

30th

UNIFEM'S
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

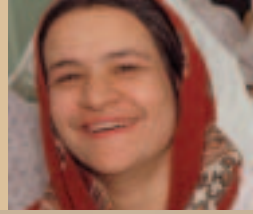
May 13th, 2006

*hosted by
Goodwill Ambassador*

NICOLE KIDMAN

United Nations Development Fund for Women





30

*Years of Challenge
Years of Change*

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), established in 1976, is the women's fund at the United Nations dedicated to advancing women's rights and achieving gender equality. UNIFEM works on the premise that it is the fundamental right of every woman to live a life free from discrimination and violence, and that gender equality is essential to achieving development and to building just societies.

UNIFEM focuses its activities on four strategic areas:

- Reducing feminized poverty,
- Ending violence against women,
- Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, and
- Achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war.

m i l e s t o n e s

1976

- Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women (VFDW, later known as UNIFEM) is established by the General Assembly.

1977

- First Pledging Conference for the UN Decade for Women, in which 33 countries pledged a total of \$3.5 million for VFDW.



Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan and Mrs. Nane Annan in Madagascar speaking with a woman living with HIV/AIDS.

In the course of three decades, UNIFEM's efforts in more than 100 countries, from Liberia to Afghanistan, have touched the lives of countless women. UNIFEM has helped raise awareness of gender-based violence, and helped women speak up against it. It has promoted women's political participation, and worked for their economic empowerment. It played a key role in the passage of Security Council resolution 1325, which placed firmly on the agenda the needs of women in societies in armed conflict, while creating a political framework for women's role in peace-building. Tonight, we join women around the world in offering thanks and best wishes to UNIFEM on its 30th anniversary.

Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan and Mrs. Nane Annan

1978

- Appointment of Margaret Snyder, first Director of UNIFEM. UNIFEM supports first revolving loan fund with US \$5,000.

1979

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is adopted by the General Assembly. The Convention is to become the cornerstone for UNIFEM's rights-based approach to programming.

1980

- Second World Conference on Women held in Copenhagen.

1981

- First National Committee for UNIFEM is formed in Finland, with 400 individual and 30 organizational members. By 2006, UNIFEM counts on the support of 16 National Committees worldwide.

30th

UNIFEM'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HONORARY CHAIRS

United Nations Secretary-General
Kofi A. Annan and Mrs. Nane Annan

GALA CO-CHAIRS

Maureen Chiquet
President and COO, Chanel, Inc.

Rupert Murdoch, Chairman and CEO
The News Corporation Limited

François-Henri Pinault
President, PPR Group

GALA VICE-CHAIRS

BCBG

The Citigroup Private Bank

KOWA Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

Rick Nicita and Kevin Huvane

Sakai Women's Organization
& UNIFEM National
Committee, Sakai, Japan

Sakai City Government

The Sakai Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

DINNER MENU CO-CHAIRS

Lidia Bastianich, Felidia Restaurant

Angelo Vivolo, Vivolo Restaurants

HOST COMMITTEE

Lauren Bacall

Katie Couric

Tom Ford

Karl Lagerfeld

Padma Lakshmi-Rushdie

Bette Midler

Julianne Moore and Bart Freundlich

Liam Neeson

Sarah Jessica Parker
and Matthew Broderick

Sydney Pollack

Natasha Richardson

Carole Bayer Sager and Bob Daly

Susan Sarandon

Diane Sawyer and Mike Nichols

Jessica and Jerry Seinfeld

Willa Shalit

Dame Elizabeth Taylor

Uma Thurman

Naomi Watts

Kate Winslet and Sam Mendes

Anna Wintour

Catherine Zeta-Jones

1984

- Through General Assembly Resolution 39/125, UNIFEM becomes a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with UNDP.

1985

- UN Third World Conference on Women is held in Nairobi. Some 15,000 women from every region of the world celebrate the culmination of a decade of efforts towards the advancement of women.

