



# 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68)

Report and ChildFund Alliance engagement

## I. Background: CSW68

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established by [ECOSOC resolution 11\(II\) of 21 June 1946](#) as a principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Every year, the Commission convenes a two-week session wherein UN Member States, civil society organizations, and UN entities gather at the UN headquarters in New York to discuss progress and gaps in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. The 68<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW took place on 11-22 March 2024, focusing on the priority theme ***“Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”***.

As in years prior, CSW68 provided an opportunity to build consensus on actions to increase investment in policies and programs that target gender inequalities and boost women's (and girls' as well as boys') agency and leadership. Aligned with this year's priority theme, **participants discussed and agreed on a set of actions and recommendations to improve the lives of women and girls by addressing the gender poverty trap and boosting their leadership**. The outcomes of best practices and policies at CSW68 are also imperative for advancing gender equality at the country-level across UN Member States, as more than 60 countries head into national and local elections throughout the remainder of 2024.

As in previous years, ChildFund Alliance Secretariat staff attended several high-level sessions and participated in numerous side-events. On 12 March, the Alliance held its own official CSW68 side-event on ***“The Importance of Care in Achieving Gender Equality: Early Childhood Development (ECD), Parenting Services, and Policies.”*** The session, spearheaded by the Alliance's UN Representative, was **co-organized with Alliance member Children Believe, ACEV Mother Child Education Foundation, and Equimundo**, and **co-sponsored by the governments of Australia, Burkina Faso and Poland** (see pages 3-4 for details).

The following pages contain a compendium of key takeaways and select outcomes of CSW68, as well as summaries of side-events with thematic relevance to the work of ChildFund Alliance.

## II. Key Takeaways

- In his opening remarks, **UN Secretary General (SG) Antonio Guterres** [announced](#) the launch of the **United Nations System-Wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan** on International Women's Day (8 March). The plan commits to placing women and girls at the center of UN activities, opening financing opportunities for grassroots women's organizations, and working with Member States for an ambitious revitalization of the CSW.
- A three-day assembly of the **CSW68 Youth Forum** aimed at fostering new pathways for dialogue between young advocates and policymakers. In addition to facilitating engagement between a diverse group of participants, the direct dialogues sought to narrow the gap between aspiration and action.
- The Youth Forum concluded with a strong endorsement of the **“CSW68 global youth and adolescent recommendations,”** which highlight the determination of youth and adolescents to approach poverty reduction efforts through a gender lens.

- Numerous participants emphasized throughout CSW68 the need to adopt a concentrated approach of **ensuring rights, resources, and representation for women** to overcome gender inequalities.
- The SG also drew attention to the **growing digital gender divide** and urged governments, civil society, and the ‘Silicon Valleys’ of the world to join efforts in bridging the digital gender divide and ensure that women have decision-making roles in digital technology across all levels.
- In an effort to accelerate gender equality, participants repeatedly made a strong **call for reform of the current international financial architecture** – with more women in leadership roles across financial institutions. This would ensure a more adequate allocation of financial resources for women and girls, thereby tackling poverty.
- As a part of the [Spotlight Initiative](#), in partnership with the European Union, the SG announced the allocation of **\$190 million to civil society** organizations to eliminate violence against women and girls.
- CSW68 also showcased various studies on the **care economy**. The transformation of the care economy – with a specific **need to recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work** – constituted a core priority implored by participants across several sessions. Against this background, **government leaders expressed commitments to formalize care work and strengthen social protection systems**.
- In addressing the **devastating impacts on children of parents living in poverty**, panelists and participants frequently called upon the state to step in through financial support and the provision of care services, thereby reducing the risk that children grow up in poverty.
- CSW68 also explored the **intersection between climate and care** in addressing the **disproportionate effects of climate change on women and girls**. Participants called for the integration of care jobs in the green economy to enable a just transition.
- Participants emphasized the **need for greater integration of women’s leadership in conflict prevention and peacebuilding**. The SG further called for fresh funding and new policies to boost women’s participation and investment in these areas. The **need for women’s leadership was also reiterated in the context of post-conflict reconstruction** to improve efforts to ensure the protection of women and children.
- The **President of the Confederation of Switzerland** expressed that a central part of Switzerland’s mandate within the UN Security Council (2023-2024) is the commitment to **ensuring that women are provided with the conditions necessary to enable their contribution to peace processes and decision-making**.
- CSW68’s conclusions called upon member states to adopt a **gender perspective** into their commitments in the upcoming [Financing for Development Forum \(FfD\)](#) on 22-25 April 2024.

