

MS. LAKSHMI PURI

**Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations
and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women**

Ms. Lakshmi Puri (India) is Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, responsible for the Bureau for Intergovernmental Support, UN System Coordination, and Strategic Partnerships. She was the Acting Head of UN Women from March to August 2013.

Ms. Puri has multifaceted experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, negotiations and advocacy spanning a wide range of issues, including peace and security, human rights, sustainable development, climate change, gender equality, trade and development and humanitarian action. She has led UN Women's successes in advocating for the prioritization and integration of gender equality and the empowerment of women in intergovernmental processes and outcomes, and enhanced its convening power at the highest political level with highly acclaimed summit diplomacy.

She has been responsible for the organization of major conferences including UNCTAD XI and XII, LDC IV and the historic Global Leaders Commitment Meeting on Gender equality in 2015. She leveraged her substantive background and experience on migration issues during UN Women's Chairmanship of the Global Migration Group in 2016 in the lead up to the New York Summit on Migrants and Refugees in 2016.

She steered partnership building with key constituencies and stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and youth. She provided the vision and drive for many of UN Women's public campaigns, including UNiTE to End Violence against Women and Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality. She has also promoted coordination and accountability of the United Nations system for gender equality. She has been a thought leader, a passionate and committed global advocate on peace, development and humanitarian action and has been keenly engaged in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment across all regions and sectors.

She was previously Director of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and a Director and Acting Deputy Secretary-General at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Prior to joining the United Nations, Ms. Puri was an Ambassador, held the rank of Permanent Secretary to the government of India and had a distinguished 28-year career with the Indian Foreign Service in key political and economic diplomacy roles.

