

## **Eun Ha Chang**

Hello ladies and gentlemen, welcome to KWDA International forum and Beijing+25. First of all, I would like to make a housekeeping announcement. Today I will be moderating the conference in Korean but for efficient proceeding with the conference I will moderate the opening ceremony in English.

So hello everyone, I am Eun Ha Chang from the Korean Women's Development Institute and I will be the moderator for today. Welcome to our KWDA International forum and Beijing+25 titled "Beijing and beyond: creating gender equal future with a next generation." I'd like to welcome everyone who has taken time to actually come to this forum online and offline to celebrate this important event together. Before I begin, I'd like to explain very shortly about the background of this forum today.

As we all know this year would have been a monumental year for the international community for the 25 years of the Anniversary of Beijing declaration and platform for action, 20 year anniversary of UN security council resolution 1325: the woman peace and agenda, and also the fifth year of sustainable development goals. But to our great disappointment, because of this pandemic, all these events have been canceled or postponed to the next year. Since we can not congregate this year at this moment as well, we thought maybe if we cannot do offline maybe we can do something online to prepare for next year's event. So this was behind the objective of our forum today.

I'd especially like to deliver our sincere thanks to the embassy of Mexico and embassy of France in South Korea for their wonderful cooperation to make this forum possible. So without further ado, I thank you again thank you everyone for your participation and I'd like to begin the forum now. First, I'd like to invite the president of Korean women's development institute Yookyong Mun to the podium for her welcome remarks.

## **Yookyong Mun**

Good afternoon my name is Yookyong Mun and I am president of KWDI. Thank you very much for joining us online for KWDI International Forum on Beijing+25. This forum has been organized together with Mexican embassy and French embassy in South Korea. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to his Excellency Ambassador Bruno Figueroa and Ambassador Philippe Lefort.

The goal of this forum is to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing platform for action and to discuss a gender equal future with the next generation in view of the generation equality forum to be held in 2021. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing platform for action that treats the anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 and the 5th anniversary of sustainable development goals. It is truly meaningfully year for moving towards the realization of gender equality across the globe to celebrate this UN Women declared 2020 is a landmark year towards this achievement of gender equality and decided to convene the generation quality forum with Mexico and France and close partnership with civil society. Its agenda touches upon various

areas such as gender based violence, economic justice and rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and women's representation.

The generation equality forum was originally scheduled for this year but had to be postponed due to covid 19. KWDI's forum today, organized ahead of the generation equality forum is divided into 2 sessions. In the 1st session, presenters from Mexico, France, and Korea will highlight the significance and achievement of Beijing platform for action and gender equality agenda that need to be addressed going forward. In session two, the round table session, youth activists from different countries will share their views on men's gender equality topics and present their ideas out for a gender equal future.

Since the Beijing declaration 25 years ago, there has been significant change in progress in gender equality. Still there remains a gap between policy and reality and we are seeing emerging challenges such gender conflict and the digital gender violence. Worse, Covid 19 pandemic aggravates age gender inequality, deepening female poverty and widening gender gap in the labor market. Gender inequality is not confined to a certain generation or period, so it calls for all party's interest and solidarity across genders, generations, and borders. I hope that diverse proposals and strategies discussed today will spark intergenerational conversations and contribute to building global solidarity.

KWDI will continue its efforts to provide a forum for different generations in different sectors of the society to understand and move forward gender equality. Today, we are joined by officials from Mexican and French embassies in Seoul and young activists working in different parts of the world. I sincerely thank them for their contribution and I look forward to working with the institutions represented today in the future. I wish you the best year end and good luck going forward.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you president Yookyong Mun for your welcome remarks. The next person who will be Raising us with his presence is Bruno Figueroa, the Ambassador of Mexico to the Republic of Korea.

### **Bruno Figueroa**

I would like to thank the President of the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI), Moon You-kyung, and all her team for organizing this event, particularly Dr. Chang Eun Ha and Dr. Yoon Jiso for their invaluable support. I salute the distinguished personalities who will make presentations today, from France, Korea and Mexico, as well as my colleague Philippe Lefort.

I also thank the representatives of the Generation Equality Youth Task Force for their participation. ,

It is for me an honor to address this distinguished audience in this special day which observes the *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women*. I am grateful to the *Korean Women's Development Institute* for making this event possible, which is a great opportunity to present the upcoming *Generation Equality Forum*.

The Mexican government is feminist. Since a few years ago, Mexico has included the gender perspective in its National Development Plan, and has focused on the need to incorporate it into all Government actions, including, foreign policy.

The political reform carried out in 2019 allows women to be candidates for elected office in equal conditions, as well as ensuring parity in all levels of government and in the three Powers (Executive, Judiciary and Legislative). In this regard, it is also to be noted that as of 2020, the federal cabinet is close to parity. Moreover, seven laws have been recently reformed in order to prevent, sanction and eradicate political violence against women, establishing protection and damage repair measures.

Last year, Mexico became the first Latin American country to adopt and announce a **feminist foreign policy**, joining France, Canada, Norway, and Sweden. This policy seeks to promote government actions to **reduce** and **eliminate** structural differences, gender gaps and inequalities, to build a more just and prosperous society.

During my long diplomatic career, I have met exceptional women who have worked hard for making gender equality a reality. Viceminister Martha Delgado and Ambassador Yanerit Morgan are leading examples. They will make presentations today about the initiative that Mexico and France launched last year, the Generation Equality Forum.

Gender equality faces today many pressing challenges which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Generation Equality Forum can contribute to tackle some of them. We look forward to seeing Korea, a country with strong commitments on the issue, joining the Forum and participating in at least one of its very meaningful activities.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you Ambassador Bruno Figueroa for your wonderful congratulatory remarks. Now I'd like to invite his excellency, Philippe Lefort, Ambassador of France to the Republic of Korea for his congratulatory remarks.

### **Philippe Lefort**

Hello (*in Korean and French*). Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to be here. As co-hosts of this wonderful seminar on the International day for the elimination of violence against women, which is kicking off the 16 days of activism against gender based violence. I am very grateful to the Korean women's development institute for convening this event and I would also like to thank the young and the talented panel experts who will share their ideas with us today. I am sure that this event will bring us and lots of inspiration and I hope that we will turn these inspirations into action.

As the Ambassador of Mexico said, the forum generation of equality convened by UN Women will take place next year in all 2 countries. Today's event is a great opportunity to highlight the forum in Korea. Actually many people have heard about it, but some of them did not really know why it would make a difference. So let me say 3 things about it.

First, it will be the largest International meeting on gender equality in many years. Second, the word *generation* is important. The Beijing conference on women took place one generation ago, or should I say 25 years ago. After the conference hundreds of euros and measures were implemented to improve women's situation in 130 countries. But in recent years, women rights began to be challenged. As French president Emmanuel Macron said during the United Nations General Assembly, it's no secret that in 2020, the Beijing declaration would have no chance of being adopted.