May 13th, Grand Ballroom, Hilton New York 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

evening's program

Welcome UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman AC

UNIFEM at 30 Noeleen Heyzer, UNIFEM Executive Director

Global Leadership Award

Presentation by Noeleen Heyzer

Accepting on behalf of

H.E. Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf,

the Honorable Vabah Gayflor,

Minister for Gender and Development

Dinner Message from Michael R. Bloomberg,
Mayor of the City of New York
Representing the Mayor, Marjorie B. Tiven,
New York City Commissioner for the United Nations

Video Macy's/Path to Peace Partnership

Global Champion Award

Presentation by Nicole Kidman

Accepting - Terry J. Lundgren, Chairman,

President & CEO, Federated Department Stores, Inc.

Entertainment Drum Cafe NY

Program Concludes .. Noeleen Heyzer

1989

- Appointment of Sharon Capeling-Alakija, second Director of UNIFEM.

1990

- First UNIFEM regional office established in Harare, Zimbabwe. By 2006, UNIFEM operates through 15 sub-regional offices around the world.

1992

- UNIFEM holds a series of Peasant Women's Summits in Asia.

1993

- UNIFEM launches African Women in Crisis Programme supporting women in peace building in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan and Zimbabwe.



Nicole Kidman
UNIFEM
Goodwill Ambassador

I am truly honored that UNIFEM has asked me to serve as Goodwill Ambassador. It's likely my most challenging role, and I know that I have an enormous amount to learn. But by committing myself to what I feel will be a life-long involvement, I can gain the necessary experience to be an effective messenger on UNIFEM's behalf. With the guidance of UNIFEM's Executive Director Noeleen Heyzer, and by meeting and listening to women who face and overcome extraordinary challenges – poverty, war, violence, discrimination – I hope to educate people around the world through my own education.

Commemorating UNIFEM's 30th anniversary provides a special opportunity for me to bring UNIFEM's accomplishments to the attention of a larger audience of concerned citizens. Knowing that so many people have come together this evening, not just to look back on UNIFEM's 30 very impressive years but to look ahead, only strengthens my resolve. My involvement with UNIFEM is providing an amazing avenue for me to contribute what I can to improve women's lives – to bring visibility to their struggles, to their victories, to their challenges, and even to their disappointments. When you have been blessed with a fortunate life, it is very much your duty to find the places where you can give back. I'm so proud to be part of UNIFEM's present and future. And I thank you all for joining with me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Kidman', written in a cursive style.

1994

- World Conference on Human Rights, in Vienna, integrates violence against women and other women's human rights issues into overall UN human rights agenda and activities.
- Appointment of Noeleen Heyzer, current Executive Director of UNIFEM.
- In war-torn Sudan, UNIFEM begins to support a dialogue between women from the North and the South – work that is to continue for more than the next decade.



Noeleen Heyzer
UNIFEM
Executive Director

Thirty years ago the women's movement embarked on a mission to create a Women's Fund in the United Nations that would dedicate itself to improving women's lives in the developing world. UNIFEM was born. And for three decades it has worked with a wide range of partners to advance women's human rights, to empower women in an unequal world, to help women access social and economic opportunities and to assist countries to achieve societies that are freer of violence, poverty and discrimination.

As Executive Director, I am proud of the way that UNIFEM has used the power of money, ideas, and partnerships to make a difference. I have witnessed how investing in women's leadership and

participation has brought about economic and social transformation. From Afghanistan to Rwanda, Liberia, India and Chile, new ground is being broken. Where discrimination once lived, today women's human rights are enshrined in constitutions and laws, women participate as political and economic decision-makers from village to parliament and ministerial levels. Budgets are being designed to deliver better services for women, girls and communities. Silence and stigma are being broken around issues of violence, trafficking and HIV/AIDS and the women affected are beginning to be heard as solutions are sought and policies shaped.