#### Key figures:

- At present, a mere **15.4% of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 (“Gender equality”) indicators are “on track” to be achieved by 2030**, with 61.5% at a moderate distance and 23.1% far or very far off track from 2030 targets.

- UN Women estimates that **1 in every 10 women lives in extreme poverty**. The number of women and girls living in conflict-affected areas has doubled since 2017. Currently, **over 614 million women and girls live in conflict-impacted areas**, where women are 7.7 times more likely to live in extreme poverty.
- **Climate change is predicted to leave 236 million more women and girls hungry by 2030**, which is double the amount of the 131 million men.
- At prime working age, a mere 61% of women are in the labor force compared to 90% of men. Stakeholders repeatedly argued that **the world can no longer miss out on the “gender-equality dividend,”** calling on governments to prioritize education, equal and fair wages, family planning, and improved social benefits to lift an additional 100 million women and girls out of poverty.
- The economic argument was made repeatedly:
  - **Closing gender employment gaps could boost gross domestic product (GDP) per capita by 20%** across all regions.
  - **Better investment in care services**, specifically provision of day care and elderly care, **could create an estimated 300 million jobs by 2035**.
  - The UN estimates that, **in order to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment, an additional US\$ 360 billion per year is required**. However, the share of official development assistance (ODI) dedicated to gender equality is only 4%.

### III. Summary of ChildFund Alliance’s CSW68 Side-Event



#### The Importance of Care in Achieving Gender Equality: Early Childhood Development (ECD), Parenting Services, and Policies

Convened by ChildFund Alliance and its Canadian member, Children Believe, in collaboration with [ACEV](#) and [Equimundo](#), the event (see [Concept Note](#) and [recording](#)) highlighted the critical intersections between ECD, care equality and gender equality at the global and national levels. It was co-sponsored by the governments of Australia, Burkina Faso and Poland.

**H.E. Oumarou Ganou, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations**, delivered the event's opening remarks. The Ambassador provided an overview of the precarious conditions of women in Burkina Faso due to poor economic conditions and harmful traditional practices. In this regard, he noted the implementation of the National Parental Education Program (PNEP) 2020-2024 that focuses on the integrated development of early childhood. Ambassador Ganou also addressed the security and humanitarian challenges that the country is currently facing and called for the reinforced mobilization of technical and financial resources in favor of an integrated ECD approach.

The following keynote government panel featured **Katarzyna Kotula, Minister for Equality, Government of Poland**, and **Stephanie Copus Campbell, Ambassador for Gender Equality (AGE), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia**. Both speakers elaborated on the efforts underway in their respective countries to address ECD, gender-based violence and gender equality. Specifically, Poland has undertaken initiatives to support the formalization of care oriented towards equalizing responsibilities for men, while Australia has successfully implemented a model in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to reduce violence against women and children. The PNG model in particular underlines the need for governments, civil society and the private sector to work in tandem to address gender equality. The panelists also stressed that violence against women and children undermines every aspect of gender equality, and there was broad agreement that social norms must be challenged through a reversal of roles – even in the face of prevailing societal judgment.