At my age, I've seen many positive transformations for women. I think to mind the generation of my mother and my parents. I also reflect about the experience of raising my daughters and I also think about my little granddaughters. I'm 65 years old. I'm a grandfather (*in Korean*). So I hope that this transformation will continue with the next generations.

Third, this event is called a forum because many people will exchange ideas, not only with the government, but also civil society and private sector. They will also work towards concrete and ambition actions in order to achieve gender equality. This commitment will make a big difference to end violence against women, to expand equal opportunities towards men and women of younger and older generations. France is proud to co-host the forum. In 2017, gender equality was declared a great national cause in France and we adopted a feminist diplomacy. Since then, we devoted 97 millions of euro to sexual and reproductive rights and health: the French priority in the forum. We devoted 320 millions of euros to finance projects to the fight against gender inequality in solvent countries. In 2019 we have launched a support firm for women's organizations which will allocate 100 million years to women's organizations in countries receiving official development assistance. I hope today will be a good opportunity for you to realize how you can contribute to a future of equality. I look forward to today's outcome. Thank you very much (*in English, Korea, French*).

## **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you very much to president Yookyong Mun and also to the excellency Ambassadors for taking time to actually come to this place and congratulate our forum. We'd like to start the 1st session which will be presented in English. In the 1st session, we will listen to the presentations from the speakers from Mexico, France, and Korea and we will look at the significance of Beijing plus 25 from history context and we will also listen to the youth representatives. First of all, we have the speaker from Mexico and France. I'd like to introduce to you the first speaker from Mexico, the vice minister for multilateral affairs and human rights ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Mrs. Martha Delgado Peralta. She has been in this area for a very long time and she has served as the executive leadership position in the public sector. We will meet with her through the video clip first.

## **Martha Delgado Peralta**

Thank you to Yookyong Mun, president of the Korean women's development institute. I would like to thank you for the invitation to participate in this relevant event. For the government of Mexico, gender equality has been historically a primary house. As you may know in 1975, Mexico hosted the first international conference on the advancement of the women's agenda.

Then and now, the government of Mexico is fully committed to the achievement of gender equality.

Now the gender parity in the president's cabinet and congress is an example of this endeavor. In this context, this event is very connected to the forum. It's time to pass on the baton and create a gender equality future, not for but with the next generation. The forum is a collective and innovative partnership that takes into account all the stakeholders and advocates, including governments, civil society, feminist movements, private sector foundations, the academia among other. All of them will come together in a public conversation and design common efforts.

Due to the pandemic of Covid 19 we had to postpone the forum in Mexico and France to the first semester of next year. The Mexican forum will be celebrated from March 29th to 31st in a format still to be defined subject to the sanitary conditions on those dates. The forum in France will be held in June. Nevertheless, be sure that we have been working very hard for not losing the momentum that we are now engaged in a robust preparation of the forum.

As an example, I want to mention that the forum is action-oriented. Under this format it will carry out six actions coalitions on gender-based violence, economic justice and rights, body autonomy and sexual reproductive health and rights, feminist action for climate justice, and feminist movement and the sixth is on leadership technology and innovation for gender equality. These action coalitions are global with multi-stakeholder partnerships which will mobilize government, civil society, international organizations, UN agencies, and also the private sector around the specific actions that will be implemented in a five-year term to address some of the challenges for achieving gender equality.

Also, the compact on women peace and security and humanitarian action headed by members states and civil society organizations will be a very valuable instrument to support international efforts for the implementation on its very relevant agenda and the commitments of the resolution 1325 on the UN security council.

We are also organizing a series of curated discussions and public conversations that will provide an opportunity to address transversally the themes with the intersectionality approach needed for the success of the generation equality forum. Including, for example, a bigger and more diverse number of participants involved in the process with a grassroots approach. The generation equality forum is a key moment for global mobilization. The event is primarily based on the same logic that made possible the adoption of the Beijing platform for action 25 years ago. The power of activism feminist solidarity and young leadership to achieve transformative change is the most important thing for us right now

Dear friends, Mexico firmly believes that effective and modern multilateralism represents the best means for addressing common challenges. Covid 19 pandemic is an example of the need to revitalize and boost multilateral cooperation and explore new avenues of collaboration with the participation of non-traditional stakeholders. It is crystal clear this is not business as usual. We have the imperative to fight together to overcome what we lack to achieve full gender equality. Gender inequality is unacceptable right now. It is something that plainly and simply prevents us from granting freedoms rights and equal societies in the world. We have the great challenge to

design the type of society and the world we want to be in. We have a lot to do, but we can do it with enthusiasm, conviction, and commitment. I count with your engagement and I hope to see you all at the generation equality forum in 2021. Thank you very much.

## **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you very much vice minister. So she mentioned that the issue of women needs to be resolved from a multilateral approach. Next, I would like to invite the Ambassador and secretary general of the generation equality forum 2020, Delphine O. Ambassador Delfino O is already known to some of you. So she is an expert in the middle east issues and also served as the Ambassador in the French embassy in many other countries and her father is a korean so many of you may be familiar with the Ambassador. I'd like to invite Ambassador Delfino O.

## **Delphine O**

Messrs. and Ms. the Ambassadors, Ms. the Minister PERALTA, Ms. the President of the Korean Women's Development Institute, Dear friends, First of all, I would like to thank the Korean Women's Development Institute, the French Embassy and the Mexican Embassy in South Korea for organizing this event on the occasion of this highly symbolic day, today being the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and highly symbolic year of commemorations for women's rights.

2020 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth UN World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the international blueprint that paved the way to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. In 1995, States gathered in Beijing and made a decisive contribution to the progress of humanity: by recognizing that "women's rights are fundamental human rights", they finally recognized the need to accelerate efforts to guarantee women and girls the same rights and opportunities as men. As highlighted by the regional review conferences organized by the UN regional offices, the majority of UN member states have taken up this issue.

Unfortunately, the United Nations Secretary General 2019 report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is also clear on the road that still remains today to be covered. According to this report, the Beijing vision is only partly realized. Worse, some women's rights are even undermined today, in particular the right of every woman to freely dispose of their body and their sexual and reproductive health and rights. In October, thirty two countries signed the Geneva Consensus, a conservative statement that jeopardizes the right for abortion. The COVID-10 pandemic also threatens to reverse decades of progress in achieving gender-equality.

