



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 March 2019

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 7 March 2019, I wish to thank all delegations for their participation in the high-level event on 'Women in Power' on 12 March 2019.

I have the honour to enclose herewith a 'Call for Action' signed by fifteen leaders who participated in the high-level event. The Call for Action recognizes that women's leadership is needed more urgently than ever to address global challenges and identifies eight key areas to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership. It also invites women and men leaders to join forces and to act without delay to achieve real gender equality for the benefit of all humanity.

It is my sincere hope that leaders around the world will join this call and contribute to the realization of its key action points.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'M. ESPINOSA'.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

High-Level Event of the President of the United Nations General Assembly: Women in Power

CALL FOR ACTION

We as Leaders Gathered at the United Nations:

Because:

There shall be no greater leap for humanity than achieving real equality for women and the true recognition of their potential, value and strength;

Women's leadership is needed more urgently than ever to address global challenges from climate change to arms race to rising inequality;

The empowerment of women is about equal rights and equal opportunity in education, career and personal life choices;

As the world becomes more divided, women's voice against conflict, stereotypes and discrimination will have to be louder than ever;

The progress achieved over the past decade in the participation of women in politics has been reversed and we are far from accomplishing the goal agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making,

As leaders, women and men, we can influence a positive change:

We call on all leaders to the following eight action points for women's participation in power:

1. Lead by example by mentoring young women to strengthen their capacity to participate in politics;
2. Identify and work with champions all over the world to push for national actions required to empower women and give the opportunity to participate as leaders in politics;
3. Create synergies and strengthen the networks that encourage women to participate in politics and support the sharing of knowledge and experience;
4. Promote legal frameworks including laws and policies to ensure the full participation of women in politics without discrimination;
5. Develop specific measures to address violence against women in politics in all its forms and manifestations;
6. Adopt policies that ensure women's equal participation in the economy and in society at large, including shared parental leave, and access to quality child care as investments that create a better future for all of us;
7. Give priority to girls' education and the economic empowerment of women as key ingredients for women to achieve their full potential;
8. Create an environment where gender equality is respected, and inclusion is part of the organizational culture in all spheres of society;

**More than ever we need to join forces, to act fast and to act now,
for the benefit of all humanity,
We invite Women and Men Leaders to be part of the change, and to Join Us in this Call.**

New York, March 12, 2019

H.E. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the United Nations General Assembly

H. E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of Croatia

H. E. Mrs. Kersti Kaljulaid, President of the Republic of Estonia

H. E. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of Lithuania

Rt. Hon. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal

H. E. Paula-Mae Weekes O.R.T.T., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

H. E. Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland

H. E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums

H.E. Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice and Chair of the Elders

H. E. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

H. E. Marta Lucía Ramírez, Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia

H. E. Marina Pendeš, Minister of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina

H. E. Dr. Diene Keita, Minister for Cooperation and African Integration, Republic of Guinea

Major General Alenka Ermenc, Chief of General Staff of the Slovenian Arm Forces

Muniba Mazari, Artist, Humanitarian and National Ambassador for UN Women Pakistan