WOMAN’S PROGRESS IN THE SOCIETY

Last year, at the G7 Forum for Dialogue with Women, German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with female leaders from around the world to discuss women’s empowerment at an international level. “It’s a fundamental right, but what is often overlooked is that societies and economies cannot be successful without gender equality,” said Chancellor Merkel.  

The world’s most powerful woman is German Chancellor Angela Merkel, but not the American Woman President, in the FORBES’ list of world’s most powerful women 2015. Hillary Clinton has appeared on FORBES ranking every year since it launched in 2004 as, in order, a senator, secretary of state and influential personality. In 2015, Clinton was No. 2, but not the Most Powerful Woman. However, the most powerful person on earth in 2015 was President Vladimir Putin and the second most powerful person was Chancellor Merkel. 

In America, the super power and world's greatest democracy promoting human rights and democracy around the world, there is a formidable glass ceiling that prevents women to take the reins of the highest office. Aung San Suu Kyi led her party to victory in Myanmar's elections in November, but a constitutional provision prevents her from becoming president.
Unfortunately, America has no place in either of the lists (20th or 21st century female leaders holding the highest office), as it has a long way to go to overcome the prejudices against women, immigrants and the downtrodden, and cracking the glass ceiling.

The 2016 theme for International Women’s Day is “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality.” The United Nations observance on 8 March reflected on accelerating the 2030 Agenda, building momentum for the effective implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on new commitments under UN Women’s Step It Up initiative, and other existing commitments on gender equality, women’s empowerment and women’s human rights. In more than 60 countries across the globe, to rile up support for several UN Women campaigns. From film festivals to marathons, participants emphasized the need to ensure that States are stepping up to their commitments, raising awareness and creating plans and strategies to empower women(6).
The world is both wealthier and more unequal today than at any point since World War II. The richest 1 per cent of the world’s population now owns about 40 percent of the world’s assets, while the bottom half owns no more than 1 per cent. Although these statistics are fungible, manipulatable and deceptive, it is clear that the global economy is not working for women according to a report that offers a new economic agenda, one firmly rooted in the human rights framework, and brings rights—the right of all women to a good job, with equal pay and safe working conditions; the right to an adequate pension; the right to healthcare, and water and sanitation—into economic policymaking. The report concluded that improving substantive equality for women and realizing their human rights require a rethinking. Governments should pursue strategies for expanding fiscal space by improving the efficiency of tax collection, enlarging the range of tax instruments and reprioritizing government expenditures. Macroeconomic policy processes and institutions at the national and international levels should be opened up and made more transparent, participatory and accountable on an equal basis to women and men. As part of the commitment to non-discrimination and equality, macroeconomic policy-making should incorporate distributive impact analyses. The macroeconomic contributions of social policy and unpaid care work need to be explicitly recognized and incorporated into macroeconomic measurement and concepts, policy formulation and the assessment of outcomes with regard to gender equality and the realization of human rights (7).

References and Notes:
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(2) G7 Forum says women are essential to foster the global economy: http://prod.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/9/g7-meeting-and-declaration#sthash.gNGUMez7.dpuf
(3) The world’s most powerful woman 2015: http://www.forbes.com/sites/carolinehoward/2015/05/26/the-worlds-most-powerful-women-2015/#3f96dfe33c06
(5) Notable Female Leaders: http://www.biographies.com/people/groups/famous-female-leaders

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