In this context, the Generation Equality will give a new impulse for women rights. 25 years ago the whole world gathered in Beijing to recognize, affirm and enshrine the rights of women. 25 years later, we will meet in Mexico City in March 2021 and in Paris in early June for the Generation Equality Forum. Under the aegis of UN Women and under the joint presidency of France and Mexico, we will bring together all the actors of gender equality. Together, we will recall that these rights are inalienable and we will lay the groundwork for fully achieving gender equality

In its own format and governance structure, the Generation Equality Forum will be very unique because it will gather together Member States, civil society including the youth, business, academics and philanthropic associations, as well as other stakeholders to ensure that all voices will be heard to accelerate action regarding women rights and gender equality.

The Generation Equality Forum will launch a set of Six Action Coalitions. Each Action Coalition will enable to develop a set of concrete, ambitious and transformative actions that Coalition members will take between 2020 - 2025 in order to achieve immediate and irreversible progress towards gender equality. This methodology of inclusive work embodies the quintessence of the Generation Equality Forum, going beyond multilateralism of words to multilateralism of action.

In a few words, I would like to highlight the key aspects of each Action Coalition.

1) The first Action Coalition is dedicated to Gender-based violence. We would like to address all forms of gender-based violence, both online and off-line, that had already endemic proportions before the COVID-19 pandemic and have intensified during the lock-down period. Last September, the champions of this Action Coalition answered the Secretary General's call to deal with this "shadow pandemic" and issued a general statement.

2) The Economic Justice and Rights action coalition will place women's empowerment and economic justice for women at the center of the recovery. Equal pay, women's access to resources and ownership, setting a gender lens to the recovery plans are more than ever necessary

3) The Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights coalition is about making sure that every woman and girl can take informed decisions and decide freely on all matters regarding her body, her sexuality and the way she wants to live. It is a matter of access to contraceptives, access to information and comprehensive sexuality education, about changing gender norms and putting an end to harmful practices such as forced marriages and female genital mutilation.

4) The action coalition "feminist action for climate justice" will aim at enhancing the role of women in the fight against climate change. It will create actions to alleviate its disproportionate impact on women, especially female farmers and poor women. It will also focus on educating girls about environmental justice.

5) An action coalition will be dedicated to Technology and innovation for gender equality. Women must be enablers of innovation and technology, to curb the increase of the digital gender gap that may arise from the crisis. Programs of education and training on STEM and technology processes for women and girls have to be dramatically scaled up, the innovative and digital workplace must be safe and secure from harassment. Innovation itself must become gender-responsive and inclusive. This is the only way to make technology efficient for all.

6) The coalition for feminist movements and leadership brings together states international organisations foundations supporting the diversity of feminist movements. It will launch

collaborations to better support grassroots NGOs and increase the participation for women across all organisations.

Along these Six Action Coalitions, we are also working on the definition of a Women, Peace and Security Compact. This compact will give a new impulse to the WPS agenda by rallying member States, NGO's, private companies behind WPS commitments and enabling new funding. Norway, Sierra Leona, United Arab Emirates, and Namibia are among the Board Members ready to fully endorse this initiative.

The Six Action Coalitions and the other initiatives will be officially launched during the high-level segment in Paris. We would be delighted to count on South Korea within one of these initiatives. Despite pandemic uncertainty, our ambition remains unchanged and we hope Heads of State and Governments including from South Korea will be able to be present in Paris in June 2021 for this global event. This fruitful partnership between France, Mexico and UN Women shows the universality of this challenge, which will be highlighted at the Forum.

In order to be a game-changing event for women's rights' progress, the Forum needs to benefit from the largest possible audience. We are working to adapt the format of the Forum to the constraints in terms of participants and travels, including by enhancing its digital platform. Time for action and systemic change has come and we are counting on you to finally make the Generation Equality a reality. Thank you.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you very much Ambassador Delphine O. Next we will listen to a Korean presenter. The presenter is Youngsook Cho, the Ambassador for gender equality of Korea. Currently, she is the chair of the International Solidarity Center of Korea Women's Associations United and she is the expert in women's movement and also she plays a key role in the central support center for women's human rights. The title of her presentation is *Beijing plus 25 and the hope for the next generation*.

### **Youngsook Cho**

Great to see you all today. I am joined by his excellencies of Ambassador of French and Mexico embassies. Today I would like to talk about the generation equality forum and its significance. I will tell you what kinds of activities are being carried out in Korea in view of the generation equality forum. The international norms and standards have affected the gender policies of Korea. In 1979, CEDAW was adopted at the UN and in 1993 DEVAW was adopted at the UN in order to eliminate violence against women. After that, sexual reproductive health and rights were discussed at ICPD in 1994 and in the early 1990s there was the consensus on the elimination of discrimination and violence against women.

After all those endeavors, basic declaration and platform for action were adopted in 1995 and after that UNSCR 1325 was adopted in 2000 and SDGs were decided upon in 2015. These actions have raised issues with the gender policies of Korea and thanks to the Beijing platform for action, there has been change in gender equality policies of Korea. It raised two main questions for the Korean society. The first question was 'Is an equal society possible without

gender equality?’ and the second question was ‘Is a democratic society possible without eliminating GBV’. Another question we can think of is ‘Is a sustainable peace possible without the consistent participation of women?’ These questions were raised after the adoption of Beijing platform for action.

Gender related policies were adopted after 1990. However, before 1990, South Korea implemented various measures to address different gender related issues. In 1995, even before the Beijing platform for action, there were many issues related to gender. Korea experienced colonization and the military dictatorship during the Korean war. There were also lots of side effects due to the fast industrialization. There were the workers protests and the democratization movement and feminist movement. There was a strong participation and involvement of the civil society. Those activities were translated into these policies and as a result, the related government body was established. Also, the female friendly measures or policies were implemented by the government including the quota system and the established eradication of the paternal family headships system. From 2000, gender mainstreaming strategy was implemented in a bigger scale, so it included the gender budget, agenda's responsive budget system, gender training, etc.. Such a dramatic change happened after the Beijing platform for action.

But these days, many young women started to ask questions. Me too movement was quite strongly sweeping the Korean society over the past few years. Because of the technology advancement, people are enjoying lots of benefits. However, cyber violence occurred as a side effect. Also, there is a strong misogyny in the Korean society. Nowadays, there are issues such as date violence or the date murder and such instances are increasing. In these kinds of situations, the women’s suicide rate is increasing. There has also been attacks on women's rights defenders and organizations.

25 years since the Beijing declaration, we say that there has been great achievement and progress. But still, we are faced with lots of challenges. I would like to share with you some key challenges. This slide shows the gender gap index from 2010 to 2019. Korea was ranked at 104th out of 134 countries. In 2019, it still ranked at 108th out of 153 countries. Korea achieved a high level in education and health. However, in the first two indices such as economy and politics, Korea is one of the lowest ranked countries. In terms of the economic participation, women's participation is only about 55 percent compared to men. In terms of the political participation, women participation is only 17 percent compared to men. This index has not changed dramatically from 2010 to 2019. But this is worrisome for us. In terms of the gender gap and glass ceiling, after Beijing, the previous gender gap index included the countries which were much less developed than Korea. But when we compare Korea with other OECD countries, Korea was at almost the bottom in terms of gender wage gap. Korea received the lowest point in terms of gender wage gap. In addition, when we talk about glass ceiling index, Korea is almost at the bottom out of the OECD countries.