Two videos subsequently showcased children and their parents recounting the positive impact that Children Believe's Learning Through Play (LTP) program has had on their lives in Burkina Faso, and how ACEV's Father Support Program in Türkiye has successfully reinforced the father-child bond. Both initiatives have contributed to a more equal division of responsibilities among mothers and fathers, as was subsequently discussed in a second panel that featured **Christelle Kalhoule, Regional Director - West Africa at Children Believe**, **Wessel van den Berg, Senior Advocacy Officer at Equimundo**, and **Suna Hanoz, Director - Strategy, International Programs and Partnerships at ACEV**.

The discussion on LTP in particular demonstrated that barriers can be broken through play activities. It furthermore became clear that the testimonies and sharing of experiences of parents in peer learning sessions have proved instrumental in bringing about transformative change in care. Another prominent theme in the discussion, as outlined by Equimundo, was the collection of data on care and its evidential value in explaining the need for gender equality. The panelists also made a strong case for structural and individual changes in approaching care systems and policies before the event closed with a call for enhanced collaboration and collective action to achieve gender equality.

## IV. Highlights of Select Child-Focused CSW68 Side-Events

### **Breaking The Single Parent Poverty Trap - Intersectional Insights And Promising Policies To Support Single Parents** (11 March)

*Organized by BMFSFJ/Germany, National Council of German Women's Organizations*

The event examined the **intersecting risks and challenges faced by single parents, especially single mothers, in tackling poverty**, and the measures needed to overcome them. The discussion identified the conditions that lead single mothers to fall into the poverty trap and highlighted the specific poverty risks faced by a sub-group of single-mothers who encounter greater discrimination and often find themselves in a more precarious financial situation.

In the opening segment, **H.E. Lisa Paus, Germany's Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth**, spoke about the devastating effects that single-parent poverty has on children. The Minister highlighted the need

for good affordable and flexible day care for everyone to ensure that children are not at risk of falling into poverty. **H.E. Signe Riisalo, Minister of Social Protection of Estonia**, emphasized the need for the state to step in when parents are unable to financially support their children. She spoke of government institutions being instrumental in empowering single-parent families, breaking the chain of poverty to build a society where every child is bestowed with the support and opportunity they deserve.

The panelists echoed the need for a system that empowers women, offers childcare services and provides financial freedom to single-parent families. This would be achieved through targeted policies that focus on addressing the structural barriers of single-parent families. There was also discussion on the various ways in which gender-based violence aggravates the single poverty trap.

In their closing remarks, the participants called for a sensitized approach towards single mothers and for augmented solutions to meet the distinct needs of single parents.

### **Poverty is Violence: The Intersection of Poverty, Racism and Gender (15 March)**

*Organized by ATD Fourth World*

This session brought together women from diverse communities to speak on specific issues faced by women from indigenous communities and minority groups in Bolivia, Guatemala, and the United States.

The panelists highlighted that **women from indigenous communities and minority groups face greater challenges than other demographics as a result of poverty and violence**. The discussion addressed the **multidimensional nature of violence** that women constantly face in different settings. A recurring theme in the discussion was the intersectionality of gender and race in the context of poverty and access to healthcare. The panelists emphasized their role in advocating to be the voice of native and indigenous women who lack access to institutions and justice.

The panelists also discussed the role of stereotypes as a result of the misrepresentation of women from these groups in popular culture. Further discussion revolved around the various factors contributing to women's poverty and gender-based violence, such as the effects of colonization, the prevailing historical and political climate, and the **frequent occurrence of climate and natural disasters** in Latin American countries.

The **need for adequate social protection policies focusing on women and children** from marginalized and minority groups was raised in the session. A participatory process that brings together ATD activists, women with personal experiences of poverty, and academia in creating spaces for dialogue and expression was highlighted as an example of one essential measure to address the multidimensional challenges faced by women and children in these groups.

### **Time to Care: Launch of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2024 Regional Report for Southeast Asia (18 March)**

*Hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN, organized by the OECD Development Center*

The event launched the [SIGI 2024 Regional Report for Southeast Asia: Time to Care](#) and focused on exploring pathways for collective action to address the root causes of gender equality in Southeast Asia, particularly with regard to formalizing the care sector.

