



General Assembly
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Third Committee
Advancement of women

H.E. Ms. Tine Marie Smith
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

Chair,

First of all let me congratulate the winners of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman.

The Norwegian Prime Minister, Mr. Stoltenberg, stated that "the three laureates have each made a distinctive contribution to the empowerment of women in their countries and helped to give women a voice. This is a global challenge to all of us in whose will there is to promote equality and equal opportunities all over the world".

Needless to say, this year's award serves as a great inspiration for all of us.

Chair,

Lack of equality between women and men is one of the most serious challenges of our time and it is also the key to prosperity and development.

Today I would like to draw your attention to the World Bank Development Report. One of many reports emphasizing the correlation between equality and development.

The main message in this report is that gender equality is a decisive factor for development.

(Check against delivery)

Not only is gender equality smart economics, but it also empowers women as economic, political, and social actors and leads to more representative decision making.

This leads to improved outcomes for the next generations.

Reports from several international organizations over the past years have given us evidence of the imbalance between women and men in economic, social and political decision making in all parts of the world.

They also show the importance of equality as a prerequisite for development.

We know that the pace of future economic and social development for all depends on whether women and girls are included in society in the same way as boys and men.

The World Bank report puts gender equality on the top of the global agenda. Norway applauds this.

Gender equality should not be treated merely as a side event, a side activity, an extra program, neither in a UN context, nor in the member states.

Gender Equality must be mainstreamed and regarded as a cross-cutting issue, integrated into all processes which concern our future development.

Chair,

UN Women will play an important role in this respect.

Norway is a strong supporter of UN Women and we have high expectations to what the organization can achieve in partnership with member states.

We want to play a constructive, and if necessary, critical role as a partner for the new organization. Thus we welcome Ms. Graciela Petre is visiting Norway and will meet with our prime minister and 4 other cabinet ministers discussing equality issues. We look forward to discuss with her how UN Women programs in rape victim support and ending violence can be implemented.

Chair,

Gender equality is also a cornerstone in our environmental sustainable development.

Norway will also have gender equality as an integrated and mainstreamed issue not only in COP 15 in Doha later this year but also at Rio+20 next year.

Global warming, climate changes and natural disasters constitute a threat to food security, to sustainable development and leads to migration.

These changes affect women and children differently from men.

Over the years the links between gender and environment and sustainable development issues are becoming more and more evident.

The report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/66/156) points out that there is a growing recognition that rural women are crucial agents in poverty reduction and sustainable development.

In many parts of the world women lack land rights, are not members of agricultural organizations and have no access to knowledge, technology and decision-making in the agriculture sector.

Hardly any of the development funds are linked directly to gender.

Let me revert to the World Bank report which shows that over the past ten years, 10 per cent out of the World Bank's total budget has been used on gender equality programmes.

However, the World Bank will from now on be mainstreaming gender equality into all its activities.

Chair,

Facts and figures does not only give us a picture of the world today. They also show us that the key to future development of the world's population made up by women and girls, by ensuring them the same rights and opportunities as boys and men.

Gender equality can only be achieved when men and women work together towards the same goals.

Thank you.

These changes affect women and children differently. Over the years the link between gender and environmental sustainable development issues are becoming more and more evident.

The report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/60/120) points out that there is a growing recognition that rural women are critical agents in poverty reduction, food security and environmental sustainability.

In many parts of the world, women have limited access to knowledge, technology and decision making in the agriculture sector.

Identify any of the development funds are linked directly to gender.

Let me refer to the World Bank report which shows that over the past ten years only 0.05 per cent out of the World Bank total budget has been used on gender equality programmes.

However, the World Bank will from now on be mainstreaming gender equality into all their activities.

Chair

Facts and figures does not only give us a picture of the imbalance between men and women in the world today - they also show us that the key to future development lies in mobilizing half of the world's population made up by women and girls by ensuring them the same rights and opportunities as boys and men.

Gender equality can only be achieved when men and women have equal opportunities.

Thank you.