For the young women, these are shocking indices. These two cases show that economic growth does not necessarily guarantee gender equality. This means that action is urgently required to close gender gap and that's the assessment from the OECD. So, OECD highlighted two main issues for Korea. Korea has some issue of balancing work and life. The OECD also

recommended that actions are required to close gender gap, especially in the economic participation. However, from the political representation perspective, Korea's score is not that satisfactory. This shows that for the past 25 years, Korea has developed its democracy. However, the social democratization does not necessarily guarantee gender equality.

As a recent issue, how to recognize, revalue, and redistribute the care work is concentrated on women. Much of the work done by women are not compensated properly. Even if a woman is employed, the woman spends a large portion of their time taking of unpaid work. Even for an employed woman, she does lots of unpaid work compared to her husband. We can ask this question. 'Why don't we ask the opinion of a woman even if we are talking about her body?' In the 1960s and 70s, the government tried to prevent women from having more children. The government adopted the population control policy up until the 1980s or 90s. But today, the population growth is almost negative. Therefore, the government changed its policy dramatically to encourage more childbirth. Th key issue with such a policy change is that the government did not ask for the opinion of women, even if the topic was regarding their body.

Korea is a divided country and therefore, the South Korea and North Korea faces security issues. However, women are not properly engaged or involved in such dialogue. As French Ambassador mentioned, women, peace, and security should be very important topics for Korea in addition to the six main themes of generation equality forum. As I mentioned, after Beijing, different laws and policies were implemented. But there was a stark gap between the policy and the reality. There are still structural discrimination against the woman. In relation to the violence against women, we are seeing emerging types of violence against women such as digital violence. Still, women are not asked of their opinion in terms of their abortion. We are talking about the gender mainstreaming that is not being realized in our lives. With regards to the UNSCR 1325, we have to find a way to involve women's voices. As for the SDGs, we need to adopt gender transformative approach.

Korea has achieved lots of progress since Beijing. It is time to pay a greater attention to the action coalition for a gender generation equality. These six main action coalitions give us lots of homework to do. In this regard, we need to address emerging issues in addition to the old issues. As for the older problems, there are the lack of measures and tools to implement laws and policies. There is a shortage of finance and human capital to implement gender mainstreaming. There has been inadequate improvement in women's economy and political gender gap. There is lack of willingness and efforts to change patriarch called organizational culture. There is a lack of practices for gender transformative change. As for the new problems, we can think about gender-based violence and the work and life incomparability. We also must address the denial of choice and self-determination and intensified gender inequality because of covid-19 crisis. Also, there is sexism based malicious comments in the internet. The last issue we need to deal with is the attack against women's rights defenders and women's organizations. We have to think about how to resolve these new emerging challenges. We have to address these old and new problems through generation equality forum.

I believe that the changes are required at these four levels. First of all, we need to secure gender transformative as individuals. There also has to be relational change including family, friends, and the private relationships. There needs to be gender transformative change at our organization

such as schools and workplaces. Lastly, we need to achieve social and structural changes. This is the end of my presentation. Thank you for listening.

## **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you very much Ambassador Cho. From the global perspectives to how the agenda affected Korean policies, she explained about the women's issues we're faced today and our future direction. Here, we have a distinguished guest who is here with us online, Ambassador Yanerit Morgan of the generation equality forum. Ambassador Yanerit Morgan has long years of experience at UN and in 1995, she was in the Beijing world conference on women. She is here with us online. She can make very good comments for us. Due to time constraint, I would like to ask her to make comments in five minutes.

## **Yanerit Morgan**

It's a pleasure to join this event from Mexico City. I congratulate the Korean women's development institute for this mission initiative that reflects the interests and the commitments of this country, the achievement of gender equality. I am very glad to see Ambassador Cho and members of the generation equality youth task force as fellow panelists. As has been said by Vice-minister Delgado and my colleagues from France Ambassador Delfino, we are very enthusiastic about the celebration of the generation equality forum and about the excitement and expectation this forum has created around the world, especially in the difficult situation we are facing and the terrible impact of the pandemic on women and girls over the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress some ideas on what the forum is about. First is mobilization. As happened 20 years ago at the Beijing conference, the forum spirit is based on mobilization of civil society organizations and feminist movements. In this moment we need all the energies needed to put at the center the important agenda contained in the Beijing platform of action to accelerate efforts for this implementation. Second : partnership. The forum is a multi-stakeholder effort. When society organizations, feminist movements, youth organizations, private sector foundations, international organizations, including joint agencies, and academia come together with one objective to move forward the gender equality agenda, all participants are committed to bring something to the table: from political commitment to mobilization of constituency and resources required to implement transformative actions.

Third, the forum is action oriented. One of the objectives of the forum implies through the six action collisions, with a multi-stakeholder lead already in place, an exercise of identifying specific actions to be implemented in five years term with a follow-up and accountability blueprints. The compound of women peace and security and humanitarian action that will be another result of the gift will support efforts already in place for the advancement of the women and peace and security agenda. Fourth, the soul of the forum is to put the focus on an intergenerational conversation where youth generations can fit not only the focus on them, but the active participants of this process. In this regard, I am very glad to young people tonight, because you have the energy that is needed to transform this world in a more equal one as the only way to beat back better. I am very glad to see the friends of the generation equality youth task force with us.

Fifth, intersectionality is another pillar and is a need to see women and girls in all the diversity and give this ability and address the realities of women and girls in particular those in vulnerable situations like indigenous women, adolescent women with disability, women in poverty, migrants, and refugee women. Sixth and last degree is about transformative leadership. One of the main commitments we need to address is to accelerate efforts to put women leadership as the moving force to address gender equality. Women transformative leadership is needed not only in the political field but in all field of human activities: in economy, education, health, science, security. We are still far away to address to other disparities. The only way to be formatted is including the hearts of the union humanity in all decision process for benefit of all members of the societies.

Mexico is really interested to come with the active engagement of Korea in the forum. Our objectives are in line with the commitment from different partners in this country, starting with this agenda. I thank you very much for the invitation to this dialogue. I am very glad to participate. Thank you.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you very much Ambassador Morgan. We were supposed to have Q&A session after the first session, so why don't we proceed with the session in this way. First, it's time to wrap up the first session now, so I would like to ask Ambassador Cho and Ambassador Morgan to be with us online. After taking a 10-minute break, we're going to start the second session and in the second session we will listen to the presentation from our young members. We have discussion session prepared in the second session. So, why don't we share Q&A with the two ambassadors in the discussion session after the second session. Then why don't we wrap up the first session and after 10 minutes, we will resume the session at 3:10 pm Korean time. Thank you.

