**International Women’s Day 2017**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber of the United Nations Headquarters in New York**

**(Information provided by Dr. Nessie Ndive Hill)**

Many nations converged to celebrate the International Women’s Day at the Trusteeship Council Chamber of the United Nations Headquarters in New York on March 8, 2017. It was a grandiose event to behold as women, men and children observed and listened to the many strides humanity has made and continues to make on advancing women’s issues around the world.

This year’s theme focused on “Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030.” The notion that women’s rights are human rights focused on the spotlight panel discussions from the UN representatives and various countries who illuminated gender equality and economic empowerment issues.

For decades and even centuries, the burden on women for unpaid work has been grossly neglected. Marking, reflecting and celebrating this day demonstrated progress and a great milestone for women and their families around the world. The event was moderated by ABC News Anchorwoman, Sade Baderinwa of New York. The keynote address was delivered by Award Winning Actress, Anne Hathaway who is also the UN Goodwill Ambassador. Hathaway focused on unpaid work and care, and paid parental leave for parents. Included in the program were musical performances.

In summary, the participants unanimously agreed that there was still more work to be done in the world to advance gender equity, and bring about women’s economic empowerment. Some of the recommendations made included, creating potential spaces to share our common experiences. Also, encouraging people to challenge stereotypes, bias, discrimination; and engaging men and boys to understand and support gender roles. Finally, allow women’s voices to be heard and support their causes in order to operate in a safe, balanced and equitable world.