



Call to Action on Women's Economic Empowerment

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, on 23 October 2020, reaffirm the pivotal role of women in promoting prosperity and stabilization of the global economy, especially as the world seeks to recover from an unprecedented pandemic.

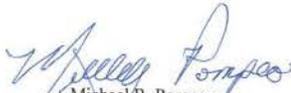
Together, we embrace our commitment to ensure women around the world have full access to economic opportunities, recognizing women as key drivers of the global pandemic recovery effort. When women are economically empowered, they invest back into their families and communities, producing a multiplier effect that spurs economic growth and increases both prosperity and security for their nations. In our committed efforts to enhance workforce development, expand entrepreneurship, and ensure an enabled economy to promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress, we:

1. *Ensure* the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and *reaffirm* the pivotal role of women's full participation and leadership in the prosperity and stabilization of the global economy, including women and girls belonging to marginalized groups, across the three pillars of the United Nations' work, and increasing participation of and cooperation with civil society, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the UN Charter on its 75th anniversary of the UN Charter and our commitment to advancing gender equality on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and further reaffirm our political will and strongly commit to tackling existing and emerging challenges to education and training of women, violence against women in all its forms, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, and women in decision-making roles;
3. *Reaffirm* women's economic empowerment across the UN system and highlight three critical pillars in achieving women's economic empowerment globally: 1) workforce development and skills training; 2) entrepreneurship and access to capital; and 3) the overall enabling environment of policies, laws, regulations, and practices that affect women's economic participation;
4. *Affirm* the importance of addressing legal, regulatory and other barriers to women's full and free participation in the economy, including women's ability to access institutions, build credit, own and manage property, travel freely, and work in the same jobs and sectors as men;
5. *Emphasize* that, globally, the gross domestic product growth rate could increase substantially if every country achieved gender equality and the full participation of women in the workforce, and recognize that economic and social losses owing to a lack

of progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are significant;

6. *Reaffirm* that the realization of gender equality and the economic empowerment of women will make a crucial contribution to sustainable development, that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied full human rights and opportunities and that we will work for a significant increase in investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the global, regional and national levels;
7. *Recognize* that the sharing of family responsibilities creates an enabling family environment for women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, which contributes to development, that women and men make a significant contribution to the welfare of their families and that, in particular, women's contributions to the home, including unpaid care and domestic work -- which is still not adequately recognized -- generate human and social capital that are essential for social and economic development;
8. *Ensure* women's economic empowerment by enhancing women's full access to and equal opportunities in the labour market and decent work, taking effective action against discrimination and abuse in the workplace, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors, promoting women's access to credit and entrepreneurship as well as financial inclusion and financial literacy for women, ensuring women's ability to own and manage property and to travel freely;
9. *Realize* the right to education for all women and girls, eliminating barriers in this regard, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, training and skills development, promoting lifelong learning opportunities, and supporting women's and girl's participation in all sectors, especially those in which they are not equally represented, in particular science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and strengthening international cooperation on these issues;
10. *Support* and will work together to amplify national efforts towards the economic empowerment of women, through promoting the control, ownership, management and participation of women in all sectors and levels of the economy;
11. *Encourage* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders to promote and protect the rights of women workers, to take action to remove structural and legal barriers, and implement labour market policies to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, and to promote equal pay for equal work, and take measures to increase women's access to productive resources and assets, including digital technology, land, property and financial services, including microfinance, as appropriate;

12. Welcome the efforts of Member States, to promote women's economic empowerment at the regional, national and local levels, including through the development of implementation plans, and by encouraging Member States to continue to pursue such implementation, including through strengthened monitoring, evaluation and coordination.


 Michael R. Pompeo
 Secretary of State

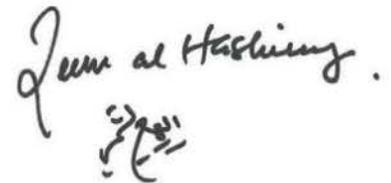
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