10 minute break [Music]

Have you enjoyed your break time? From now on, we will start the second session. The generation equality forum was selected as the theme of the international activities commemorating the 25th anniversary of Beijing conference on women. We invited many people from around the world to cooperate with us to develop the women's agendas. I'm going to introduce to you the speakers for the second session. So when I introduce your name you may wave your hand on the screen. The first speaker is Jiso Yoon, the associate research fellow at KWDI. She's going to make presentation on Korean women's participation in politics. Second speaker is Caryn Dasah, the social worker at generation equality youth task force to talk about Cameron's sexual and reproductive health. The third speaker is Daren Paul, a young member of global youth task force who will talk about sexual reproductive health education. The last speaker is Salam Al-Nukta. She's going to talk about the activities of the task force in enhancing women's stem education. Due to time constraint and as we are behind the schedule, I would like to ask each speaker to finish your presentation in seven minutes. Now let's listen to the first speaker, Jiso Yoon's presentation.

### **Jiso Yoon**

Today, I'll be giving a presentation titled "From activism to leadership: young women's political representation in South Korea." As mentioned previously numerous times, the world conference on women was held in Beijing in 1995 and Beijing declaration and Beijing platform for action were adopted. It has strategic objectives for women in power and decision-making diagnosis. First of all, the first strategic objective is to take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structure and decision making. Secondly, increase women's capacity to participate in decision making and leadership. The presence of women leaders brings about meaningful changes in private sector, public institutions, and political sector.

According to a report, the elected women politicians tend to take more egalitarian attitude and they have more interest in care policy, health care policies, violence against women, equal pay, and so on. When Beijing platform for action was adopted in the past, global women members of congress accounted for 13.6 percent and in 2020 that proportion increased to 24.9 percent. So, there was an increase, however the result is not yet satisfactory. In 1995, no country achieved the full gender parity. But as of now, we have several countries which achieved the full gender parity. For example, Rwanda, Cuba, and so on. Considering this achievement in those countries, we can see that there has been progress in terms of the women's representation in the congress.

To benefit the objectives of gender equality forum, I would like to address Korean young women's political participation and representation. I'd like to talk about what kind of measures we need to develop young women's political participation into sustainable representation of women. This is the status of women participating in the Korean politics. As Ambassador Cho mentioned, I will not repeat what she said. The point is that since we adopted the quota system, there has been some increase in the level of women's representation in politics. We still have a long way to go.

In the arena of politics, the youth is a minority group. When I mention youth, it means the national assembly members below the age of 40. Before 2000, we had only three young members in the national assembly. But recently, the number increased. 13 young members of national assembly have been elected. So this under-representation of the youth is the issue of both men and women. But I'd like to focus on the issue of women. If young women do not want to make their way to elective offices, then women's underrepresentation in political arena will not be easily resolved. For the past 10 years in Korea, women's active participation in politics have gained a lot of attention. Many women in their 20's to 30's participated in the protests and demonstrations and in the 19th presidential election, women showed very high turnout ratio compared to men. In Korea, the young people do not actively participate in the political parties, overall. But in the case of the democratic party of Korea, they have relatively higher proportion of young members and almost half of them are young women members in their 20's to 30's. So as such there are quite a lot of women in their 20's to 30's who are participating in political activities but still their representation is not high. We had a look at the reason why.

This is a research we conducted recently at KWDI. First, we surveyed about 1,000 young members of political parties in Korea. There is not a big number of young people who actually ran for the political offices, but in terms of the number of women young women who are considering the candidacy or who are willing to run for the elective office amount to quite a large proportion. We can say that today we have quite a sufficient pool of young women candidates and many young women members in political parties had great interest in gender equality and

gender conflict issues. If those women make their way to the political arena in the future, then their main policy agenda is likely to be gender equality issue. What are the obstacles to the aggressive political party activities of young female members? This is the photo taken at the recent national convention of democratic party of Korea.

The national convention of the political parties is held and proceeded dominated by men. That's why young women members do not have much room to secure their position. Many young women members of political parties said that they feel like they're being exploited or being used by the middle-aged male groups that have vested rights in the political parties. We have made several proposals to foster women's activities in political parties. First, we need to secure the budgets in the political parties to support young women. We also need to facilitate young women's groups within political parties. Third proposal is that we must ensure higher representation of young women in political parties. This needs to be stipulated into document and statement. To enhance young women's participation and representation in the politics, we need to be more active in selecting women young women members in the political parties as executives. If the number of female members who run for candidacy increases, then that will bring about greater influence on the future women generation. They can be the role model for the next generation young female members. Thank you very much for your attention.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you dr Jiso Yoon. I would like to invite the next presenter. She is Caryn Dasah and she's from Cameroon.

### **Caryn Dasah**

Hello everyone. I will be talking to you about championing gender equality in conflict affected communities in Cameroon. I'll be taking you through my journey and my work. I will talk about some of the problems that I've encountered and how I made it through. I'm sure most of you are aware. The Anglophone crisis, also known as the Ambazonian war, has led to the loss of life that is glaring. If you look over social media you have people that are being killed even yesterday. The conflict has led to the loss of lives, properties and displacement of thousands of Cameroonians with several taking up refuge in the forest while others are in neighboring regions and some as refugees in neighboring Nigeria. Effects of the war on women and girls are enormous. It can take a whole day to talk about the impact of this crisis on women and girls and their violation of human rights. But, I want to point out a few things.

The things I want to point out is the higher increase of gender-based violence, no access to basic health services, and limited access to education. There's been a war in schools. If you're very current with the news, you probably know that last month, on the 24th of October, students were killed in a school. Increasing child marriages and unintended pregnancy is also a big problem. There is limited access to social reproductive health services and no access to hospitals. In some areas, houses have been burned down. There also has been an increase in rape and torture on women and girls as well because gender-based violence is common within the context of crisis in the northwest and the southwest region of my country. Yes, women are becoming targets of violence.

No access to health services. Hospitals have been burnt down due to the confrontations in these regions making access to health very difficult. Apart from this, health facilities have been targeted and we have recorded cases whereby patients are militarized. We've had cases of military going into hospitals and taking out patients in the two regions in the northwest and in the southwest. We also had cases where hospitals have been burned down to ashes with patients who were still in the hospitals.

No access to education. For over four years, students in some part have not had the opportunity of going to school. Schools have been targeted by secessionist fighters while some schools have become military base, to both conflicting parties. Teachers and students have been targeted and killed. We have reported cases of teachers whose body parts were amputated, students kidnapped in schools while several schools have been burnt down, leading to a high increase in illiteracy.

