



# **Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries**

## **LLDC3 Women Leaders Forum**

### **Summary Presentation of the Women Leaders Forum**

*Delivered at the closing plenary of the LLDC3*

*10.00 am*

*8 August 2025, Awaza, Turkmenistan*

***I have the honour to present the summary of Women Leaders Forum  
“From Commitment to Change: Women Driving the LLDC3  
Programme of Action”***

**During the Women Leaders Forum, participants emphasized that achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda and successfully implementing the Awaza Programme of Action for LLDCs is unattainable without the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and girls.**

**While acknowledging some progress, such as gains in women's representation, participants underscored continued challenges including poverty, gender-based violence, digital exclusion, early marriage, limited healthcare, and underrepresentation in leadership and STEM fields. The Forum stressed the urgency of integrating gender equality into all aspects of the LLDC development agenda.**

**The Women Leaders Forum highlighted the critical role of partnerships and cooperation, across governments, regional bodies, civil society, and international organizations, in advancing gender equality in LLDCs. Key examples included regional dialogues such as the Central Asia Women Leaders Caucus.**

**A strong call to action was presented, urging leaders and stakeholders to prioritize women's leadership at all levels of political, economic, and public life. The call to action recognizes the critical role of gender equality and women's empowerment in achieving sustainable development:**

- They urged all stakeholders to ensure women's full participation in decision-making at all levels, and to adopt gender-responsive policies that address the unique challenges faced by women and girls in LLDCs.**

- **Commitments included support for economic empowerment, investment in women-owned businesses, improved access to education and STEM, and bridging the gender digital divide through innovation and technology.**
- **Leaders also emphasized improving healthcare services, strengthening gender data, promoting mentorship and leadership opportunities, and advancing inclusive development through coordinated, society-wide and international efforts, to leave no woman or girl behind in the implementation of the new Programme of Action and the SDGs.**

**The meeting heard from diverse stakeholders including Ministers, Speakers of Parliament, Civil Society, Business, youth and UN entities.**