

Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

New York, 27 September 2015

(Submitted in the context of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality, but not delivered in person)

- Excellencies
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank China and UN Women for convening this meeting. Twenty years after the Beijing conference, we have made progress in promoting gender equality globally.

But much more needs to be done, both for the dignity of girls and women, and to ensure their talents contribute to more rapid development.

In Rwanda, political will, backed by conducive policies, and the understanding by both men and women, of the rightness and developmental advantage of gender equality, have resulted in high representation of women in the public sector.

But we need to replicate this performance in other sectors of our economy. This is why Rwanda is pleased to make the following commitments to increase the economic participation of women.

1. We commit to achieve gender parity in financial inclusion by 2030. To close the existing gap, we will work to increase access to financial services for women as well as improve use of available financial products.
2. Rwanda also commits to achieve gender parity in waged nonfarm employment. Currently, women account for just over a quarter of all off-farm jobs, and their transition from agriculture is slower than that of men. As part of this effort, we will triple the number of girls enrolled in Technical and Vocational Training by the year 2020.
3. Finally, Rwanda commits to bridge the digital divide between men and women, and to attain parity in ICT usage by the year 2020. Currently, only 35 percent of women own mobile phones compared to 49 percent of men. Women are also under-represented as ICT graduates in higher education.

We are determined to succeed and look forward to continued global partnership in these efforts.

I thank you.