Increased time in child marriage and unintended pregnancy. Young girls are in the middle as many have been kidnapped and they became wives of war lords. You know this is a very common practice where the war lords, those with power, those who feel more powerful than the these young girls, think the girls as their wives. We have limited access to sexual reproductive health services have left many girls pregnant while such pregnancies came about as a result of rape.

Rape. The incidence of rape has heightened . Rape has been used as a tool of war against women and girls, especially in this context of the crisis in these regions. Torture. This is a very dehumanizing act that is evident in this crisis. We had stories of young girls who was pulled by the neck like a goat and taken to the to the main roadway and their heads were chopped off. There are just some of the things that are happening in my country.

Okay, so what are we doing as an organization? Our organization supports women and girls who have been victims of the crisis in these regions. We provide psycho-social support and counseling to survivors of gender-based violence and women affected by trauma. Most of our work has been through social media, using the telephone to do phone calls and guiding people in different areas. Some of the other things we provide are peace building, humanitarian assistance, and SRHR education services.

Some of the difficulties that we've had as an organization, as an activist, and as a young woman are death threats. We've had death threats because of the peace stance. I've had many instances where I had to move from where I lived and run away to another region for security reasons. There is also the problem of inaccessibility. Before you go into the field, you need to negotiate your way. You need to negotiate with both parties and sometimes it so difficult because people don't want to understand what exactly you want to do. Most of your actions are always taken to the negative directions or ill-thought.

There is a lack of resources support for youth led organizations. These organizations have great potentials. They have great ideas. They want to reach out to the people in the dangerous regions. Their activities are limited due to the funding. They don't have funding for their activities. The issue of defamation. When you do something and it goes over social media, people take it and

tell defame you. A lot of activists like myself have been victims of that. Lastly, the complexity of the crisis and lack of adequate capacity in peace building leadership techniques, safety and security.

To end my presentation, I just want to take you through. I know that I'm talking to young students from Korea and other great panelists. I'm glad to be amongst you today. I just want to take you through, maybe one of the things that I've done. This is a picture of an advocacy for peace where I was wearing an orange t-shirt, orange to signify non-violence, signify peace inside justice. We're doing a campaign to end violence against women and girls in the university. We're training them on peace building, and this is a project we campaign called the her Peace aBuliding campaign. Next we have protests against the killings. Like I said to you, last month we heard of how children were killed in the school where we saw the bodies of children on the floor. So this is the part of the team. I am sitting there on the floor crying and we're going to the governor's office and saying we need the solution to end the brutal killing of our children.

This is equality campaigning with young people in schools. This is us providing trauma healing programs. We focused on people who have gone through traumatic experience because of the conflict in the two regions. So we brought them together and had a storytelling session where they shared their story and it was a kind of way of us bonding. In this picture, you see us wearing black and red. I am there with the white mask. We were going to the town where the children were killed in their class on the fourth of October 2020. We went to the school to show solidarity. We went to the town with matched clothing and we had about 5,000 women who supported us in doing this activity. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

## **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you so much. You shared with us lots of stories including gender-based violence and we understand that you are facing so many difficulties and challenges. Through the photos you shared with us, we could understand what kinds of activities you have been doing. So we're going to move on to the next presentation, Mr. Daren Paul Katigbak is the next speaker. Now, he is the deputy chair of global network of young people living with HIV. Also, he is a member of generation equality youth task force.

## **Daren Paul Katigbak**

Hello everyone, good morning, good afternoon. My name is Daren Paul and I will be presenting or sharing my experiences on sexual reproductive health and rights and HIV programming in the Philippines. Before I start my presentation, let me just share you a little bit of my story. You know, my parents have been my childhood heroes, most especially my mother. They are my main inspiration to study hard and to serve others. I still remember my mom telling me that to inspire others, you need to share your talents. It has been my motivation to share my experiences and it has been my main reason working on the field of youth engagement and male engagement in terms of gender and sexuality issues including HIV. As you can see in the picture here on the on the right side, it's one of our programs on medical mission. The other one on top is me attending a conference, engaging men and also young people to engage in gender and sexuality issues.

I am originally from the Philippines and just to give you a little bit of the background, we are composed of seven thousand one hundred seven islands. As you can see here, those are our famous tourist spots in the Philippines. We are currently 106 million as of now and we are one of the predominantly Roman catholic in terms of religion in Southeast Asia. I'm going to share some of my experience working with the catholic bishops conference of the Philippines and during my last five years with them, I've been working in different public health concerns, most especially on HIV and also in pushing for gender equality and women empowerment in all different regions in the Philippines. I'm also working on different public health concerns such as tuberculosis and malaria as well.

Just to give you a little bit of the context of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Philippines, we do have a lot of issues. We have a unmet needs for family planning and our HIV incidence rates are on the rise. As of this year, we are currently reporting around um 30 Filipinos getting infected by the disease every day. The teenage pregnancy in the Philippines is also on the increase from 65% in 2000 to more than 200% percent starting in 2010 and around 24 babies is born to young mothers every hour.

Let me just share to you some of our program and activities that I'm working on in my organization. We're currently working on creating guidelines for young people in terms of youth engagement. In the recent years, a lot of young people are being engaged at multiple levels. They have a lot of varied experiences and some of them are being exploited and tokenized, most especially in terms of logistical and financial requirements. We felt that this inequality should be stopped so we are currently working on creating guidelines where this guideline will protect young people in general including people living with HIV in the process and guidance of engaging them in different aspects, whether it's in a conference or whether asking them to be a speaker in one of the discussions. Again, I would like to emphasize that young people should be engaged locally, regionally, and internationally and they need to be safe, respected, and valued. That's why we're working on those specific guidelines.

I also would like to highlight the second program that we're currently implementing right now in my organization. We are on the process or we are continually engaging men in general to be involved in different gender and sexuality issues. We have been um telling them that there are current harmful masculinities that are present in our society whether it's on gender norms that upholds men's privilege over women or behaviors that actually perpetuates violence for women and against their children. There are also issues pertaining to men's controlling over women's sexual reproductive health and rights. All these issues we've been talking to them. We've been talking to men and we're engaging them in these discussions. What I'm proud for this program is that we have been engaging a lot of men in different countries right now as my organization is a global network. We have different country networks in different regions. We are currently involving not only men but also young men in general.

Again, I just would like to highlight on the different learnings that we had in terms of this particular program. We believe that programs and interventions engaging men and boys need to be intentional in promoting gender equality and it must focus on highlighting the harmful gender norms including masculinities and challenge unequal gender power relations. One of our lessons

as well as we need a stronger evidence improving this one and we've been conducting research in the past few years. Definitely, we know that if we engage men in the process, we can alleviate the sufferings that women's are currently experiencing. I would like to emphasize that we don't necessarily only need to engage men but we have to engage the different program implementers and researchers in all aspects and whether it's a women's organization, a feminist organization, or a men's organization. They have to be included. That has been our learning in the last few years.