- In the opening segment, **H.E. Kin Sanglin, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations**, provided a brief overview of the prevalence of gender inequality in South Korea.

- **Ulrik Vestergaard Kudsen, OECD Deputy Secretary General and Gender & Diversity** discussed the prevalence of unpaid care work in Southeast Asia. He highlighted the need for formalization of the care sector through redistribution of unpaid care work and financial empowerment of women.
- **Hyeshin Park, Gender Programme Coordinator, OECD Development Centre**, elaborated on the demographic and economic changes in Southeast Asia that resulted in the increased demand for care services. Park also pointed to the improvement of the region's resilience to shocks and enhanced women's economic empowerment as benefits of the formal care economy.

The following panel then addressed the role of gender-transformative policies and programs to challenge established gender norms and promote women's empowerment.

- **Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director, of the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**, drew attention to the challenges faced by migrant women in the care sector. She highlighted the need for recognizing, redistributing, and reducing care work.
- **Ankita Panda, Senior Program Officer, Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, The Asia Foundation**, spoke of the various identities beyond gender that mandate a culturally sensitive and tailored approach to addressing unpaid care work in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Vivi Restuviani, Programme Officer, International Women's Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP)**, underlined the need for ensuring social protection for care workers employed in informal settings. She also identified gender equality as a critical component of the care economy, and the existence of an intrinsic link between them.

In closing, the discussion urged greater investment in the care economy and targeted policy reforms. An important outcome of the session was the call for a targeted action plan towards strengthening the social protection system, formalization of care work, and transforming discriminatory social norms. The panelists also postulated that the care economy requires measures to ensure greater credibility of the care industry and a coordinated ecosystem approach among all actors.

### **Gender Equality in Climate Action: The Role of Legal and Policy Frameworks in Delivering a Gender Responsive Just Transition (19 March)**

*Organized by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) with the support of the Government of the Philippines, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Women, Business and the Law at the World Bank, and the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ)*

This event explored the linkages between women's rights in the world of work and a just transition towards a sustainable economy. The discussion furthermore highlighted measures to advance the role of legal and policy frameworks in delivering a gender-responsive transition.

In her opening remarks, **Jan Beagle, Director-General, IDLO**, highlighted the **need for a feminist approach to the climate crisis**. **H.E Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Philippines**, spoke on the intersectionality in the climate crisis which reinforced the need to foster an inclusive and just transition to climate resilience. She stressed investment in health and social protection systems to ensure the wellbeing and protection of girls and women. On the panel:

- **Dr. Jemimah Njuki, Chief, Economic Empowerment, UN Women**, elaborated on the intersection between climate and care. She highlighted the need for the elimination of systemic inequalities, including the gender pay gap in the care sector.
- **Fleur Newman, Lead, Action for Climate Empowerment Unit, UNFCCC**, noted that climate change is an economic and social issue with environmental impacts. She also discussed the importance of gender-responsive decisions in climate action.
- **Timo Stühm, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN**, spoke about the launch of guidelines for feminist policies to overcome gender inequalities. He evoked an action plan concentrated on ensuring the rights, resources, and representation for women.
- **Emanuela Pozzan, Senior Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination Specialist, ILO**, discussed women's full and equitable partnership and the way in which they are instrumental for a just transition. She also noted that the job losses in the transition process need to be balanced by the creation of green jobs, particularly in the energy sector. In this context, she called for the integration of care jobs in the green economy. Further, Pozzan listed some macro policies as entry points for a just transition.
- **Maria Elefante, Private Sector Development Specialist, Women, Business and the Law, World Bank**, elaborated on the legal frameworks for a just transition and noted the existence of a massive legal gender gap for women's economic participation. She pointed out the discriminatory nature of current legal systems that restrict women from working in certain sectors, particularly the energy sector.
- **Ayshka Najib, Fridays for Future MAPA**, a youth speaker, voiced her views that advocated for a fundamental shift in current settings of decision-making. She called for involving women in the design, decision-making, and implementation of policies whilst ensuring that there is diversity at the table. Najib added that capitalizing on current knowledge gaps needs to be broken through accountability mechanisms, including informal consultations among stakeholders, thereby enabling greater transparency.

