

International Day of Women and Girls in Science “Equality and Parity in Science for Peace and Development”

Outcome Document: February 8-9, 2018.

“Equality and Parity in Science for Peace and Development”

We, Ministers and high representatives, having met at the United Nations Headquarters in New York,

1. *Welcome* the celebration of the 3rd International Day of Women and Girls in Science and the active role of member States, United Nations agencies, the Royal Academy of Science International Trust and other relevant organizations in supporting women scientists and in promoting the access of women and girls to and their full participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, training and research activities at all levels;

2. *Recall* the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and realizing their crucial role in making progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets; and the importance of reflecting their cross-cutting nature in the presentation of the Voluntary National Reviews at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

3. *Stress* the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, *recognize* that there is a need to target science, technology and innovation strategies to address women’s empowerment and inequalities, including the gender digital divide; and *emphasize* the imperative of gender equality as a condition for progress and sustainable development;

4. *Stress* the importance of fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, strategic partners and allies in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

5. *Stress* the vital role that science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges to support gender equality and sustainable development;

6. *Stress* that women’s full and equal contribution is crucial to the construction of peaceful, open, democratic and transparent societies, through peacebuilding and development efforts, *stress* the importance of leveraging science and technology for entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in new and emerging fields of work, and *highlight* the importance of equal pay policies;

7. *Recognize* that new technologies, which are changing the structure of labor markets, provide new and different employment opportunities that require women and girls to acquire skills ranging from basic digital fluency to advanced technical skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and in information and communications technology;

8. *Urge* all governments to address the structural barriers to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, such as discriminatory laws and policies, gender stereotypes, gender-based violence, harmful practices and negative social norms, practices and attitudes, with special attention to women and girls with disabilities who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and *encourage* all Governments to step up policies and efforts to ensure women and girl’s full, equal and effective participation and leadership at all levels, areas and efforts, including science and technology;

9. *Urge* all governments to address the ongoing and persistent gender gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation as a whole and science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in particular, by challenging the gender stereotypical association of certain professions and activities and

encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract, retain and enhance the role of women and girls in those fields;

10. *Welcome* the work of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as the focal point for STI for development in the United Nations system, in promoting international collaboration and facilitating sharing of best practice regarding the increased participation of women and girls in STI and look forward to the conclusions of the dedicated session on the topic of digital skills with a special focus on women and youth that will take place during the 21st annual session of the Commission;

11. *Urge* all governments to take actions aimed to ensure universal access to quality education, including informal and non-formal education, equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships, and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, [responsible citizenship and employability skills](#) into education and training programmes, including in the fields of science, technology and innovation, in order to eliminate gender inequalities at all levels;

12. *Welcome* innovative approaches to catalyse additional domestic and international, private and public resources for the creation, development and diffusion of innovation and technologies and associated know-how, including the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, in order to promote the access and participation of women and girls, throughout their life cycle, in particular in developing countries;

13. *Call upon* the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations Development System, within their respective mandates and resources, to support States in their efforts to achieve women and girl's empowerment in science, technology and innovation;

14. *Pledge* to continue the efforts to achieve the effective empowerment of women and girls at all levels, including as users, content creators, employers, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders in science, technology and innovation.