

Intervention de la Représentante permanente adjointe  
A l'évènement parallèle du Comité des Nations Unies pour l'élimination de la discrimination  
à l'égard des femmes

Lundi 18 mars, 10h-11h15  
Salle de Conférence D, Bâtiment de l'ONU

**« Women's Rights and the 2030 Agenda: 40 Years of Empowering Women  
with a View of Sustainable Development ».**

Thank you,

First, I would like to thank the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and UN Women for organizing this event. I would also like to thank the co-panelists - Madam Minister, Ms Asa Regner, UN Women's Deputy Executive Director, and Ms Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict - for their enlightening remarks on the connection between gender equality and sustainable development.

France is now on the frontline on gender equality, both at home and abroad. We believe that the convergence between the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is essential.

The adoption of the Convention forty years ago was a remarkable achievement. Not only does this international treaty proclaim gender equality, but it also sets forth a plan of action, so that States Parties guarantee the exercise of those rights. This

concrete approach is at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda. In order to implement it fully, we must follow a rights-based approach.

The elimination of discrimination against women is the theme of *one* of the Sustainable Development Goals, but it is also an integral part of *all* aspects of an inclusive and sustainable development. As pointed out by UN Women, all SDGs depend on the completion of objective number 5, which is gender equality, as well as on other targets which can be found in other SDGs.

The fight to eliminate discriminations against women must therefore be tackled with a holistic approach. This means taking strong and pressing measures to fight against discriminatory laws, sexual violence, the unequal distribution of resources, the unequal participation of women in political processes or the violation of sexual and reproductive rights.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was a trailblazer as it set up a rights-based approach for our collective actions. These actions should be led by States, but also by NGOs and the private sector, as demonstrated by the presence of Ms. Anne-Clair Berg and Ms Cristina Lunghi today.

There is still a long way to go to achieve the Convention's two main objectives: on one hand, the elimination of discrimination

against women, and on the other hand, the empowerment of women. The fight against discrimination must be both concrete and ambitious. That is the aim of the Gender Equality Index adopted by France at the end of 2018. It offers an opportunity to get rid of pay inequalities, by establishing a transparent procedure and proper control on companies. Moreover, in the context of the French G7 presidency, experts from the Gender Equality Advisory Council work on a legislative package to identify the “most favorable laws” for women throughout the world. This echoes the outstanding work carried out by UN Women to identify and eliminate discriminatory laws in the world. France will also hold ministerial level meetings in the context of the G7: on May 10<sup>th</sup>, a meeting will be entirely dedicated to the theme of gender equality, more specifically the issues of economic empowerment, combatting violence and educating women.

Providing a comprehensive solution to all discriminations against women also entails taking urgent measures to fight against the most destructive consequences of those discriminations: violence against women and particularly sexual violence. France promotes the universalization of the Istanbul Convention. Also, following a French initiative, the first General Assembly resolution exclusively dedicated to sexual harassment was adopted last December and a Group of friends to eliminate sexual harassment was created. It held its first

meeting at ministerial-level – and fourth overall - during the first week of the CSW. Finally, France supports the creation of a fund to support victims of sexual violence, an initiative put forward by the Mukwege Foundation and Nadia's Initiative. As the Minister for Equality between Men and Women and the Fight against Discrimination Marlène Schiappa underlined last week, France will be the first country to contribute to this fund.

The mobilization of States, but also of civil society, including private companies, is essential to achieve a fundamental paradigm shift. In order to strengthen the action of women's rights advocates, the President of the Republic has announced the creation of a 120 million fund, which will support feminist movements in the South.

As we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, it is vital that we continue to strengthen the link between gender equality and sustainable and inclusive development. Only the promotion of gender equality can allow each and every region of the world to progress further towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The Beijing + 25 conference, which will be held in France as announced by the President of the Republic, will represent a pivotal moment in that regard.

Thank you.