Opening Session Pt 1

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00:00

Antonio Guitierrez speaking:

veins and checkpoints in the occupied Palestinian territory. And more than two thirds of the 10s of 1000s of people killed and injured during Israel's military operations in Gaza, are reportedly women and children. Meanwhile, despite evidence that women's full participation makes peacebuilding much more effective, the number of women in decision making roles is actually falling. Women were virtually absent from talks on ending the conflicts in Ethiopia, Sudan, Myanmar and Libya. The facts are clear, women lead to peace, budgets and policies must follow with ambitious targets for women's participation and urgent investments in women's peacebuilding. Excellencies dear friends, many women and girls are also facing the war on their fundamental rights at home and in their communities. As far as progress is being reversed, women's rights are fundamentally a question of power. And I see two deeply worrying trends. First, despite the enormous progress that all of you have helped realize, the Patreon key is far from vanquished. It is regaining grounds. autocrats and populists and attacking women's freedoms and their sexual and reproductive rights. They promote what they call traditional values, and paths. It is indeed an age old tradition. Discrimination against three men goes back millennia, and we don't want to bring it back.

02:01

At the same time, I see another worrying trend in power relations over the coming decades in the digital technologies. Those technologies and particularly artificial intelligence are today dominated by men as leaders and at the technical level. There is a mountain of evidence that when systems are designed by men, they result in bias they'll go writtens. Women's needs women's bodies and women's fundamental rights are ignored. male dominated algorithms could literally program inequalities into activities, from urban planning to credit ratings to medical imaging for years to come. These endangers men and boys as well as women and girls. It's time for governments civil society. And the Silicon Valley's of the world to join a massive effort to bridge the digital gender divide and ensure women have decision making roles in digital technology at all levels. This is one of the main goals of the global digital compact that will central to the summit of the future in September excellencies dear friends, your gathering this year is focused on our tackling poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective are critical. To accelerate gender equality. There is any simple, globally poverty as a female face. Women have less less access to lands, natural resources and financial assets. They suffered the impacts of climate change more than men. They are more likely to be food insecure. The threat International Labor Organization estimates that worldwide, women as an average are just 51% for every dollar earned by men. economic sectors dominated by women are added value and rebates. And even in some cases and faith. Women's invisible domestic labor is a subsidy to the entire economy. And meanwhile, the violence that is a pervasive feature of many women's lives can feed the vicious cycle poverty intensifies the risks of violence and violence makes women poorer. This is simply unacceptable. At the global level, we are failing to invest in women and girls and the continuing impact of the COVID 19 pandemic mounting depth climate related disasters and then ongoing cost of living crisis or shrinking the pie even more. We will not solve today's challenges by relying on a global financial system that helps perpetuate inequality and that therefore calling for an SDG stimulus there to provide 500 billion annually in affordable long term finance for developing countries. The proposal includes the depth lifeline to create breathing space for countries facing impossible repayment schedules. Leaders endorsed the stimulus at last year's SDG Summit. And they urge all countries to support these efforts to increase the investments that will achieve SDG five on gender equality and turbocharged progress across the entire 2030 agenda. They got on government support for deep reform of international financial architecture at the summit of the future in September, so that it reflects today's global economy and meets the financial needs of developing countries, enabling them to invest in equality and opportunity for women and goes Excellus chef Zemi on Evo nasionale Lizzie Tamela his responsibility then his teeth to eliminate poverty. He asked you hey and development you hardly inclusive of tooth slap pass in politic digital a fiscal, it can count them as one particularly the family fee Valhalla poverty sulla Passpack the Mizzou February Zola plan path EC pursue economic illiteracy on the farm, not among household provide this song at a forum assume has shown the competence at the surface people he taxi siebler yella Patek sociol Lizzie FWAA

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both mothers and fathers to take paid work outside the home. They should ensure that their climate policies including a just and equitable transition to renewable energy boost employment opportunities for women and improve access to goods and services for women and girls. And they must do more to prevent the global scourge of violence against women and girls and to end the abomination of female genital mutilation. equal rights for women and girls depend on ending violence and abuse against them. Excellencies dear friends accelerating gender equality by tackling poverty requires women's full representation and leadership of financial institutions with an eight out of 10 finance ministers are men. More than nine out of 10 central bank governors are men. overwhelmingly male dominated financial financial institutions need to dismantle the structural barriers that are blocking women from leadership roles. Business as usual, is business dominated by men.

08:37

We did it with a determined effort to change our culture and welcome women into leadership roles. And that effort produced results we achieved for gender parity among senior management and UN leaders around the world for the first time in history. If the United Nations can do it, governments can do it. Banks can do it, and everyone must do it.

09:21

Across the UN system, the representation of women in the professional and higher categories is at a historic high we are pursuing full gender parity at all levels and an each and every entity prioritizing areas where progress is slow, especially our field missions. And we are supporting the fight for equality far beyond our own organization. On International Women's Day, I launched the United Nations system wide gender equality acceleration plan. This commits to placing women and girls in the center of all of our work to opening finance financing opportunities for grassroots women's organizations, and to working with member states for an ambitious revitalization of the Commission on the Status of Women, your commission excellencies dear friends, the Commission on the Status of Women is a catalyst for the transformation we needed. At this difficult and divided moments, led let us work together to end poverty in all its dimensions. Let's do it by investing in women and girls. Betting on women and girls and pushing for peace and dignity for women and girls. Everywhere in the world. Thank you

11:21

And I now invite the commission to hear a statement by the President of the General Assembly. His Excellency Dennis Francis.

