



PANEL DISCUSSION REMARKS OF
HER EXCELLENCY MRS JEANNETTE
KAGAME WISH EVENT QATAR FOUNDATION

Maternal and Childhealth Panel – Developing on Our Commitments



OCTOBER 4, 2022

Your Highness Sheikha Moza,

**Her Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of
Tanzania,**

Excellencies First Ladies,

Honourable Dignitaries,

Distinguished Guests,

Good Afternoon.

It is a pleasure to be here in Doha. Qatar Foundation, thank you for this invitation, which comes at a crucial time; a near halfway mark on our SDG race to 2030, which began in 2015. The philanthropic work, and political engagement of Her Highness Sheikha Moza, will be favoured by history, and valued by generations.

Distinguished Guests,

I want to travel with you through time; let us embark on an adventure towards a promised land: a lush, green, cutting-edge city. It began decades ago.

In Rwanda, the long night had passed already, but we had just begun to dream.

The images in our heads fed our ambitions and determination.

- Clean streets lined with vegetation.
- Beautiful infrastructure.
- Eliminated poverty.
- Gender equality.
- Power and energy sustainability.
- Strong, high-performing institutions.
- State-of-the-art public facilities.
- Universal healthcare coverage, facilitating among other things, the HPV vaccination of all our girls.
- Becoming the first country in the world to eradicate cervical cancer.

A cycle of peace, health, and fulfillment, to replace the wheel of social fragmentation, morbidity and deprivation, that had to be broken.

We found out, **Dear Guests**, that it was not a dream. We were not asleep, but in fact, we had finally woken up, and we were strategizing for the future that is now, for the most part, materializing itself right before our eyes.

Still, some questions remain unanswered.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

What is slipping through our hands?

Fast forward decades into global development goals, into lessons from far away, absorbed and adapted.

2022. Since the year 2000, the global money supply has more than tripled. Technological progress has transformed our lives beyond expectations.

And yet we still gather, with a particular spotlight on emerging nations, just as we did decades ago, to discuss the fact that women and children, should not face preventable deaths.

What is eluding our grasp?

Distinguished Guests,

The existent gaps in our health systems are known.

Access inequity, the disparity between funding pledges and the commitments met, the development of a critical mass in healthcare provision in all countries...The experts present in the room today know these challenges all too well.

But what must not slip from our reach, for one more year and in fact, for one more day, is the admission that despite falling under the development umbrella, the issues of inequity, unmet pledges and adequate healthcare training in emerging nations, are all moral issues.

Today's theme, our progress on maternal and child health, is at the core of the critical third Sustainable Development Goal.

But if we are to address our performance regarding the indicators we all strive to meet, I wish to raise one query.

What is the indicator on morality?

Where are the measurements:

- For defending the agency and dignity of your people
- For holding your institutions accountable
- For centering the people that must be served, while serving them?

And if these measurements existed, would we reflect on our development, and our performances thus far, differently?

What could be the harm in looking at the world with a different lens today?

Why wouldn't we rethink the systems that have not served us well?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We cannot look at SDG 3.1 or SDG 3.2 in isolation.

I challenge anyone to tell me how without peace and prosperity, without good climate, and with poverty, any mother or child, any individual, any family, any society, is expected to thrive.

The bigger picture is a puzzle, and it cannot be completed with a single piece missing.

I quote:

“The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.”

Indeed, as a post-Genocide nation, peace was our non-negotiable ground 0.

This is what resonates so deeply when considering the Sustainable Development Goals as a full picture, when focusing on issues such as child or maternal health.

All goals are interdependent.

So looking at today's discussion, in the hope that our progress thus far has more momentum ahead, we must remain ever conscious both of the end goal – peace and prosperity - and of the groundwork it requires.

This is the thought behind my foundation, Imbuto Foundation's desire for sustainability, our newly established Trust Fund, and the Green Centre that it has in its works. We look forward to what the future holds in this regard.

Your Highness, Excellency President Samia, Excellencies First Ladies, Distinguished Guests,

It was a pleasure sharing with you all, some of the nagging thoughts, to which we probably all, owe many sleepless nights.

Today, we have the power:

- To evaluate our shortcomings,
- To question the narratives that we took for granted,
- To recalibrate our approaches and strategize accordingly.

2030 awaits us on the flipside, and thankfully, due to, among other things, the incredible stage for exchange that this WISH summit has provided us, today, the ball is in our court.

Good afternoon, and thank you.