Although much has been achieved, much still remains to be done. UNIFEM will continue its work, continue to meet challenges and be a powerhouse for women in the United Nations. I thank all the Member States, women's groups and private sector partners that have invested in our growth and kept us strong. On our 30th Anniversary, my wish is for a strong UNIFEM to reach more people with the power to change the conditions under which women work and live, making the world a more just and equitable and a happier place for all.

1995

- Fourth World Conference on Women, in Beijing, reviews and debates 12 critical areas of concern and adopts Platform for Action. UNIFEM publishes *Commitment to the World's Women* highlighting a women's development agenda for the 21st century.

1996

- UN General Assembly establishes Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence Against Women at UNIFEM to support innovative projects to prevent violence against women.
- Princess Basma bint Talal of Jordan is appointed UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador.



Terry J. Lundgren
Chairman, President,
and CEO of Federated
Department Stores, Inc.

“Today the
Rwanda basket
business supports
more than 2,000
Rwandan women
artisans, provides a
decent living for
their families, and
strengthens their
communities.”

Recipient of First UNIFEM Global Championship Award, 2006

The Macy's/Rwanda Path to Peace Partnership was established in 2005 to open a global market for women artisans, many of them genocide widows, in the Republic of Rwanda. With a focus on “trade, not aid”, the project channels capital directly into the hands of Rwandan women, empowering them to take control of their own lives.

The story began in 2002, when UNIFEM Executive Director Noleen Heyzer visited Rwanda and was beseeched for help by women who had experienced unspeakable horrors during the 1994 genocide. Many were widowed, some homeless, HIV-positive and deeply traumatized, while caring for families including large numbers of orphans. Heyzer asked the women to show her the crafts they made and was struck by the beauty of the traditional baskets woven by rural women. She approached a group of American businesswomen and asked them to help develop a market for Rwandan basketwork.

One of the businesswomen was UNIFEM supporter Willa Shalit, who founded the Rwanda Path to Peace project and forged a partnership with Macy's, the largest department store in the United States, with annual sales exceeding \$15 billion. Terry J. Lundgren, Chairman, President, and CEO of Federated Department Stores, Macy's parent company, immediately supported the partnership.

2000

- General Assembly Special Session gathers more than 180 nations to assess progress towards achieving the Beijing Platform.
- UNIFEM's Executive Director leads an international delegation to support Palestinian and Israeli women in their work for a just and sustainable peace.

- UNIFEM organizes the first conference on women and peace in war-torn Burundi and is invited by South African President, Nelson Mandela to brief parties on how to strengthen women's participation in the Burundi Peace Process.
- UN Security Council convenes an unprecedented Open Debate on Women,

Macy's launched the baskets in the American market in September 2005, with Lundgren and Rwandan President H.E. Paul Kagame in attendance. Macy's now sells the baskets at their flagship Herald Square store in New York and through their internet site.

For many women basket weavers, the project has been transformational. According to Jeanette Nkubana, executive director of Gahaya Links, a local organization acting as intermediary between the weavers and regional and international buyers, "When we found these women, many of them weren't properly clothed, and their children weren't in school...this weaving initiative has changed their lives."

UNIFEM's work in Rwanda

UNIFEM's support to the women of Rwanda extends beyond economic empowerment. It also includes helping women participate in the political process. In 2001, UNIFEM prepared women to engage in national debate about the new Constitution. UNIFEM supported female parliamentarians to travel throughout the country, to talk to women about the draft Constitution and solicit their feedback. The issue of women's representation in Parliament was hotly debated. During 2004, Rwanda became the country with the highest number of women parliamentarians. Building on that success, UNIFEM also set up a women's caucus in Parliament to review discriminatory laws, granting women the right to inherit property.



Baskets woven as part of the Macy's/Rwanda Path to Peace Partnership.

Peace and Security and passes landmark Resolution 1325, providing a political framework for women's protection and participation in peace-building. UNIFEM's Executive Director addresses Security Council for the first time, pledging full support to implement the resolution.

