**Post 2015 Women’s Coalition – Compilation of key points referencing women/gender equality from the UN Secretary-General’s Report: A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.**

**Women and girls are major drivers of development**. Yet challenges to achieving gender equality and women’s rights remain significant. (para.26)

**Gender-based violence** contravenes women’s and girls’ rights, undermines development and is an affront to our common humanity. (para26)

Intensified efforts are needed to reach the **most vulnerable women** and children and ensure their sexual and **reproductive health and reproductive rights**, including full access to basic health services and sexual and reproductive education. (para27)

**Empower women and girls**. The new agenda must ensure the equal rights of women and girls, their full participation in the political, economic and public spheres and zero tolerance for violence against or exploitation of women and girls. (para85)

The practice of **child marriage** must be ended everywhere. Women and girls must have equal access to financial services, infrastructure, the full range of health services, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and water and sanitation; the right to own land and other assets; a safe environment in which to learn and apply their knowledge and skills; and an end to discrimination so they can receive equal pay for equal work and have an equal voice in decision-making. (para85)

**Improve health**. Address universal health-care coverage, access and affordability; end preventable maternal and child deaths; realize women’s reproductive health and rights; (para87)

**Promote inclusive and sustainable growth and decent employment**. This can be achieved by economic diversification, financial inclusion, efficient infrastructure, productivity gains, trade, sustainable energy, relevant education and skills training. Labour market policies should focus in particular on young people,

women and people with disabilities. (para90)

In both the public and private spheres, women continue to be denied opportunities to influence decisions that

affect their lives. (para26)

Much stronger efforts are needed to improve the **quality of education and provide lifelong learning** opportunities,

especially for girls and women, those belonging to ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and children living in conflict-affected areas, rural areas or urban slums. (para25)

Despite significant progress globally and in many countries, a renewed commitment is needed to improve the health and **life prospects of mothers** and children. (para27)

Policies supporting **free universal access to quality primary health care for** women and children have reduced child mortality in some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa,… (para 45)

Together, we need to focus on those Goals that are most off-track and on countries that face particular development challenges, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries affected by or recovering from conflicts or disasters. In so doing, we must pay particular attention to the needs and **rights of the most vulnerable and excluded, such as women, children, the elderly, indigenous people, refugees and displaced families, as well as people with disabilities and those living in poor rural areas and urban slums.** (para 55)

In order to leave no one behind and bring everyone forward, actions are needed to promote equality of opportunity. This implies inclusive economies in which men and **women have access to decent employment**, legal identification, financial services, **infrastructure and social protection,** as well as societies where all people can contribute and participate in national and local governance. (para 84)