



MINISTRY OF GENDER, CULTURE, THE ARTS AND HERITAGE
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR GENDER AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

TALKING NOTES FOR ANNE WANG'OMBE, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR GENDER AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION,
DURING THE CONFERENCE ON BRIDGING GENERATIONS:
ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY, HARNESSING INNOVATION -
HELD AT THE KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, NAIROBI ON
WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH 2025

- *Your Excellency, The First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Mama Rachel Ruto*
- *Hon. Justin Muturi, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service and Human Capital Development*
- *Ms. Antonia N'gabala Sodonon - Country Director, UN Women Kenya*
- *Distinguished Guests*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen*

1. Thank you all for being here today at this Women's Conference focused on advancing gender equality and fostering innovation. It's a privilege to be part of an event that addresses such important issues. The Kenya School of Government has been an invaluable partner

with the State Department in our efforts to close the gender gap, particularly through the development of a curriculum aimed at empowering women candidates for electoral positions. This initiative has proven to be an effective means of enhancing women's political participation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. This conference comes at a key moment. Social innovation holds the key to transforming opportunities for women, especially those facing marginalization due to various factors like age, ethnicity, or disability. To create meaningful change, we must employ gender analysis in our innovations, ensuring they benefit everyone equally. It's crucial to establish inclusive platforms that empower both men and women to tackle developmental challenges together. Notably, women remain underrepresented in STEM fields, and in recognition of this, the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action presents the Mariam El-Maawy Award through our annual Trailblazers Awards Program, celebrating women's significant contributions in these areas.

3. As you know, our mandate stems from Executive Order No. 2 of 2023, which encompasses gender policy management, the empowerment of women, and the domestication of international treaties on gender issues. We are currently preparing for the annual Commission on the Status of Women at the UN, focusing this year on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. This session marks

the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, a landmark agenda for achieving gender equality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Today's conference serves as a prelude to International Women's Day, and I am excited to invite you all to the celebrations taking place on Saturday, March 8th, in Homabay County. This year's theme, "**Accelerate Action for All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment,**" underscores our commitment to advancing the rights and empowerment of women and girls. A comprehensive national report which is an assessment of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) achievements and implementation challenges that affect realization of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, has been developed in collaboration with state and non-state Actors and will be launched during the International Women's Day. Besides, a sneak peak of this report will be presented in this forum later today. The IWD promises to be an inspiring event, and I encourage each of you to join us in celebrating our progress and renewing our commitment to the journey ahead.

5. As the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg once said, "Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." Let us all contribute to improving the status of women, learning from our experiences and best practices to create lasting change. The State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action is committed to achieving this SDG

5, and I invite all like-minded individuals and organizations to join us in this vital mission.

6. Finally, Thank you for your dedication to this cause and to all the supporters of this conference working towards a more inclusive and equitable society for women and girls in Kenya and beyond.

God Bless Kenya.