2001

- Following the overthrow of the Taliban, UNIFEM and Government of Belgium convene an international roundtable on "Building Women's Leadership in the Reconstruction of Afghanistan," bringing together over 40 Afghan women in Brussels to craft their agenda for the country's future.



H.E. Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
President, Republic of Liberia

“Africa is ready for a
female president.
Women all over
are poised to enjoy
this victory.”

Recipient of First UNIFEM Global Leadership Award, 2006

From Cabinet Minister to senior United Nations administrator and now the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf’s career has never stood still. During the 1980s she served as Vice President of the African Regional Office of Citibank in Nairobi, Kenya and of Equator Bank, in Washington. From 1992 to 1997 she worked as Assistant Administrator and then Director of the United Nations Development Programme, Regional Bureau for Africa.

Johnson Sirleaf returned to Liberia in 1997, and began her political career. After finishing second in the presidential elections that year, she remained a pivotal figure in Liberian politics. In 2005, running on a platform promoting economic development and an end to corruption and civil war, she eventually defeated her rival to become not only President of Liberia, but the first democratically elected female head of state in Africa. The election made an indelible mark in the history books, and in the hearts of women and girls throughout Liberia and beyond.

According to President Johnson Sirleaf, her administration will work to raise the prominence of Liberian women. She has vowed to promote education for women and girls, to enforce legislation to prevent sexual violence, and provide training to support women’s economic empowerment.

1997

- UNIFEM organizes the first Mayan Women’s Congress on women’s crafts and access to markets in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.

1998

- UNIFEM launches campaign in Latin America to address violence against women, creating momentum to change domestic violence laws.

“All African women own Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Politics is no longer just the domain of men. Women have felt it, they have seen it with their own eyes, the strength that they have in numbers.”

Born and educated in Liberia, Vabah Gayflor was selected in 2003 to represent the women of Liberia in the National Transitional Government. She was soon appointed Minister for Gender and Development.

Minister Gayflor is largely acknowledged as the driving force behind the widespread campaign that became the tipping point in Ellen Johnson Sirleaf’s presidential race. Under Gayflor’s leadership, the Ministry of Gender has worked to promote female participation in the electoral process. From training women to run as candidates, to lobbying with the electoral commission to ensure women’s inclusion, Gayflor and her colleagues mobilized women voters to get involved in politics.

In the run-off to the 2005 Liberian elections, the Ministry initiated a massive campaign that saw Gayflor and her colleagues traveling from village to village to speak directly to people in their homes, in community spaces, in churches. “We rolled up our mattresses and went by bus or car to as many areas as we could; sometimes we ate and slept in the cars. We painted the picture for women that showed how, for the first time, our daughters could have a future we could only dream about.”



The Honorable Vabah Gayflor
Minister for Gender and Development,
Republic of Liberia

UNIFEM in Liberia

Ahead of the recent elections in Liberia, a country emerging from 14 years of civil war, UNIFEM conducted voters’ education and supported women to organize, providing training and advice. This support helped to bring women to the polls in record numbers, ensuring victory for Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, inaugurated on 16 January 2006. It also contributed to securing 14% of seats in Parliament for women.

President Johnson Sirleaf has worked with UNIFEM over many years. As an independent expert she visited conflict-affected countries to listen to women, and co-authored a path-breaking UNIFEM study on women, war and peace, published in 2002. UNIFEM continues to support women in Liberia and recently pledged \$500,000 to ensure that women’s votes count and their dreams become reality.

- UNIFEM expands offices to Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to heighten recognition of women’s human rights, particularly the right to own land.

1999

- UNIFEM organizes International Women’s Day Global Videoconference for *A World Free of Violence Against Women*. UN General Assembly adopts 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

UNIFEM Around the World

Afghanistan Constitution: Recognizing Women's Equality

UNIFEM's program advanced the Afghan constitution process so that the final document recognized women's equality and human rights, and stipulated that women hold 25 percent of the seats. To raise public awareness on women's human rights, UNIFEM helped establish the Afghan Women Journalists Forum to assist the estimated 300 women journalists working throughout the country.

