

Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment – A Commitment to Action  
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INTERVENTION

By

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President of Montenegro

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**It is truly an honor for me to address you at this Global Leaders' Meeting and to reiterate Montenegro's commitment to achieve a vision for women and girls to have equal rights, freedom and opportunities in all spheres of life and to live free from violence and discrimination.**

**I would like to use this opportunity to thank President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping and Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon for organizing this important meeting, which will, I am certain, reaffirm the commitment of international community to achieve powerful vision set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.**

**Two decades after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it is important to analyze achievements made, as well as to define next steps for addressing challenges for reaching gender equality and empowerment of women and girls at national, as well as at international level.**

**Montenegro has significantly improved its legislative and normative framework for achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. National Plan for Achieving Gender Equality for the period 2013-2017 was developed based on the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as other international documents in this area. The overall implementation of this Plan will improve the role of women in all sectors of society, especially when it comes to their socio-economic status. Law on Gender Equality has been amended in order to ensure gender equality in all spheres of life, including equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes.**

**Excellencies,**

**We are aware that full gender equality has not been achieved and that there are numerous challenges ahead of us. Bearing in mind that gender equality and empowerment of women has catalytic positive implications in many areas of development, this issue has rightfully found its place in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Montenegro was strong advocate for defining stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as integration**

of gender-specific targets and indicators across other goals of the new development framework. I am confident that 2030 Agenda makes the turning point for the future efforts of international community to address the issue of gender equality.

Thus Montenegro commits itself to implement all national and international standards for achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. It further pledges to fully implement amended Law on Gender Equality in order to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Montenegro will undertake all necessary activities for integrating gender perspective into all national policies and strategic planning. Additionally, it will undertake regular awareness-raising and educational campaigns to make violence against women socially unacceptable and involve men and boys in combating violence against women and girls.

Thank you.