



---

REMARKS OF HER EXCELLENCY  
MRS JEANNETTE KAGAME

---

Women Deliver Global Crises Plenary



18 July 2023

**Maliha Khan, President and CEO of Women Deliver,  
Stephen Omollo, CEO of Plan International,  
Honorable Dignitaries, Distinguished Guests, Gender  
and Social Justice Activists,  
Ladies & Gentlemen,  
Good day to you all.**

- Thank you for having me here today.
- Today's exchange has been illuminating, but also somewhat troubling.
- Nevertheless, the rich contributions of our experts and activists will trace the way forward.

**Dear Guests,**

- Little was left unsaid.

- As has been so eloquently highlighted by our speakers, global crises such as violent conflicts, economic recessions, climate disasters, food shortages and pandemics, may affect humanity as a whole, **but** they undoubtedly affect **individual humans differently**.
- Indeed. In case of a tragedy, disaster or other global disruption, your gender, origin, race, financial status, or health status, will define the extent of misfortune you experience.
- Nevertheless, women and girls, and yes, specifically Global South women and girls, were not by nature's design, born to face the most strain, whenever the world is challenged.
- The impact of your identity on the scale of the suffering you are expected to stomach, is purely manmade.
- So why do so many with the power to effect change, pretend to bear no influence, over who gets to suffer the least, and who must endure the most?

## **Dear Guests,**

- As mentioned earlier, there is little information I can add to enrich this session, so I do not wish to keep you for long.
- However, I hope to offer the opportunity of reflection, on questions that worry me daily, and this increasingly, as global crises seem to persist or multiply across the world.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- If the crises we face are globally shared, what is the global, shared responsibility to ensure that we combat them, with cross-border, cross-ocean **solidarity?**
- In times where the world is already weakened by devastating occurrences, who gains when women and girls, who make up a little over half over our communities, are weakened, disempowered, victimised?

- Are we really that apathetic to the fate of women and girls, that we wish to consider gender equality to be solely a female issue, as opposed to a moral, human issue?
- At our current pace, how long will change take, and what luxury do we really have, to wait that long?
- And finally, **Esteemed Guests**, in times of crisis, from whom, or from what, must we demand more resilience: is it the women themselves, or the systems tasked with overcoming their oppression?
- It seems the work ahead is considerable. But from the brilliant insight shared in this session, from the determination palpable in this space, from your engagement in this crucial Women Deliver Conference, I can wholeheartedly express hopefulness.
- We need only find the integrity and perhaps bravery, to address the core questions that loom over women's fates, and deploy the diverse range of resources available to us, to design sustainable **solutions**.

- Let us pledge to complete these steps faithfully: **Making the best of our dynamic space. Nurturing solidarity across borders. Pursuing strategic and sustainable solutions.**
- **The welfare of our communities, of countless women and girls, may very well be at stake.**
- May our work be thorough and fruitful.

Thank you for your kind attention.