

**Remarks**

**by**

**H.E. Senator Byrganym Aitimova,**

**Secretary of the Committee on International Relations,**

**Defense and Security of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

**at the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and**

**Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action**

(27 September 2015, Conference Room 4)

**Your Excellency President Xi Jinping**  
**Your Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**  
**Distinguished delegates,**

It is my very great honour to speak on behalf of my President, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, who cannot be here due to unforeseen circumstances. Kazakhstan commends you both for your leadership in envisioning this historic call-to-commit meeting at a most transformative time in the history of the United Nations. What we need today is a shift in global thinking and effort to fully uphold and implement the Beijing Platform of Action with an accelerated and deeper commitment.

Kazakhstan, together with other Member States, strongly advocated for a stand-alone goal in the post-2015 new global agenda, which we are pleased to note has been ranked fifth among the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, my country will go beyond ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment at the national level to providing regional leadership. Hosting UN Women's multi-country office and the proposed UN Regional Hub in Almaty, Kazakhstan will strive, together with other Members States, to achieve the goals of the Beijing Declaration in the region of Central Asia and beyond.

My delegation sees the need to execute critical tasks at the global, regional and national levels. The first is to manage the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to SDGs, carrying forward lessons learned and galvanizing them into transformative change, even for the most marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls facing multiple intersecting forms of discrimination and abuse.

Secondly, our declarations must be translated into adequate financing with strong transparent and open accountability governmental mechanisms, utilizing high-level comparable gender data with statistics in all aspects of gender equality.

In my country, women constitute 52 % of the population, and currently they hold 29 seats in the Parliament, constituting 26 % of all of its members, the positions of Vice Prime-Minister, Secretary of State, and of 2 ministers are held by women. With literacy rate of 99.8%, Kazakhstan is ranked the fourth highest in UNESCO's world education development index. Women represent 57% of students graduating from universities and hold 55 % of all of state public offices. Women in my country are an important pillar of the economy, with a contribution of 40% to the state GDP. A sum of US \$56 million is allocated for developing programmes for women's entrepreneurship, representing presently 40% of the entire medium and small business sector in the country.

Efforts are also made in all areas of women's lives. The Government's "Kazakhstan Strategy 2050" can be claimed to be an exemplary national model, accompanied by its road map "Nyrlı Zhol", meaning the bright future. We have enacted national legislation, made long term financial commitments with unquestioned political support for the Beijing Declaration. In addition, we uphold all international instruments, including CEDAW, that have a bearing on women.

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize that Kazakhstan, will be at the vanguard of this new transformative era for humanity and especially for women and girls.

Thank you.