In the closing segment, all panelists raised the **need for more data in transforming awareness into action for a just transition**. They also acknowledged that **incorporating more women in decision-making leads to better decisions in resource, governance, and climate resilience**. In striving towards this, the session concluded with a call for breaking away from traditional systems, increased targeted financing towards girls and feminist organizations, and greater support from UN Member States.

## **Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Practices to Push Forward for Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democracy** (20 March)

Organized by UN Women, in partnership with UNDP, UNFPA and OHCHR

The flagship side-event was convened to highlight how multi-stakeholder, issue-based coalitions at the country or community level can accelerate and safeguard gender equality gains.

In the opening segment, **Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women** provided a brief overview of the rise in challenges to gender equality amidst global crises. She expressed UN Women's commitment to amplify and increase awareness of international practices in addressing challenges of women's rights and gender equality. **Mr. Abdallah Al Dardari, UNDP Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States** discussed the economics of gender labor participation in a world of poly-crises. He noted that the massive latent potential of women should be realized to increase productivity and economic growth. He called for greater advancement in women's rights towards achieving the SDGs. **Diene Keita, UNFPA Assistant Secretary-General**, acknowledged the increased attempts

to reverse progress on gender equality in recent years and added that a collective responsibility lies in providing effective solutions for gender equality and advancing girls and women's rights. The session featured two panels.

### **Panel I: "Country and Community-Level Case Studies"**

This panel showcased how initiatives at the country and community level were tackling the challenges posed by the war on gender equality and democracy through examples from Indonesia, Tanzania, and India.

- **Andy Yentriyani, Chair of Indonesia's National Commission on Violence Against Women**, shared how robust multi-stakeholder coalitions that enabled constructive dialogue were instrumental in the passage of an anti-sexual crime act bill in 2022.
- **Mgeni Hassan Juma, Deputy Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives**, and **Anna Kulaya, National Coordinator of Women in Law and Development Africa (WiLDAF)**, discussed Tanzania's success in achieving collaboration between NGOs and governments. As the country heads into elections, Tanzania's efforts have facilitated strategic campaigning to ensure gender policies are mandated in the political spectrum.
- The example of a Feminist Leadership Lab, which brought together young leaders from across India to discuss effective engagement in electoral politics, was cited by **Arundhati Sridhar, Research Lead at Gender Work India**. The approach was successful in generating key resources of solidarity and hope for movement building.

### **Panel II: "Global Case Studies"**

This panel presented case studies at the global level from Slovenia, Afghanistan, and Monaco.

- **Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Executive Director of GWL Voices for Changes and Inclusion**, pointed out the pressing need for women's leadership in multilateral organizations.
- **H.E. Saša Jurečko, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations**, expressed Slovenia's commitment to achieving gender equality through its active participation in several initiatives and coalitions around the world. Ambassador Jurečko reaffirmed Slovenia's efforts to ensure better representation of women in multilateralism and leadership positions at the UN.
- **Samira Asghari, Member of the International Olympic Committee, and former Captain of the Afghan Women's Basketball team** spoke on the power of sport as a tool in bringing the world together. Identifying herself as an example, Asghari demonstrated that sport changes the lives of women and girls for the better through its ability to enable access to essential rights, particularly the right to education.
- **H.E. Isabelle Picco, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the UN, and Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace**, acknowledged NGOs for being instrumental in undertaking sports initiatives. Ambassador Picco also recognized the vital role of sports in improving the lives of people as it leads young women to pursue higher studies.

In addition, both panels acknowledged the existing challenge of institutionalization and acceptance of legislation on women's rights and gender equality. In their respective closings, both panels underscored the need to increase women's representation across various levels of government as well as multilateral organizations. They also highlighted the importance of building trust to facilitate constructive dialogue across sectors.