I would like to emphasize that in order for us to push for gender equality, we have to put our heart along the process and we need to be compassionate for others. We need leaders, including young people, that transcends to serve others with respect and humility. As you can see here in my presentation, if we have sexual reproductive health and rights and we have a comprehensive HIV and AIDS treatment or basically just access to these holistic services, human rights will be realized, poverty will be alleviated, lives will be saved, and again women will be empowered and definitely development will be sustained.

Lastly, for my last slide, I will leave you with this quote from Kouzes and Posner saying that, "Leadership is not an affair of the head. Leadership is an affair of the heart." With that, I end my presentation. (Korean) Thank you.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you very much for your explanation about passionate activities of what your organization is doing and your activities that combine both sexual reproductive health promotion and gender equality promotion was very impressive. If you have any comments or questions please leave your comments on the comment section of Youtube or Zoom. Then, let me invite the last speaker. She is Salam Al-Nukta. She is from the business community. She is in the entrepreneurial activities. I'd like to invite Salam Al-Nukta for her presentation.

### **Salam Al-Nukta**

Hello and thank you very much for organizing such a conference. It's awkward to have a conference online, but I think that's the norm for today with the pandemic I'm really happy that you were able to overcome the challenges and bring us all together. My name is Salam which it translates to peace in English. I originally came from Syria, but I like to identify myself as a global citizen hoping one day, we will be able to eliminate all borders keep keeping us apart. Of course, it's very lovely to be here amongst powerful females leading the new generation towards a better world,

During the past 10 years in Syria, I actually had the most enriching and beautiful learning experience. I would have never dreamed of the things which shaped the advocate I am today. The real life experiences, the people whom I met, the businesses I created, the initiatives I fled and followed, and the leaders who inspired me were very exceptional. I doubt that living anywhere on this earth would have rewarded me with that.

So, Syria is beyond what you see in the news. It's more than a piece of land in in the middle east or a conflict zone which people are not allowed to visit for tourism. Syria has a very beautiful

culture and a lot of tasty food, trust me. More importantly, Syrian women are tough and aspiring. Cooperation, resilience, and survival are strongly embedded in our values. So, I hope in the next seven minutes I'm able to bring to you some of that.

Ten years ago, I graduated from high school and I thought I was going to become a scientist. My plans and aspirations were not only put on hold, but were almost wiped away as the crisis headed to my country, Syria. I enrolled for a bachelor's degree in sciences biology at Damascus university and although I knew that this was not exactly what I wanted, I really had limited means to change it, so I just proceeded. This also marked the first time I heard the word *entrepreneurship*. It sounded a little bit complex to pronounce and to understand, to be honest at first. But a few years later, it became my passion.

Today, I would like to highlight to you a few of women's barriers to business in the Mena region, inspired of course, by the Syrian context and why entrepreneurship seems to be a good solution to economic prosperity and inclusivity, especially there to do that today. I have been extensively interested in participation in the economy. I have accumulated over five years of experience in working with startups in Syria, from establishing, failing, or succeeding my own, to working and supporting others. My entrepreneurial spirit did not come as a surprise. My little brother here on the screen would have told you more if he was here, because when we were young, he used to trade candies in his school for me and collect profits while I redistributed them.

Back in 2011, in the biggest humanitarian crisis in the country, our economy collapsed. Syria, which the UN today describes its economy as developing, has been suffering the economic, social, and cultural consequences of war. Imagine these doubled, if not tripled, for women. While men started to lose their jobs and join military forces, women sensed an urgent need to work and support their families. Yet, their attempts did not go as smooth as they wished them to and unfortunately, entry to market employment and entrepreneurship, despite it being a global trend, were not equally provided to everyone. The list of women's challenges to enter the market can go very long beyond financial barriers. They include social barriers, whose implications could be felt more heavily in many parts of the world.

Barriers to women part to woman's participation in the economy remain numerous, especially in the underdeveloped and developing countries, despite the collective efforts to eliminate them. According to the world bank, in developing countries, women are three times less likely than men to work in the ICT sector and eight times less likely to work in digital jobs. Female entrepreneurs and women-led small and medium-sized enterprises often have limited access to finance. As technology changes the way businesses operate, this gender gap in entrepreneurship is expanding as many women have less access to digital skills training. That's exactly why we founded Change Makers in 2016, aiming to empower young people with technology as a tool for innovation and change.

The little numbers of girls joining the stem-based education pathways highlighted the necessity for such an effort and inspired the foundation of Change Makers aiming to reduce gender gap in the tech field in Syria. Change Makers did not want to convince girls to pursue a tech-based career. We wanted to let them know that such a thing existed, and they can pursue it. Through that Change Makers focused on three things. Coding is not a boy thing. Our colleague our

curriculum is convenient for anyone who has basic computer literacy and math. Our courses were developed in-house. Finally, creating role and success models aiming to break stereotypes. Change Makers has a team of brilliant talented female programmers.

Girls, as well as their families, are usually concerned about other life aspects if they pursue a tech-based career. For example, de-prioritizing family making. Our coaches prove to be that even female programmers are beautiful, continue to take care of themselves, date, and go out. In Syria, for example, the rate of women's participation in the entrepreneurial ecosystem tripled since 2009 and went up to 22.4 percent in 2008, according to a study done by Ahmed Sofian. This indicates that women are actively taking part since 2011 after the whole country fell into a recession and according to Ahmed, a collaborative economy activist and researcher says in his book, women's economic participation is as crucial as men's when the post-conflict economies look to rebuild. You know because when there is need there's always an opportunity and although challenges and barriers are continuing to build up, we have more opportunities to engage with women.

Finally, in 2019, I decided to quit Damascus university and relocate to the Netherlands to reunite with my amazing husband. I have made my decision to restart my bachelor's degree in international business in the Netherlands at the age of 26 to equip myself with the skills and academic knowledge needed to continue empowering women who aspire to fulfill their entrepreneurial potential. That came because during my past years and in Syria during the conflict, the creativity and bravery of women's actions have inspired me greatly. Their isolated and unheard advocacy commitments in their communities shall be recognized as part of a larger strategy. I believe gender equality entrepreneurship and technology are fundamental to the prosperity of the world and during the past years, I visited around 10 countries representing women and voice their concerns. I realize that when women are given opportunities, they thrive and when they're put in leadership, they succeed. Without the contribution of the other half of the world, we are risking failing to achieve success in the sustainable development goals, hence, prosperity for all.