12:23

Your Excellency, Mr. Antonio Manuel Rivella the male chair of this session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Mr. Secretary General Antonio Gutierrez excellencies ladies and gentlemen. It is my distinct pleasure to address you all today at this opening of the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The annual CSW session is always momentous. As the United Nations headquarters complex, pulsates with the energy of 1000s of dynamic participants, comprising heads of state and government, ministers, senior government officials, stakeholders influencers and advocates from around the globe come together to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Over the two weeks ahead, I'm confident that your discussions will reignite meaningful dialogue worldwide. Thus bringing us closer to breaking down the barriers that hinder women's full enjoyment of their rights and impede our collective objective of achieving gender equality.

14:21

Despite being halfway through the 2030 agenda. Regrettably, we are woefully lacking in our efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals, particularly SDG. One, the goal of which is to eradicate extreme poverty. Currently, one in every 10 Women lives in extreme poverty. I repeat, one in every 10 women. If we continue on a business as usual path, over 340 million women and girls will still languish in extreme poverty by 2030. To reverse this undesirable trajectory, we need to adopt a multi dimensional approach one that should include, among other measures, equal access to resources and services, such as land, health care, family planning, education, and the labor market. Social protection policies that are gender responsive measures to end the gender based discrimination, impeding women's leadership and equal participation in decision making in all spheres of life. In this regard, we must draw our inspiration from the exemplary women who overcame significant barriers and obstacles through their resilience determination in June ingenuity, and grit, women such as as her reacting, a Jordanian mother of six, whose first job outside the womb, was at the UN Women's Oasis center program, a lifeline for over 30,000 primary, primarily Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian women and their families through this program, as her acquired tailoring skills, which she now uses to earn an income and Yvonne Genya, from Ukraine, a former art school teacher, who fled to Moldova following Russia's full scale invasion in Moldova, she joined a community of over 100,000 Ukrainian refugees predominantly women and girls, and established her own business. She honed her entrepreneurial abilities through the she leads project, which is active in six regions of Moldova and offers 10 day courses in business and entrepreneurial skills facilitated by UN Women and its partners. In addition to her business, Yvonne Jenya also volunteers as a teacher in arts and crafts to children in refugee camps. Reflecting on the experiences of these, and many other remarkable women, adds the humanistic dimension to the often abstract data and narratives. inspired and motivated by their resilience we are reminded of our obligation to support the millions of women and girls worldwide, who seek and deserve the same rights and opportunities as men and boys to reach their full potential. Excellencies Honorable Ministers the perennial underfunding in gender equality projects and programs not only undermines but significantly reverses any progress we have achieved. It is evidence that current bilateral funding allocated

19:06

We must therefore acknowledge that enhanced international cooperation is crucial, particularly in the provision of financial assistance that will allow for predictable allocation of resources to meet gender specific needs. I urge you all CSW attendees to build and strengthen partnerships that result in actionable steps at the national, regional and international levels. Always keeping in mind that empowering women and girls yields a far reaching dividend for humanity, drives transformative development and propels progress towards sustainable development. Excellencies we convene at a time when the prevalence of gender based violence is alarming globally. With conflict zones being particularly worrisome. The time for action is now not tomorrow, not next week. But now. I am deeply distressed by reports of sexual abuse targeting women and girls in Palestine, Ukraine, Haiti and other places in the world, including the reports of the UN Special Representative on sexual violence and conflict, which indicated that there is credible evidence of rape

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Such gratuitous on flagrant violence, often with impunity, highlights the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and the profound global failure to prevent violence and sexual violence. targeting them. It is urgent that we do more, much more to present prevent these atrocities, and when proven on an evidentiary basis, to punish the perpetrators rest assured of my steadfast dedication and unwavering commitment as President of the General Assembly, to gender equality and the empowerment of women. I will continue to work with my special advisor on gender equality and women's empowerment as well as my advisory board on gender equality, to facilitate a astute analysis, and expert guidance on this important matter, with a view to ensure mainstreaming of agenda perspective, across priorities of my presidency. And the overall work of the General Assembly. Just last week, in conjunction with the permanent mission of Iceland, to the United Nations, I convened a very successful, Frank and eye opening barbershop discussion with a group of male ambassadors and permanent representatives.

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As I look around this hall, it is evident that meaningful progress on gender equality requires that we involve men more in our discussions on gender issues. To that end, I encourage each of you to include more male representatives, in your national delegations to future sessions of the CSW. I am also looking forward with anticipation to engaging with you on various topics over the next two weeks, including ways to close the gender education gap. And enhancing women's financial inclusion. And I look forward to the adoption of a concise, action oriented and implementable agreed conclusion, encapsulating our unity of purpose as we set our sights on the summit of the future, we have a unique opportunity to prioritize gender equality in our efforts to strengthen our beleaguered multilateral system and intergovernmental new sheet negotiations on the global digital compact, and the Declaration on future generations also offer additional opportunities to ensure that digital transformation equally benefits women and girls and unlock the full potential of future generations, thus contributing to a sustainable future for all. I urge you to seize these key impending opportunities to keep gender equality at the forefront of our vision for a prosperous shared future. Excellence excellencies Honorable Ministers let me leave you with a familiar though important message. Namely, that with power comes responsibility. You particularly the decision makers, is especially well positioned to use your influence in the next two weeks to drive lasting impactful and positive change for women and girls. I have complete confidence in your unwavering commitment and capabilities. The CSW has a proven track record of convening power and overcoming substantial challenges. I am confident that your collaborative engagement will make this session is successful and impactful one

25:40

I thank you.

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I thank the President of the General Assembly for his statement. I now invite the vice president of the Economic and Social Council, His Excellency Yvonne cinema Simona vich of Croatia to deliver a statement on behalf of the President of the ECOSOC, Her Excellency Paula nervine