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GUEST NAME: AMINA MOHAMMED - UN DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY

SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPTION
DR. MALKA	Hello, I'm Dr. Amaleya Goneos-Malka, welcome to 'Womanity – Women in Unity'. The show that celebrates prominent and ordinary African Women's milestone achievements in their struggles for liberation, self-emancipation, human rights, democracy, racism, socio-economic class division and gender based violence.
DR. MALKA	Joining us today in Sandton, South Africa, is the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Ms Amina Mohammed. Welcome to the show!
DG MOHAMMED	**Thank you very much it's great to be with you here in Sandton.**
DR. MALKA	You have a multifaceted career; prior to your position as Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations you were Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and before your ministerial appointment you served as Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon Moon on Post 2015 Development Planning addressing the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Reflecting on your time in office at the UN as Deputy Secretary General, what have been some of your most memorable accomplishments?
DG MOHAMMED	**I think some of the most memorable times have been the way in which we've been able to bring member states and member states are represented in the UN by permanent representatives individually and collectively; quite incredible people working on issues that challenge the world today in New York, but to bring them together with a whole plethora of different interests around the world. So with civil society from different regions, business in different regions, so really bringing the global village together, that for me through the four years that we all played a part in shaping the 17 goals and the 2030 Agenda was perhaps the most exciting because we pushed ourselves, we said we'd leave no-one behind and we really stretched to see what did that mean, where were the no-ones and how could we go to those who are furthest behind, so my visit to Nauro which is actually the smallest number state of the United Nations, tiny island in the middle of the pacific, I decided to visit to say what would it really be like to make sure that they are included in this new agenda; what are their issues and was just, you know, totally bowled over by first maybe the tragedy of the wealth that they had that did not pay for them but at the same time still their wanting very much to be a part of the global village and so from a country of about 10,000 people that has 90% in terms of diabetes Type A; no chance of really an education or a future outside of it, was really heartbreaking and it was sort of like what can we do to make sure they're part of the agenda. So that was a memorable visit and it was I think a profound reflection of how we need to be real about the agenda and so that makes it really cool. When we actually gavelled the agenda; when member states said we agree because that was tough, four years of negotiating, what we said should be an inclusive agenda, that was a memorable moment because it was relief that we had got the ambition that we set to get out and now it was all about implementation.**

DR. MALKA	It's such an amazing collective and I'm sure that there were probably a couple of hundred ideal goals that were in place before you eventually whittled them down to 17 but what I find fascinating here is about the inclusive nature and being able to, as you say, "leave no-one untouched" and engage. Because we're a gender based show we're always interested to hear about SDG Number 5 on Gender Equality?
DG MOHAMMED	**Well you know that was the one goal we never had any doubt would be there. It was sort of like...it was not going to be acceptable even when we said end poverty or hunger, the gender goal was always going to be there. The challenge for us was to see how that gender goal with its targets and its indicators would be the docking station for the other 16 so that when we talk about mainstreaming, in real terms, what did that mean, so when you go through each of the other 16 goals you will see the threads of goal 5 in all of them, so it feeds those goals, so without which we will not get the whole 17 and it really was grounded and first of all the successes that we had with the MDGs we cannot say that we didn't have, we did get girls into school, we did acknowledge that you know maternal mortality and that's when we really began to see that child stunting, particularly with girls, was a really big issue with malnutrition and so all of those successes we had still gaps, we needed the scale to get everyone and we built those into the Gender Equality Goal and we built them into every other one. Whether it was poverty or cities or consumption or the partnership, they were all there. So it's a very special goal and I think it does galvanise people. I think what's really more important and through my visit in South Africa this time has been the question of data and then how, if as I said, we said we said we really want to get everyone, disaggregated data is going to be important, not just by gender by but also by age, by community, so you know where to make the investments, you're not just throwing money at a problem you're actually investing in women so that we can bring up that 50% that we don't have. When we say an eagle soars for a country, it cannot do that on half a wing, so you know we've got to make sure two wings there and that other wing is Gender Equality Goal.**
DR. MALKA	You are listening to 'Womanity – Women in Unity' on Channel Africa, the voice of the African Perspective. Today we're talking to the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Amina Mohammed.
DR. MALKA	The first Sustainable Development Goal that we highlighted was SDG Number 5 which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. In the last year progress on this goal shows that while some forms of discrimination against women and girls are diminishing, gender inequality continues to hold women back and deprives them of basic rights and opportunities. Empowering women requires addressing structural issues such as unfair social norms and attitudes as well as developing progressive legal frameworks that promote equality between men and women. According to data between 2005 and 2016 gathered from 56 countries, 20% of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 who have ever been in a sexual relationship, experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in 12 months prior to the survey. Globally an estimated 21% of women between 20 and 24 years of age reported that they were married or in an informal union before the age of 18. This means that an estimated 650 million girls and women today were married in childhood. Rates of child marriage have continued to decline around the world. In Southern Asia a girl's risk of marrying in childhood has dropped by over 40% since the year 2000. One in three girls aged 15 to 19 had been subjected to female genital mutilation in 30 countries where the practice is concentrated, compared to nearly one and two in the year 2000. Based on data gathered

