

## CEO MESSAGE

Hello, Jo Hayter here, I'm the CEO at International Women's Development Agency and it's great to be able to share with you a bit of a snapshot about what the last year's been like for us as you're probably reading our digital annual report. You know it's been a really impressive and important 12 months at IWDA.

It was the year that we introduced our new strategic plan and that saw us expand and restructure and take on a whole range of innovations. We have major support from Australian Aid and the Government of the Netherlands and of course our loyal foundations and individual supporters. Because of that, our program work, the coalitions, the movement building and the partnerships that we spend our work on every day have really flourished. I would have to say that IWDA's sustainability and influence has never looked stronger so we are all feeling proud of a really good year's work.

As you probably know, our programs and collaborations to advance women's leadership participation and women's safety and security and women's economic empowerment have been a common pathway for us for many years. All of that work has been implemented on time and has been able to demonstrate impact and change in the lives of diverse women and girls that we're working with every day.

This year we really tightened up our goals and strategies to ensure that we were fully aligned with our sustainable development goals. We think that the 2030 agenda is a great world map and we want to be a part of helping it to succeed but we also want to be a part of holding our government to account.

We have ensured that 32 years of our work in Australia, the region and the world has really had a bit of lift in terms of communications and messaging this year. That's not just to share information and to be accountable to you, but of course it is to be educative, informative and genuine in our wish to be transparent and exchange what we know can work.

It is interesting that at a time when so many people are backing away from advocacy or being intimidated by advocacy, we actually went the other way and established a new Research, Policy and Advocacy team, and it was really exciting that we very deliberately included systemic change as one of our new goals in the strategic plan.

It continues to be so thrilling to see how the Individual Deprivation Measure is really gaining traction and respect, and it doesn't matter if it's in Australia, or any of the countries in our region or in the global political and gender data platforms including the United National General Assembly and Commission for the Status of Women, its exciting work and it continues to build.

This will actually be my last Annual report message to you. After seven wonderful years, it's time for me to hand over to our next leader. But I have to say that it has been an absolute honour and a privilege to have worked with so many great women and so many extraordinary partners and peers in our region, we have so many brilliant volunteers and so many genuine supporters of our work. I have worked with the keenest of advocates and the smartest of colleges who have shared our vision of truly dramatic and transformative change in this world. I have been so proud of our feminist approach and determination from the very first day that walked into this job until the very last moment that I leave the building. IWDA's feminist approach really makes a difference to gender and development outcomes. We and IWDA have become one of the world's most significant women's

rights organisations. We are agile, we are specialist, we are motivated, we are an inspirational organisation, and it has been my pleasure to be a part of this.

So thank you to everyone and I hope I see you around, and thank you again for being with us on this journey.

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