

« TOGETHER TOWARDS GENERATION EQUALITY »

Statement by Alicia Buenrostro Massieu
Ambassador of Mexico

5 March 2020

Ladies, gentlemen, dear guests.

- I wish to first of all thank the Embassy of France and Ambassador François Saint-Paul for organizing this event on the occasion of International Women's Day, with the support of the Franco-Austrian Chamber of Commerce.
- It is equally a great honor to be in the presence of Brigitte Bierlein, who was already a brilliant and accomplished jurist before she became a trailblazer as first woman Chancellor of Austria. You are certainly the example of excellence, and of how women can bring the right leadership at the right time.
- And, of course, it is also an honor to be here with you to showcase the Generation Equality Forum, co-chaired by France and Mexico and convened by UN Women, in partnership with civil society.
- The Forum will be launched in Mexico in May and reconvene in Paris in July this year.
- As you know, Mexico hosted the very first World Conference on Women in 1975. It is therefore with great pride that we welcome the world again in Mexico to advance women's rights, 45 years after the first conference, and 25 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- This Forum falls in line with Mexico's new feminist foreign policy. It is part of the transformative commitment of the Mexican government with a progressive and feminist agenda.

- This agenda has already yielded the first gender-balanced cabinet and parliament in Mexico. Moreover, government programs are centered around the rights of women, in all their diversity.

Ladies and gentlemen.

- Unfortunately, 25 years after Beijing, progress has been uneven and today, we are facing unprecedented challenges that threaten the progress for the advancement of women and girls around the world.
- This is true in my country and around the world. We have failed to achieve the full realization of the human rights of all women and girls in all their diversity, and especially of those that have been traditionally left behind, marginalized and excluded.
- In this respect, the Forum seeks to set a strategy of transformative action, to close the gender gap and achieve real and substantial gender equality, across generations, by 2030.
- Women and girls must be at the heart of all our efforts to achieve the agenda of sustainable development.
- Civil society organizations and feminist movements have a crucial role play, in particular, the new generations. Adolescents, young people and youth-led organizations are transforming the lives in their communities.
- Austria's political leaders, civil society and young women have shown extraordinary leadership in this regard.
- We want them in the Forum. We want young feminist leaders and the feminist movements from Austria to make their voices heard and to take the lead in Mexico City.

- The Forum's three main substantive outputs, of equal importance are: 1) the creation of Action Coalitions, 2) the development of a new and relevant feminist strategy, 3) and the recognition of countries working for gender equality.

Ladies and gentlemen.

- Over the years, and especially in the last few months, women and girls in Mexico have expressed their impatience with structural inequality and violence.
- Mexico is convinced that this is the time to change. In Mexico and around the world, we have a historical debt towards women and girls. They cannot wait any longer.
- Let's make 2020 the feminist year.

Merci beaucoup. Vielen Dank.