



## GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is a key element of the inclusion priority of the President of the General Assembly for the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly.

The General Assembly, as the main deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN, has a unique role to play in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women around the world. The General Assembly can build upon a rich history of engaging with women leaders in pursuing this goal.

Realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across the 2030 Agenda. Women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs, with many targets specifically recognizing women's equality and empowerment as both the objective, and as part of the solution.

2020 is a milestone year: UN Women turns 10 years old; it has been 20 years since the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; and we are commemorating 25 years since the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women. All events that presents a promising opportunity to galvanize multilateral action into tangible results for women and girls.

The President of the General Assembly recognizes the issue of gender equality as a cross-cutting issue and focuses on three themes: 1) **Quality Education to Women and Girls**; 2) **Economic Empowerment**; and 3) **Political leadership** to accelerate women's empowerment.

### • ***Quality Education to Women and Girls***

The President supports policies providing access to free and quality primary and secondary education for women and girls. The President also advocates for affordable and inclusive vocational and technical education.

In this context, the President gives special attention is paid to developing the capacity of teachers. Increasing the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, is a key to success.

### • ***Economic Empowerment***

The President continues to highlight the important role of gender equality in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with special focus on the economic empowerments of women.

Women make enormous contributions to economies- whether in businesses, on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees, or by doing unpaid care work at home. To be strong economic agents, women must have income security, decent work and economic autonomy.

### • ***Political leadership***

Women must lead, participate in, and benefit equally from governance systems. The President is committed to highlighting the importance of women's leadership and to support efforts to ensure gender parity within the UN.



All women and girls should live a life free from all forms of violence. The President strongly supports policies aimed at ending violence against women and girls to create a safe environment for women active participation in society. He supported the '16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women' through asocial media campaign.

Gender equality benefits everyone. The President intends to demonstrate the important role of **men and boys in the discussion** by promoting healthy relationships based on equality and mutual respect. He advocates that in order to improve the status of women and promote gender equality, attention should be paid to how men are involved in the achievement of gender equality, as well as to the positive impact of gender equality for men and for the well-being of society as a whole.

### **Key approaches**

In keeping with his commitment to striving together to deliver for all, the President of the General Assembly continues to reach out to women's groups and organizations and lend his support and voice to their activism and commitment. He seeks to meet with women leaders and groups in all their official travel, to listen to their advice and facilitate their inputs in the work of the Assembly through participation in events, engagements and activities.

As an **International Gender Champion**, the President not only insists for gender diverse panelists and moderators in panels and events organized but he has also reflected gender balance in his team. Furthermore, he ensures the reflection of gender perspectives in thematic discussions and outcomes. In order to catalyze transformative change for women and girls, the President of the General Assembly mainstreams gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a **cross-cutting issue** in his formal and informal interactions and work.

#### **➤ *Support Beijing+25 preparations***

In accordance with resolution 73/294, a one-day high-level meeting will be convened on 23 September 2020 to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). The President supports the preparatory process in accordance with the mandate given to him by the Assembly.

The numerous reports of national-level review of implementation fed into the report of the Secretary-General on the Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly submitted to the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in March 2020. This global synthesis report will guide the discussions at the Commission on ways to accelerate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly.

The President looks forward to the Generation Equality Forum, convened by UN Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico, with the leadership and partnership of civil society. The Forum will kick-off in Mexico City, Mexico, on 7-8 May 2020 and culminate in Paris, France, on 7-10 July 2020.



He expects that the momentum of the Forum will carry into the Multi-stakeholder hearing in preparation for the high-level meeting on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women to be convened on 21 July 2020 in the General Assembly Hall in accordance with resolution 73/340 (a concept note to follow in due course). This dialogue will ensure the participation and voices of women and girls as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 23 September 2020.