



MARRAKECH, MOROCCO (November 2016)
Ban Ki Moon's farewell
Ms. Kalyani Raj from All India Women's Conference

Intervention for Ban Ki Moon's farewell

I have read somewhere that at an age when most kids barely begin to think who they are, Ban Ki Moon knew what he wanted. He wanted to be a diplomat and he did become one. To quote Mahatma Gandhi, 'A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history' and Sir, today I am truly honored to speak about someone who personifies the quote.

Good morning I am Kalyani Raj from All India Women's Conference speaking on behalf of Women & Gender Constituency.

You have been a quiet force behind significant policy changes. You always advocated socially progressive issues. The roadmap created by your predecessors towards sustainable development, peace, human right and gender equality have progressed effectively under your leadership and have resulted in many meaningful decisions.

Gender equality has been a concern for UN system as well as for the world for decades and by creating a new entity for gender equality and empowerment of women under the UN Women, you facilitated a much stronger voice and opportunity for women at the global level. Leadership on gender issues has spread across all areas of the UN, including in the UNFCCC process. Today 15 years after the first decision on importing women's participation, we leave Marrakech with a decision to develop a 3 year work Programme and mandate for a gender action plan to ensure that our implementation of the Paris agreement is just for women and men.

Civil societies' inclusion under your leadership has strengthened enormously and we are extremely happy that NGOs have had number of platforms for participation and providing input at every stage. The new development framework Agenda-2030 process has been the most inclusive and transparent UN process witnessed by the world and it was due to your undeterred intervention that the SDGs are universal, driven by national priorities and guaranteeing the participation of citizens.

Global warming and climate change have been a serious concern for you right from the time you took over and it was a turning point in the fight against climate change when the historic Paris Agreement was signed by 195 countries last year. WGC also applauds you for approving number of significant gender decisions under the UNFCCC in recent years and we look forward to your continued support going forward.

We want to thank you for championing gender issues and for inspiring the next generation of leaders. Let me end quoting by Walter Lippman who said 'the final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other people, the conviction and the will to carry on'. Thank you Sir for doing just that.