It's unfortunate that I cannot organically interact with an audience right now, but I would like to end my presentation by urging everyone, including policymakers, institutes, young people, activists, advocates around the world to continue the conversation and how to empower women, as well as young people to take groundbreaking innovations and reshape the way we do businesses. I invite you freely to reach out to me if this topic interests you. It's never enough to discuss and exchange ideas on this topic. Thank you very much and have a good day.

## **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you very much for the impressive presentation about Syria as we have heard about the entrepreneurial activities in Syria, despite the conflict. Thank you very much for the presentation. We don't have lots of time left, but since we have very important people here, we are going to have about five to ten minutes Q&A session. I have with me Ambassador Cho and executive secretary Morgan. I would like to ask Ambassador Cho and executive secretary Morgan to make finals comment. There's a question in the youtube comments. I'm going to read the question which goes to Mr. Daren regarding human rights and sexual and reproductive health. "Daren,

you are doing amazing work for the safe spaces for improving the human rights of SRHR. What are your solutions of covid19 response on out-of-school youths facing teenage pregnancy? “

### **Daren Paul Katigbak**

We have to change the narrative. Let me just share you one of the programs that our partners NGOs is currently doing in the Philippines. We have this thing called *Liberalsibahi* meaning we're bringing out education materials outside of the schools and any universities. We are providing health services at the same time. So I guess if we combine both, then that would be an amazing solution to that particular issue. That's one of our main solution I guess in terms of that problem. But then again, we also have to make sure that we prioritize the health of those in teenage pregnant, mothers. Thank you. That's on my side.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you very much for your answer. Ambassador Cho, do you have a question?

### **Youngsook Cho**

I have a question to Caryn Dasah from Cameroon and have a question to Salam from Syria. I have two questions first for Caryn. I know that the conflict is persisting for a long time, so I wondered what kind of role model that youth must move forward in the future. My second question to Salam is to nurture the skills and talent of women, especially in stem area, I think that if there is no leadership, then it will be very difficult to realize their skills. So even if a woman has some economic power, the woman cannot make change if she is not given leadership. So, the woman may not be involved in decision making. Do you think that there is a possibility that the women might have some stem skills but may not increase their economic status?

### **Caryn Dasah**

For the young people, the role models that we must look forward to. I want to say first of all, we have role models out in the African continent like Limagui, who led the Liberian women going on the street to preach peace. I think we also have role models like the elders and others. But in Cameroon, we have women in the civil society space who are elders who are working tirelessly to bring about change in the community and bring the hope of the young people. We have great women, great leaders, who are encouraging and bringing hope to young people by their leadership, by their consistency, by their passion and by their enthusiasm to see a change in narratives of us the crisis in our region. When it comes to that, we have role models that we look up to and we are hopeful of a better tomorrow and are inspired to believe that if they can do this, if they can achieve this, if they can go this height, then as young people will do same and even cross boundaries.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you very much for the answer. So there was the question to Salam. So let me summarize the question to Salam. Ambassador Cho said that sometimes economic empowerment may not lead to the stronger political power of women. Do you have some solutions?

### **Salam Al-Nukta**

Yes, thank you very much for this question. We actually asked the same thing to ourselves when we established Change Makers. Indeed, I think economic empowerment, technology, and leadership skills are very important and interconnected to build not only a strong nation, but also a strong person. When Change Makers was founded, we did not only focus on technology and programming empowerment, but we also had a similar focus on leadership skills. I believe that leadership is earned. So once women are equipped with these skills, once they prove that they prove that she deserves to be put in leadership, she will. We have seen many women becoming leaders. We have seen many examples of role models being very successful leaders, just looking at the examples we had this morning. So, I think equal focus on leadership skills as well as programming skills and economic empowerment is what we're looking for.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you, Salam. I have question to Dr. Jiso Yoon. You made presentation about Korean young women's participation in politics. What do you think is the biggest challenge for you, whether it be in women's political participation or other activities?

### **Jiso Yoon**

Today, the theme of our forum is also the gender equality across the generation, and I think that it's very important for different generations to have communication with each other to promote gender equality. Since Beijing platform for action, we have made much progress, but still in the case of the progress we made with the young men, many young men still think that they're being discriminated against. Many young men still feel confused and they don't really think that women are faced with gender inequality. Rather, they think that they themselves are faced with gender inequality. So we need to continue to have communication with those people including male peers.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Yes, I agree with you. We have a long way to go, but as we discussed today, we need to strengthen our solidarity and we need to come together under the common objectives. It seems that we need to close today's forum. So Ambassador Cho and Ambassador Morgan are here with us online. I would like to ask the two ambassadors to make closing remarks. We listened to the voices of the young people. Could you explain your expectations for these young people and would you like to make any comments that you feel you must say to these young people. Ambassador Cho will make comments first and then I will ask ambassador Morgan to make comments.

### **Youngsook Cho**

Thank you very much for the opportunity to make this comment for the youth. The title of this forum is *generation equality forum*. In this era, men and women should work together for the gender equality. According to the generation equality forum, so we must deal with action coalitions. This means that different parties and stakeholders should work together and collaborate with each other for a certain action. This way, we will make a society where nobody is left behind. As I said in my presentation, we have to deal with old problems and new problems. So both older and youth generations and the future generations who are unborn yet need to address those issues. We have to think about how to make sure that the different generations should work together to address those issues.

I'd like to thank discussions from Cameroon, the Philippines, and Syria for their contributions to let us know the situations of their countries. There are the common challenges and universal challenges that we need to address together. As an older generation, I would be happy to work with the younger generation to overcome the challenges that are ahead of us. In the regard, I would like to thank KWDI and the young generation from different countries. Going forward, let us work together for a coalition and in that process, I hope to see you again in the future. Once again, everyone here is so remarkable. Thank you very much.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you very much Ambassador Cho. I'm impressed by your remarks. I'd like to ask Ambassador Morgan to make comments.

### **Yanerit Morgan**

Thank you very much for the invitation. It was a very interesting and inspirational session. I want to invite the youth to be engaged with this movement. We need all the support and energy and the commitment from the generations to move forward. At the end, the real deal is how to transform the lives of women and girls that are now suffering even more from the pandemic and all the economies and social impact. It's impossible to build back better if we don't build back equal and that's the forum is about. We invite you to be engaged with this effort. Thank you very much, I was very pleased to be here with you.

### **Eun Ha Chang**

Thank you very much for your comments. It's very late in Mexico. But thank you for being with us online. Now, it's time to wrap up the forum. It seems like I'm in-between the new generation and senior generation. I think I have my own role to play and KWDI has its role to play. We will think about this and make more efforts. Thank you all for being with us in the forum and there are other young people who made so much effort to make this event successful. I'd like to invite some more staff members from KWDI here. As I mentioned before from today, you know that we will carry out the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. As part of the campaign we are dressed in orange. As I said, these two colleagues from KWDI worked very hard to make this online forum possible. Thank you very much and goodbye.