## **Investing in Women's Leadership: Women's Participation in Recovery and Reconstruction Efforts (21 March)**

*Organized by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Permanent Mission of Austria, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea, Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the UN, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), and UN Women*

The event presented key findings of the research study on “women’s participation in post-conflict economic recovery and reconstruction,” conducted by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) with the support of UN Women and in collaboration with Dr. Jacqui True.

**H.E. Stefan Pretterhofer, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Austria to the UN**, in his opening remarks expressed Austria’s dedication to advocating for responsive gender equality. Ambassador Pretterhofer acknowledged women’s invaluable contributions in the prevention, response, and recovery stages of conflict. **H.E. Amara Sova, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the UN**, highlighted the rebuilding of political and socio-economic institutions as the biggest challenge in post-conflict recovery. Ambassador Sova suggested the need for a human security approach concentrated on women’s leadership and participation in post-conflict recovery. In her opening remarks, **Sarah Hendriks, Director of Policy Programme and Intergovernmental Intervention, UN Women**, called out the significant lack of support for women’s involvement in peacebuilding and rebuilding societies. Hendriks thus urged stronger advocacy for the necessary support and resources for women in peacebuilding. The panel’s key takeaways included:

- **Roselyn Akombe, Chief of Peacebuilding, Strategy and Partnerships at the Peacebuilding Support Office, DPPA** emphasized the critical importance of engaging women as designers and implementers in all intergovernmental processes. Akombe highlighted the positive difference made by women-led leadership at the DPPA. She also addressed the importance of engaging and sensitizing international financial institutions due to their significant contribution to peacekeeping missions.
- **Sophia Farion, Programme Coordinator for Eastern Europe, South Caucuses and Central Asia, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders** shared key findings of the case studies from Colombia, Iraq, Myanmar, Thailand, and Nigeria. The case studies underlined the absence of women’s participation in decision-making on economic recovery.
- **Robinah Rubimbwa, Founder and Executive Director, Coalition for Action1325, Uganda**, highlighted that women’s participation thrives during conflict situations and noted that they develop new skills and knowledge in these situations. Moreover, Rubimbwa pointed out the impact of the destruction of healthcare systems on women during conflict. She furthermore raised the need to address sexual violence in post-conflict situations and the need for support from formal institutions and organizations in post-conflict recovery.
- **Elene Rusetskaia Chairperson of Board, Women’s Information Center, Georgia**, drew attention to the discussion on domestic violence against women. She spoke about ensuring women’s participation at the grassroots level and on tackling anti-gender rhetoric at the country level.
- **Thinzar Shunlei Yi, Advocacy Coordinator, Action Committee for Democracy Development, Founder and Executive Committee member of Sister to Sisters, Myanmar**, elaborated on the humanitarian crisis impacting women and children due to the military coup in Myanmar. She recounted the devastating conditions of mothers forced to send their children to battlegrounds mandated by the conscription law, and highlighted the urgent need for conflict prevention measures that address the root causes of the military’s criminal activities in Myanmar. Yi also called upon UN agencies to hold the main perpetrator accountable to restore peace and safety for women and girls.
- **Olga Zaiarna, Project Coordinator, Identifying Feminist Approaches to Reconstruction and Recovery for a Just and Inclusive Peace in Ukraine**, outlined the multidimensional aspect of post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Ukraine which had resulted from a series of discussions conducted on women in post-war reconstruction. She added that it

is crucial to improve women's working conditions with a focus on childcare, social housing, and psychological support in overcoming poverty.

A recurring message throughout the discussion was the need for women in key decision-making positions to have a multiplier effect. This would be realized by supporting the creation of social, financial, and economic opportunities with adequate infrastructures for women. The panel concluded with a call for greater integration of women's leadership in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

**H.E. Sangjin Kim, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to UN,** delivered the closing remarks in which he shared his reflections on the discussion. Ambassador Kim emphasized that Korea's successful political democratization was owed to its women who joined the labor force in the post-war period. He acknowledged that women's labor force participation had spurred economic revival in the country.