

**Speech of the Hon'ble Ms. Debasree Chaudhuri, the
Minister of State, Ministry of Women and Child
Development, Government of India
for Nairobi Summit – ICPD25
12 - 14 November, 2019
Women Leaders High Level Dialogue**

Madam Chair

Excellencies, dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

1. I take this opportunity to congratulate the organizers and participants of ICPD 25. After successful conclusion of the first day of the conference, we have had the opportunity to listen to various speakers from all stakeholders. It's a delight to engage with different ideas and experiences of their implementation by various governments, UN Agencies and NGOs in collaboration with each other.
2. I would like to make few additional points from India's perspective, reflecting our own experiences of dealing with various developmental challenges including those faced by women and children.

Madam Chair

3. India as a founding member of the United Nations, has always reaffirmed its commitment to the principles and purposes mentioned in the UN charter. India has had a tremendous success in achieving the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) and subsequently we also provided leadership in shaping the SDGs for the 2030 Agenda. We continue to make tangible progress towards realizing the vision of the ICPD 1994 and SDG5. It resonates with the vision of the Government of India of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas" (Collective Effort, Inclusive Development and Collective Faith) as well as the global aspiration of "Leaving no one Behind".

4. It is said that *women empowered means Nation empowered. Stronger women mean stronger Nation*. In this regard, India has been making concerted efforts towards empowerment and advancement of women.

5. The Constitution of India, not only grants equality to women but also seeks to establish a democratic republic by giving

the women population, direct and equal share in the governance of the country.

6. Various progressive legislative measures have been enacted and amended aiming at women's advancement in different spheres such as *The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; The Code on Wages, 2019; The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013; The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex-Selection) Act, 1994,; The Protection of Women From Domestic Violence Act, 2005; The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006; The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961; The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 & 2018* to name a few.

Madam Chair

7. The National Policy for Women aims to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. In this backdrop, the Government has recognised Gender Budgeting as a priority area so that the benefits of development reach women effectively. Some of the

schematic interventions, I would like to mention here, are- '*Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*' scheme (Celebrate Girl Child, Enable her Education), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, National Nutrition Mission, National Health Mission, *Swachh Bharat Mission*, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Ujjwala Yojana have been aimed to provide education, health care and healthier lifestyle to women.

8. Schemes as One Stop Centres and Women Helpline provide and facilitate support services such as police assistance, medical treatment, legal and psycho-social counselling and shelter to woman in distress.

9. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana; Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana have encouraged entrepreneurship among women and have provided increased access to banking and financial institutions for them. Through initiatives like Mahila Shakti Kendra, the government attempts to support rural women through community participation.

Madam Chair

10. I am pleased to share that Capacity Building programmes for Elected Women Representatives at village level are undertaken with an objective of empowering them by developing their leadership capacities so that they serve as catalysts for social change.

11. Women in India are excelling in almost every field; there is hardly any arena which remains unconquered by them, be it politics, corporate boardrooms, science and technology, sports, entrepreneurship, entertainment, literature, police and armed forces. Today, India is moving from path of women development to women led development.

Madam Chair

12. I would like to conclude by expressing that we as world community should take the mission of women empowerment forward to collectively achieve the broader goals of gender equality and to take opportunity to learn from each other.

13. I thank you.