	between 2016 from approximately 90 countries women spend roughly three times as many hours in unpaid domestic and care-work as men and globally the percentage of women in single or low houses of national parliament has increased from 19% in 2010 to about 23% in 2018. We continue to watch this goal with great interest.
	AD BREAK
DR. MALKA	Interestingly what I've come across in terms of corporate social responsibility or corporate social investment put together by corporate's across the world, that they are taking a strong focus on what their efforts are going to do to achieve and contribute to the SDGs.
DG MOHAMMED	**They are, I mean, when we engaged business it was really tough because we speak different languages and you know a large part of our constituency in civil society also had borne the brunt of the not so good side of business and so they were very anxious and cynical about it and so it was very difficult, but it helped that they were there because they were able to, you know, set the bar for what it meant for business to make profit not off the back of people, but with people at the centre, so that you know you can touch lives, you can empower people and you can still get the bottom line, it's good business. And I think when we decided that you know we've got some very, really big issues that we need to address on climate change and a lot of that has got to do with reducing emissions and emissions connects to consumption and of course production and then saying to business okay, now we can speak to you; how do we actually get around this and really questioning what was sustainable about their businesses. So it went beyond corporate social responsibility, that's all good and we really think it's sort of the entry point, from the hand up to the handshake, as one of my colleagues often says to me and it's about investing in people, changing their business model and that's what we really found to be the hook, is that you can have a different business model and it can actually do better for you. It was also a hook for young people because while we talk about women, young people of which 50% are women, it was very important to break that ceiling and I often say that we have a glass ceiling for women but for young people there's a concrete one and I think that we have to recognise that we must have the intergenerational change that affects young women because the brunt of a lot of what is happening today, whether it is violence, exclusion, lack of education, is happening to adolescent women and that really is about our future and future generations. So business has been a big part of this to see how we get our worth in the marketplace, in the workplace, how we are at the table; decision making and how really we also can be part of the new business eta where technology plays such a big part and whether we're not left behind.**
	AD BREAK
DR. MALKA	In our previous conversation we touched on two more sustainable development goals; SDG Number 12; which is to ensure sustainable consumption and SDG 13; which is to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
DR. MALKA	Recent progress on SDG 12 shows that decoupling economic growth from resource use is one of the most critical and complex challenges facing humanity today. Doing so effectively will require policies that create a conducive environment for such change, social and physical infrastructure and markets and a profound transformation of business practices along global value chains. The per capita "material footprint" of developing countries grew from 5 metric tons in 2000 to 9 metric tons in 2017, representing a significant improvement in the material standard of living. Most of the increase is attributed to a rise in the use of non-metallic minerals pointing to growth in the areas of infrastructure and