Mexico's Ministries: Working to End Violence Against Women

While violence against women is widely acknowledged to be a pandemic, statistics to measure incidence, plan policies and services to address the problem are lacking in most of the world. The Ministry of Health in Mexico, building on UNIFEM's collaboration, now considers violence against women as a human rights violation as well as a health issue, and can identify states where domestic violence is high and direct services to those in need.

Tsunami-Affected Countries: Supporting Women's Leadership

When the tsunami hit in December 2004, UNIFEM reacted immediately. Within days of the disaster, the Executive Director visited the particularly hard-hit Indonesian province of Aceh and developed an approach that puts women at the heart of the relief and reconstruction efforts. Since then, UNIFEM has worked in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Somalia to assist women, in particular women-headed households and widows, to restore their livelihoods and to provide protection in a situation that left women and girls particularly vulnerable. In Aceh, for example, UNIFEM brought together religious leaders, shari'a courts, banks and women's organizations to call attention to women's land and property rights, a crucial issue in the context of resettlement after the tsunami.

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan: Championing the Right to Land

Initiatives in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan help women understand their right to own and inherit land. UNIFEM organizes legal clinics for local authorities and for women, resulting in positive changes in land codes and the implementation of new laws.

- Together with the Calvert Group, the largest family of socially responsible mutual funds in the US, UNIFEM launches the Calvert Women's Principles, a comprehensive code of corporate conduct focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment.

- UNIFEM organizes the first women's conference in Liberia to develop a women's agenda and strengthen work on women's political participation.

Sudan Peace Process:
Amplifying Women's Voices

Building on its credibility with women from both North and South Sudan, UNIFEM, with support from the Norwegian Government, convened a strategic Women's Peace symposium in Oslo to secure Sudanese women's participation in the major May 2005 international aid conference on Sudan.

Jordan, Morocco and Lebanon:
Connecting Women and Technology

Working with the Governments and the private sector – Cisco, Microsoft, and Lego Robotics – UNIFEM helps women access the information revolution, from basic technology at the e-village level, to graduating from Cisco Networking Academies, enabling women to break into higher value employment.

The transformation that has taken place in the lives of Afghan women over the past four years is owed to the resilience and determination of Afghan women and men, and to the valuable support they have received from the international community. I thank UNIFEM and all other international organisations without whose help this global effort to empower the Afghan women would not have succeeded.

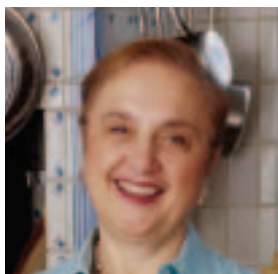
*H.E. Hamid Karzai
President, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan*

Humanity will never truly advance unless it ceases treating women, as well as the challenges they face, casually – often catering to them and their needs only for the sake of political expediency (when requiring the women's vote at election time, for example) and not because it understands that women have rights and aspirations equal to those of men. If only we can realize that simple point, and react to it accordingly, it would stand as the first notable, great achievement of the twenty-first century. To support UNIFEM is tantamount to moving humanity decisively in that direction.

*H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, Ambassador, Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan
Chair, UNIFEM Consultative Committee*

2005

- The ten-year review of the Beijing Platform of Action finds progress in policy changes to promote and protect women's human rights, but translating into concrete changes for greater gender equality remains a challenge.
- During the World Summit, UNIFEM launches its flagship publication *Progress of the World's Women 2005: Women, Work and Poverty* highlighting the importance of women's work in informal employment for effective poverty reduction strategies.



Lidia Bastianich
Dinner Menu Co-Chair

As a woman, a mother, a businesswoman and a professional I have been blessed: I have been given the opportunity and the freedom to pursue and achieve my goals. This blessing I do not take lightly, for there are millions of women around the world for whom opportunity and freedom do not exist. UNIFEM is committed to changing that. I applaud the goals of this extraordinary organization and want to do all I can to support it.

