

It is an honor to be here with you all today. For the past week, we have heard strong commitments, and a renewed sense of urgency in the implementation of the SDGs. There have been concrete calls for moving from words to actions.

The thematic review of SDG5 made clear that we have to do things differently, and we have to invest, to and ensure access to financing that works for women and girls. 44 countries have or will be carrying out voluntary national reviews by the time this forum concludes. Eleven for the first time.

We salute this effort to take stock of what has been done, and what must still happen.

Your Excellencies,

Time is running out. We have only 8 years left until 2030. And we have heard that we are very much off track. A devastating pandemic has affected every region of the world.

And even as we work to recover from it, we continue to leave people and countries behind. In 2021, WHO set the target for 70% global vaccination coverage by mid-2022. As of June this year, only 58 of WHO's 194 Member States had reached the 70% target. In low-income countries, just 37% of healthcare workers had received a complete course of primary

vaccination. 70% of frontline healthcare workers globally are women.

We face humanitarian emergencies, wars, food and energy insecurity, inflation and unsustainable debt. We see the inexorable impacts of climate change, with biodiversity loss and rising pollution driving flooding and drought.

There is no corner in the world where violence against women and girls does not exist. 245 million women and girls have been subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. 73% of women journalists in 123 countries report facing online violence. Across the world, GBV hotlines saw an increase in calls during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Excellencies,

Peace, security, prosperity, and a life free from violence are far from the reality of most people, and in particular for women and girls.

These crises compound the pre-existing **gender poverty gap**. No matter where in the world, it is women and girls who bear the brunt of calamitous job losses and plummeting economic security.

It is women and girls who navigate the strain of diminished public services.

It is women and girls who faced increased domestic violence, at the levels of a shadow pandemic, as a result of COVID-19.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

If we were in any doubt, this past week has driven home the message that we must redouble efforts if history is not to judge Agenda 2030 as evidence of our unwillingness to deliver on the promises, we made to those who need our collective efforts the most.

The good news is that we have solutions. All through this week we have heard about what needs to be done. It simply requires that we do it.

I also ask that we acknowledge the centrality of gender equality to those solutions. We know that SDG5 is not just a goal in its own right. Instead, it is the key to the SDGs as a whole.

This year, you have reviewed in-depth progress on the implementation of SDG 5. Many of you have presented impressive results on the advancement of SDG 5 in your countries. From an increase in women in the workforce, to new legislations to combat violence against women. We remain hopeful by these achievements.

A review of progress by UN Women and the UN Statistical Division reveals that globally, only one indicator under SDG 5 is 'close to target'. This one indicator is the proportion of seats held by women in local government. I applaud this.

Yet, in all other areas including equality in time spent on unpaid care and domestic work, decision-making regarding

sexual and reproductive health, and effective policies on gender equality and women's empowerment, the world is 'far from target'.

Data gaps continue to hinder our ability to successfully monitor all the SDGs. For example, there are several SDG 5 indicators for which the world has inadequate data to assess progress, the most pervasive being the indicator tracking women's secure rights over land.

The distance to achieving SDG 5 is far and time is short. Bold, evidence-based actions and increased financing are needed for a whole-of-society effort to address the needs and rights of all women and girls.

As we have heard from the Secretary General time and time again, we need renewed multilateralism and a reinvigorated commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. The COVID-19 pandemic was a stark reminder that our future depends on everyone prospering, and, indeed, that no one is left behind.

We know that this can happen. We saw it a few months ago during the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. For the first time, Member States negotiated agreed conclusions that recognized women's critical role in finding climate solutions.

The negotiations, which went late into the night showed the very best of our multilateral system, and of working together to advance the rights of women and girls for a more sustainable common future.

Your Excellencies, we know the solution. Increased gender equality result in more sustainable and peaceful societies.

COVID-19 was a clear lesson in the power of gender equality.

UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme assessed close to 5,000 policy measures adopted by 226 countries and territories in response to COVID-19.

This showed that while women and girls have been on the frontlines of the pandemic response, they have been given a back seat in shaping recovery and remain underrepresented in decision-making processes.

But is also showed that countries with robust public services and gender-responsive social protection systems were in a better position to respond to the pandemic.

It showed that countries mounted a more effective response when they had more women in leadership, in parliaments and in ministries.

And it showed that countries had a more effective response where feminist movements were strong.

So let me summarize what need to be done to advance the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and through this to get ourselves **back on track**.

First, let us increase investments in gender-responsive social protection and public services to increase resilience to future shocks.

Second, let us strengthen institutional capacity, increase women's leadership and recognize the voice and agency of all women and girls in shaping their future.

Third, let us ensure that there is adequate financing for gender equality including domestic finance and ODA.

Fourth, let us ensure that we have a robust evidence base and access to data. It is not acceptable that halfway through our Agenda we still have areas where data are lacking to even provide a proper picture of progress.

Fifth, let us recognize and embrace the important role and contributions of civil society and women's organizations, of women human rights and environmental defenders, and of the young women and men around the world. More space for them in decision-making processes will translate to transformative change in our communities and societies and accelerate our path to recovery and resilience.

Excellencies,

I assure you again that UN Women is here alongside you. We will continue to strengthen our partnerships at national level, supporting all member states who request it, with gender expertise and the power of our mandate and voice.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda remains the world's best roadmap to peace, security, recovery and shared prosperity. We are all too aware that we are far off track, but equally sure of the solutions available to us.

I remind us all that our ability to fulfil the promises we made in the 2030 Agenda depend in large part on our collective decision to put women and girls at the centre of all actions. Only then can we lay the foundations for a more sustainable, resilient and gender-just future for all.

I thank you.