	construction. For all types of materials developed countries have at least doubled the per capita footprint of developing countries, in particular, the material footprint for fossil fuels is more than four times higher for developed and developing countries. By 2018 a total of 108 countries had national policies and initiatives relevant to sustainable consumption and production and according to recent report from KPMG, 93% of the world's 250 largest companies, in terms of revenue, are now reporting on sustainability, as are three quarters of the top 100 companies in 49 countries. Progress for SDG 13; Climate Action, has largely been about policy development. 2017 was one of the three warmest years on record and was 1.1 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial period. An analysis by the World Meteorological Organisation shows that the 5 year average global temperature from 2013 to 2017 was also the highest on record. The world continues to experience rising sea levels, extreme weather conditions and increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, this calls for urgent and accelerated action by countries as they implement their commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
DR. MALKA	You are listening to 'Womanity – Women in Unity' on Channel Africa and we are in conversation with the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter:@WomanityTalk.
DR. MALKA	Looking at leadership elements, women occupying positions in government and serving as heads of state I think is significant for several reasons. Firstly it's about demonstrating the empowerment of women in governance, secondly women in these positions serve as role models, not just for other women, but also for young boys and suitable gender representation I think is vital in terms of policy development as well as policy implementation; could you give us some of your thoughts?
DG MOHAMMED	**Yes I mean I think that apart from...you get into a position of leadership, I think it's incumbent upon you once you've done that to open up that space further and keep making sure you bring in women, it's not just about mentorship, it's not just about being a role model, it's actually about exposing young women and other people who need that opportunity and I would say young men as well because I think that excluding them is only going to make a bigger problem for us. So that whole gender equality is about everybody with equal rights and equal opportunities and I think that that's important. So exposure, I mean a lot of what you see in my career has been the different exposures I've had to experiences from starting in the private sector going through civil society as an activist and ended up in the public space and I think it's really important to just, you know, have a go, your career...people say what is...you know, this is your career path, you know, how long did you struggle to get into the UN and then will you make it, I never struggled to get into the UN, I struggled to make a difference in people's lives and one of those paths led to the UN. So I think opening up that space, there are a lot of very simple things that we can impart to young people about this space. Lessons, so that while we are all, you know, have the experience, bring at the table, fall down, pick yourself up, I think there are some things that we can do that you fall less and I think that's important, that's what we bring to the table. They're not things that you can write in a book, they're not things that you can go public about because it's just part of that journey and there are experiences that, you know, you can share one-on-one or with a small group of women so that it empowers them and I think that's what it should be about is that keep on empowering, opening up the space, the knowledge, the experience. Giving courage of conviction is to show how vulnerable you, as a leader, perceived**

	to be invincible, have all those vulnerabilities, have had all those experiences that people are so afraid of, are constantly, you know, double checking yourself as you go out onto stage to say something or as you walk into a meeting where you are going to chair...well mostly it's probably 80% around the table men; you're constantly second guessing yourself and checking and every now and again you just take a deep breath and say this is it, I can do it and I can do it better and you walk in there and you don't know how you get through it, but at the end of the day you've gotten through it. So the vulnerabilities, that's why we are who we are, that's why we do the things that we do, because we understand.
DR. MALKA	Today we're talking to the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations; Amina Mohammed and during the course of today's conversation we're highlighting the progress of some of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
DR. MALKA	The next goal SDG8 addresses decent work and economic growth. The purpose of this goal is to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Progress to date shows that globally, labour productivity has increased and the unemployment rate has decreased, however, more progress is needed to increase employment opportunities, particularly for young people. To reduce informal employment and the labour market inequality, especially in terms of the gender pay gap. To promote safe and secure working environments and improve access to financial services to ensure sustained and inclusive economic growth. In 2016 real gross domestic product per capita grew at 1.3% globally, less than the 1.7% average growth rate recorded in the period 2010 to 2016. Globally, 61% of all workers were engaged in informal employment in 2016. Data from 45 countries suggests that gender inequality in earnings is still pervasive. In 89% of these countries the hourly wages of men, on average, are higher than those of women, with a median pay gap of 12.5%.
	AD BREAK
DR. MALKA	Today we're talking to the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Amina Mohammed. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter:@WomanityTalk.
DR. MALKA	We mentioned earlier about the technology strides in utilising technology as a core principle and a core driver and also how you came into the UN via your different experiences; I saw on your twitter feed you have a post pinned which says *"M y job description is simple; to build a world where every girl and boy has the tools and support to make their dreams a reality"* Given our world now, education is a critical factor, technology are key resources; how can we ensure that our youth, particularly in developing countries, don't get left behind in this tech revolution?
DG MOHAMMED	**I think we in our positions of leadership have to keep asking that question, I do all the time, every time a delegation walks into my office or I have a meeting of a country team or just civil society comes; I'm always looking for the numbers of women around the table and I will call it out. It's sometimes...and I...you do it in a humorous way sometimes because what you want to do is engage people, you don't want to attack them, you want to just make it very clear that, you know, things have to change. But I also do it now for youth and I do it for technology and the Secretary General's been really big on technology and, you know, are we ahead of the curve or behind the curve with artificial intelligence; what is the world going to look like in 2013, not just in terms of ending poverty but the opportunities that technology brings but there's also a dark side and if we don't have a check and balance on that then we could lose a lot of people and leave them behind. So for women I think this is even more of an imperative that we**

