

UNHLPF Session on SDG 5

Peggy Clark Moderator Remarks Opening Remarks and Closing Remarks July 7, 2022

Thank you to H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile and H.E. Mr. Suriya Chindawongse for hosting today's conversations, and welcome to all of our distinguished guests.

It is my immense honor to moderate what is a necessary and urgent conversation about the progress, and lack of progress towards a gender equal world. Let me begin our conversations today with three key points for all of us to reflect on:

1. Today, in 2022, there is no country in the world that has achieved gender equality.
2. No SDG can be achieved without a central focus on women.
3. Putting women at the center--with resources and decision making authority—of the SDGs will enable us to go farther faster towards our global goals.

Today we will hear from experts and advocates who believe, as I do, that gender equity is at the heart of all solutions to our most complex and pressing issues, and essential to progress on the entire 2030 agenda.

Just as the severity of the climate emergency, economic realities, and food security worsens with each day that we do not act, so does the reality and rights for women and girls and non binary people, particularly those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.. It feels like we are making the wrong kind of history for women and girls and non binary people these days.

Over the past three years, we have lost decades of progress in the fight for a more equal and just society. Each of today's speakers will share several recommendations that we urge you to act on.

We will hear examples of effective evidence-based approaches to bringing men and boys to this work, the impact technology has on maternal mortality rates, and wins for sexual and reproductive rights.

These advancements are not just beneficial for their recipients -- because of the research produced at organizations like my organization The International Center for Research on Women and others here today, we know gender equality leads to stronger economic development, better health outcomes for women, men and children, and more effective climate mitigation tactics.

Today we will also hear from lightning talk presenters who have worked to advance the rights and autonomy of women and girls in their communities. After competing in a United Nations Science and Technology competition, they have arrived here to share their work with us.

Near the end of the session, we will hear from four elected Ministers who represent their government's efforts to achieve gender equity.

The panelists are a group of influential and highly revered researchers, advocates, elected representatives, and community leaders:

Ms. Margaret Greene is the Executive Director of Greenetworks and a Senior Fellow at Equimundo, where she pioneers work on healthy masculinities.

Ms. Rola Dashti is the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

Ms. Nadine Gasman is the Representative of UN Women Brazil and President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico.

Mr. Denis Mukwege is the Founder & Medical Director of Panzi Hospital and Foundation. In 2018 he won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work, shedding light on the painful reality that is rape as a tool of war.

Our lead discussants are:

Ms. Samra Filipovic Hadziabdic, the Director of The Agency for Gender Equality, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms. Pille Tsopp-Pagan, the Executive Manager of Women's Support and Information Center

Our lightning talk presenters are joining us virtually:

Mr. Vikrant Pandey, the founder and Managing Director Fightback Nepal

Mr. Innocent Menyo, the co-founder Mobile Scan Solutions Uganda

Ms. Tofara Lindsay Chokera, the founder of Tofara Online, Zimbabwe

< FINAL REMARKS FROM PANELISTS BEGINS >

Thank you to the Honorable Ministers for further outlining the significance of this issue and leading the way with commitments to a Feminist Foreign Policy agenda, climate action that recognizes the inextricable link between women's economic empowerment and climate mitigation, and the power of youth to change our course.

Thank you again to H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile and H.E. Mr. Suriya Chindawongse for hosting today's conversations.

<Insert reflections from moderated period>

Today's discussions have re-affirmed for me that realizing rights for women and girls is the solution to our world's most pressing issues.

We must act now-- so I ask, can the women and girls of the world count on you?

I will return to our panelists for very brief and closing thoughts.

CLOSING REMARKS

Thank you to the panelists and to all participants today. As we leave this session and consider how we may build back better

from the COVID-19 pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, I urge you to commit to taking up at least one action recommended by our panelists today.

Thank you for your participation here today and for your commitment to women and girls everywhere.