Lidia Bastianich, Felidia Restaurant



Angelo Vivolo
Dinner Menu Co-Chair

This is my fifth time working on behalf of UNIFEM. My involvement is even more important to me now than it was 10 years ago when Lidia and I co-chaired our first UNIFEM fund raiser. It was then that I became aware of UNIFEM's commitment to women in need, and I feel privileged to do my small part to help today. I am especially excited to see how Nicole Kidman's involvement as Goodwill Ambassador will raise the visibility of UNIFEM's critical work. I will continue to support UNIFEM and its mission for I believe that when you work with UNIFEM you work for the women of the world.

Angelo Vivolo, Vivolo Restaurants

2002

- UNIFEM publishes *Women, War, Peace*, the impact of armed conflict on women and their role in peace-building, by two UNIFEM-appointed experts, Elisabeth Rehn (Finland) and Ellen Johnson Sirlauf

(Liberia). UNIFEM's work to stimulate and support peace-building and reconstruction initiatives of women in conflict and post-conflict zones extends into 25 countries.

thank you

We wish to express our appreciation to the following donors - governments, the private sector, and civil society organizations - whose generosity supports UNIFEM and its programs to improve women's lives.

UNIFEM DONORS, 2005

Andorra	Ghana	Republic of Korea
Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations	Greece	Sweden
Australia	Guyana	Samoa
Austria	Hariri Foundation	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Iceland	Sisters of Mercy
Bangladesh	India	South Africa
Barbados	International Developmental Research Center	Spain
Belgium	Ireland	Switzerland
Brazil	Israel	Syrian Arab Republic
Cambodia	Italy	Thailand
Canada	Japan	Trinidad and Tobago
Chile	Johnson & Johnson	Turkey
China	Jordan	United Nations agencies, funds and programmes
Cisco Systems International BV	Liechtenstein	UNIFEM National Committees
Columbia University	Luxembourg	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships
Commonwealth Secretariat	Malaysia	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
Cyprus	Maldives	United Kingdom Department for International Development
Czech Republic	Marshall Islands	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Denmark	Mexico	United States of America
European Economic Commission	Microsoft Corporation	Zonta International
Ecuador	Morocco	
Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging	Namibia	
Finland	Nepal	
Ford Foundation	Netherlands	
France	New Zealand	
Germany	Norway	
	Open Society Institute	
	Oxford Famine Relief	
	Pakistan	
	Philippines	

2003

- Rwanda, where UNIFEM has been supporting women throughout the country's constitutional reform and electoral processes, tops the world in the number of female parliamentarians after women gain 49 per cent of the seats in the lower house and 30 per cent in the upper house.

2004

- A tsunami hits Africa and Asia. Within days of the disaster, UNIFEM's Executive Director visits the particularly hard-hit Indonesian province of Aceh and develops an approach that puts women at the heart of the relief and construction efforts.



How You Can Help

Become involved in initiatives in your community, workplace, and country that promote women's equality, economic security, combat violence, and increase women's political participation.

Support UNIFEM programs. UNIFEM relies on voluntary contributions from governments, the private sector, organizations and individuals. Tax-deductible donations to UNIFEM can be made through the United Nations Foundation (UNF), UNIFEM's partner providing fiduciary services.

Contributions can be made online at:
www.unfoundation.org/donate/unifem/

Or by check, made payable to:
UN Fund for UNIFEM, and mailed to
UN Fund for UNIFEM, UNF, 1225 Connecticut
Avenue, NW, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20036

2006

- UNIFEM, 1976-2006, observes *30 Years of Challenge – 30 Years of Change*. Nicole Kidman is appointed UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador to lend her visibility and voice to improve women's lives and champion UNIFEM.

To find out more, contact:

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