	make sure they get the right education so it's not just putting them through school, but the education they need in science and so the stem programmes that you see are really important and that when they leave you open up again; try to find the businesses that you can connect that can give them this opportunity too. So young girls in Africa that are doing coding, amazing work that is happening there is great. This morning I spoke about the value chain with agriculture and where technology is coming in and innovation and I was saying there's no reason why women can't use drone technology to plant; why do they have to break their backs with the hoe; this is gone and you know if you want farmers to transition generations then you need to bring technology with it to make it exciting, to get into the food systems and to really be producers and people who create jobs and are not just taking a job.
DR. MALKA	It drives scale, it drives efficiency.
DG MOHAMMED	**Yes, I mean you know, it's also exciting I mean we've got to wake up in the morning wanting to go do something, right, wanting to go do your work. People ask me about how hard my job is but frankly I enjoy it because, you know, I'm looking to see what is the difference that I can make today in people's lives, how can that have a knock-on effect with just the one thing that we open up at the UN in terms of space, convening, networking; what is it that we can do even more. So every day I wake up creating more work because there is just so much to do but when you see the impact, I mean it's just overwhelming, there is no salary or position that beats that, absolutely not.**
DR. MALKA	Today we're talking to the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed and in the process of our conversation, drawing on recent progress for some of the Sustainable Development Goals.
DR.MALKA	Education was prominent in the millennium development goals which preceded the sustainable development goals; SDG 4 is about ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. The UN's progress report notes that more than half of children and adolescents worldwide are not meeting minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics; refocused efforts are needed to improve the quality of education. Disparities in education along the lines of gender, urban, rural location and other dimensions still run deep and more investments in education infrastructure are required. At the global level the participation rate in early childhood in primary education was 70% in 2016, up from 63% in 2010. The lowest rates are found in Sub-Saharan Africa at 41%, Northern Africa and Western Asia at 52%. An estimated 670 million children and adolescents of primary and lower secondary school age worldwide, 58% of that age group are not achieving minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics. In 2016 an estimated 85% of primary school teachers worldwide were trained. Now we resume our conversation with the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed, with a more personal perspective.
DR. MALKA	Now going back a little in time; you are the eldest of a family of 5 daughters, born in North Eastern Nigeria; you studied in Nigeria, the United Kingdom and Italy; can you share with us some of the obstacles that you've encountered as a woman, not as a means of opening up injuries or anything like that but just to demonstrate to anyone listening on this show that the successes that women like you have achieved today have come through tremendous hard work, these things weren't presented on a silver platter.
DG MOHAMMED	**No but I would have been considered to have been born with a silver spoon in my mouth in Nigeria because my father was a civil servant and my mother a nurse and I come from a mixed background; my mother was**

	British and father Nigerian and we lived in the what would be called the GRA, the General Reserved Area, in Nigeria, so we would have been considered silver spoon but we had to work really hard because in those days a public servant was just that and so we went to public schools and you know we grew up with an education that was I think probably all round, we learned to do many things, so it wasn't just about your English and math and science but it was also about your needlework and your cooking, but as I started to join the workforce, that was the most difficult because it was all...it was a man's world and so even then you were never thought to have the competencies to do it. I don't think I would have been given the same chances in the work that I first started by my own fellow compatriots as I had by those who came in from the UK. So it was actually an Irish engineer that opened up the doors for me and a German architect and I then was able to work through...under very difficult circumstances and I mean look, we were architects and engineers, we were designing and building hospitals and schools all over the country. I was having to do the project management so I would go out to the field, six/seven hours down the road in a car, it was difficult to stay in hotels in that time, if you didn't have a chair up for your door you would do that six hour journey and go back because you couldn't stay the night and then go back again six hours and then back again. So it was quite a ridiculous way of life but it was one of survival and I think it strengthened us and it also got us a certain level of integrity, so in my country today I know that my reputation is built on the hard work and on people seeing that you actually walk the talk and that proving that women can do that and that women don't have to be any other way other than, you know, work their way through and show the competencies to deliver. So I think if...it was tough, I mean I remember very much so. It's also been tough on the family side because you've had to work a career and bring up children, I am one of five daughters but I've got six kids and now a grandchild and that was tough, it was tough in..and I guess it's the dynamics in a relationship where you are...you have a place in a family, you have a place as a wife and it should be...it should be compatible with what we do in our careers, but it isn't and I think that had its strains and so therefore in many, many cases not the life that you really would have wanted for your daughter.
DR. MALKA	And lastly, in closing the discussion today, please could you share a few words of inspiration that you would like to pass on to young women in Africa that are listening to us today?
DG MOHAMMED	**To the girls and the women out there, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, it is a long journey but every footstep that you take, just make it count.**
DR. MALKA	Thank you so much for joining us; we really appreciate your time today.
DG MOHAMMED	**You're welcome.**
DR. MALKA	**PROGRAMME END**