

**Speech of Hon'ble Ms. Debasree Chaudhuri, Minister of State,
Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of
India**

**at Nairobi Summit - ICPD 25
12th -14th November 2019**

'Ending Harmful Practices- Making Commitments Real'

Madam Chair

Excellencies, dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen

A very good afternoon to you

1. Today's Meeting offers an invaluable opportunity to review the progress made in realising the vision set out 25 years ago and analyse the challenges that lie ahead.
2. India ratified the U.N. Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1993, thereby committing to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women within its legal system, and adopt the laws, which prohibit discrimination against women.
3. The Government of India considers elimination of all forms of discrimination against women as a key priority issue and has been taking special measures in this direction through various laws, policies and schemes.

4. '*Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*' scheme (Celebrate the girl child, enable her education) was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi in January 2015 as a comprehensive programme to address the declining child sex ratio and related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum. The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, prohibits sex selection, punishes and prevents misuse of sex determination.
5. In the last 5 years of implementation, *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* has been well received across the nation with favourable trend visible in Sex Ratio at Birth. Today, this scheme is one of the most visible programmes of the Government and has already captured the consciousness of the people generating mass awareness towards the seriousness of the issue, thus becoming a people's initiative.
6. India is encouraged by the decline in rates of child marriage. Child marriage violates the right of women to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and education. India remains committed to working towards elimination of child marriage through awareness generation and strict implementation of *The*

Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, which punishes those who promote, perform and abet child marriage.

7. Recognising the need to address the social evil of dowry, the Dowry Prohibition Act was enacted in 1961. The Act penalises the giver and taker of dowry and also provides protection to women.
8. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 recognizes the right of all women to live free from violence occurring within the private sphere of home. It aims to prevent violence and provide emergency relief to women.
9. Violence, discrimination and infringement upon rights and dignity of women in any form has to be countered and stopped for true development and growth of any country. We all, as a global community at this Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 must strive to work together towards achieving this goal.
10. I thank you.
