu in standing for Middle Ramu.

In Morobe Province, there are 15 women candidates. Independent Sussie Moses Sonny is the only women contesting the regional seat against 24 male candidates. Her vision is to build a godly model nation to reach out to the rural areas of Morobe where services are deteriorating or not available.

Sapume Kanawi and Judy Pokana are among 26 candidates contesting Bulolo Open seat held by Pangu Party leader Sam Basil. In Finschhafen Open, Lesley Bennet is among two women contesting the seat while Monica Peter is the only female contesting the Markham Open as an independent candidate.
In East Sepik Province, Dulciana Somare (Pangu), the daughter of Sir Michael Somare is the only woman candidate contesting against 25 men. Veronica Simongun is among four female candidates contesting Wewak Open. There are also women standing in Angoram (2), Ambunti-Dreikikir (1) and Yangoru-Saussia (2).

In West Sepik Province, two women are contesting the regional seat, four women in Telefomin and one in Vanimo-Green. Florence Saki and Julie Moide are taking on the regional seat for a transformed and better developed province. In Vanimo-Green Carol Mayo is competing against 20 male candidates.

**Highlands Region**

The Highlands region has 43 women candidates contesting across Western Highlands, Eastern Highlands, Southern Highlands, Simbu, Enga, Jiwaka and Hela provinces.

In Eastern Highlands, Julie Soso, Nina Giheno and Lillian Siwi are contesting the regional seat while Dr Susanna Khobu, Mary Pati, Sarah Shelley and one other woman are contesting Goroka Open. Salasa Moses is among other three women in Obura-Wonenara. The only female in Okapa is Serah Amukele, daughter of former MP the late Tom Amukele.

In Simbu, five women are contesting the regional seat, two are trying in Kundiawa while Chuave, Gumine, Kerowagi and Sinasina-Yongomugl all have one woman contesting each seat.

Mary Maima is amongst five women in the Simbu regional contest and Lynn Aina and Joanne Tawi are seeking election in the Kundiawa Open. Christina Tumun Nime (Pangu) is contesting Kerowagi Open and Dr Susan Apa is the woman candidate in Gumine.

In Enga, academic Nancy Waiman and Linda Yombon are among three women contesting Kompiam-Ambum against Environment Minister John Pundari. Jenny Luke (Model Nation Party) is the only female candidate amongst 30 men challenging in Kandep, held by the opposition leader Don Polye.

In Jiwaka, two women are contesting the regional seat while three are standing for North Wahgi Open. Veronica Weiang is amongst the three women contesting North Wahgi.

Three women are contesting in Western Highlands Province, two for the regional seat and one in Dei Open.

Three women are contesting in Hela Province, two in Komo-Magarima and one in Koroba-Kopjago. Mary Ken is amongst the two women in Komo-Magarima while Leah Angowai is the only woman contesting the Koroba-Kopjago seat.

In the Southern Highlands, Rachel Yangu is the only female candidate and she is standing in the regional seat.
Islands Region

In Bougainville, five women are among the total of 73 candidates standing. They are contesting North Bougainville (2), Central Bougainville (2) and South Bougainville (1).

Former women’s representative Rose Pihei (Social Development Party) is contesting South Bougainville Open. An Independent Rachel Konaka and Elizabeth Burain (People’s Progress Party) are standing in North Bougainville while two independent candidates, Gloria Terikian and Lynette Ona, are contesting the Central Bougainville Open seat.

East New Britain has two women contesting the Regional seat and Kokopo Open. Since PNG independence, Kokopo has only had male candidates but now Cathleen Baragu is determined to break through against 24 male candidates.

There are four women candidates in New Ireland, two in the regional seat and two in Kavieng Open. Veronica Perety Jigede (PNG Human Rights Party) and Dr Kapa Kelep Malp are contesting the regional seat while Lucy Siki Aiya and Rubie Wanariu Kerepa are contesting Kavieng Open.

In Manus Province, eight women are contesting in the regional (3) and Manus Open (5). Betty Komes (National Alliance Party) and Theresa Kas, wife of Madang Governor Jim Kas, are contesting the regional seat.

Posted in Election 2017 | Permalink

CONGRATULATIONS

This issue we will begin by congratulating Monthip being a grandmother to two beautiful grandchildren. Jane and Laura as well as Hean Bee have become grandmothers third and more times.

Monthip with Merrisa and Andrew
Laura’s granddaughter Nea
NEWSFLASH WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Readers, we would like to hear about any interesting projects/activities that your members are involved. Please email it to the Newsflash team and we will include it in the Newsflash. This way we can share our achievements with each other.

APRC OFFICE – BEARERS

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