
“Inspiring Hope, Accelerating Peace and Progress: A Discourse Analysis of Social Change and Sustainability” on Speech by Sima Bahous

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Abstract

This study focuses on the textual analysis of the speech of Sima Bahous (UN Women Executive Director) opting a Multi Modal Discourse Analysis to find out can discourse of hope and progress, influence of power relations and role of language to accelerate social identities and relationships. The findings show that language has a powerful role in developing power relations and shaping the discourse of hope and progress. The study concludes that the speaker uses appropriate, commissive and assertive and authoritative language along with complex syntactical structures coined with rhetorical devices e.g., alliteration, similes, metaphors and cohesive devices which made her speech more powerful and influential.

Key Words: Power relations, accelerate, social identities, syntactical structures, cohesive devices

1. Introduction

The impact of inclusive language, discursive practices and social changes has become crucial in view of the global issues which pose threat to the solidarity and posterity of all nations. The global community pays special attention to those silver beams of lights which reflect hope, peace and prosperity. The power of language is an undeniable fact in shaping the directions towards peace, progress and hope, but unfortunately this tool has been poorly understood and could not get the desired and required attention. The present article investigates the complex relationship between inclusive language and social change through Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). It highlights how language can influence societal values and power dynamics. Similarly, “Ideological power, the power to project one's practices as universal and 'common sense', is a significant complement to economic and political power, and of particular significance here because it is exercised in discourse” (Fairclough, 1989, p. 33).

In the present era, the discourse of power harnessed by inclusive language has become a common practice of the politicians, civil activists and official administrators who use discursive practices to achieve their political agendas in the realms of socio-cultural background. Sima Bahous also uses inclusive language to convey her message to entire world from the platform of United Nations on the occasion of Women International Day. She spoken well by taking the advantage of the opportunity to talk openly on the burning issues i.e., violence against women, unsafe environment for children, bout cases of harassments and needs for urgent acceleration for women in the economic sector to balance economy both for males and females. Leeuwen suggests, “As discourses are social cognitions, socially specific ways of knowing social practices, they can be, and are, used as resources for representing social practices in text. This means that it is possible to reconstruct discourses from the texts that draw on them” (Leeuwen, 2008, p.19).

She also stressed upon the urgent need of cease fire in the Gaza strip and urged the world community to play its role to settle the issue. The speech reflects the tone of an administrator who is not only fully aware of the problems faced by women across the globe, but also has analytical data about the financial and economic environment provided to the women. She requested for a permanent solution to shackle those imbalances caused by gender discrimination. The speech reflects her reservations about crimes of violence, social discrimination, financial irregularities and acts of harassment against women and she stresses upon a reliable and permanent solution of all these problems to keep women of the world safe and secure.

1.1 Aims

The study aims at;

1. Identifying the ways in which language can be used as a tool to accelerate the societal values and power dynamics.
2. Exploring the discourse of hope, progress and prosperity by the use of inclusive language to attain a sustainable future
3. Examining the power of discourse in shaping power dynamics, societal relationships and social identities

1.2 Research Questions

Following are the research questions of the study;

1. How can discourse of hope and progress accelerate social identities and relationships?
2. How are power relations influential in developing inclusive language and societal change?
3. How can language be used to spark hope to accelerate the process of peaceful world?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Following are the objectives of the study;

1. To analyse the speech critically by applying lens of discourse to examine different dimensions of discourse e.g., power dynamics, discursive practices and social practices
2. To highlight inclusive language practices and strategies devised by Sima Bahous to achieve her goals and agendas
3. To identify factors how Sima Bahous constructed social identities, relationships and power dynamics

1.4 Significance of the study

The study will be significant in understanding the use of inclusive language and power relations in context to societal changes revealing hoe language challenges social structures and hierarchies of power. It will highlight some effective language strategies that can be used by politicians, reformers, social activists and policy makers along with creating awareness among individuals to evaluate language critically. Finally, exploring how language can be used to lead a collective action of welfare, hope and prosperity. By analysing these investigations, this paper contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between language, hope, and

social change; ultimately, it offers recommendations for strategies meant to promote inclusive language and social change for the benefit of everyone's future.

2. Review of Literature

Henderson (2005) says that critical discourse analysis has provided deep understanding of theoretical and textual analysis offering ways to investigate language and social context.

Alweldi (2024) suggests that although the analysis of three dimensions of the modal of Fairclough is important, yet it requires the understanding of social and discourse practices for better understanding of the idea.

Similarly, (Al-Masoudi 2021) while talking about CDA highlights the validity and authenticity of Fairclough's model for textual analysis and labels it as the best approach for textual analysis.

Wang (2024) while talking about discourse analysis of the picture books suggests a multimodal discourse analysis and suggests that it is more important, relevant and beneficial for understanding the textual as well as visual values.

Dastpak and Taghinezhad (2015) say that Fairclough's model of discourse analysis presents a valid picture of the analysis of the speech of Barack Obama highlighting different methods and techniques to convey message through discourse.

Ma (2024) highlights how can one use discourse to promote brand products and how can a better image of the product can be built in the market. The use of language in terms of sentences, phrases and words effects the marketing.

Mirzaee and Hamidi (2012) say that CDA is a quick developed area of language study which aims at looking discourse as a social practice discovering various relationships between language and social context.

Sipra and Rashid (2013) discuss the power and influence of the discourse and suggest that they produce power relations between different concepts, ideas, societies, ethnicities as well as genders.

Wang (2006) while talking about methodology doesn't consider CDA as a single method but tags it as an approach including different methods, approaches and techniques to use of language in different contexts.

Gyawali, Y.P. (2019) states that approaches of CDA enhance the learning skills as well as help in developing critical approaches to analyse language.

Gazali (2017) gives priority to lexical and syntactical 'connotations' which he found useful in highlighting the attitudes of social actors and agencies. Moreover, it helps in developing sociolinguistic competence.

Morley (2004) talks about the idea of Fairclough's 'Language and Power' and labels it the pioneer method to analyse text. He further explains that the basic idea of Fairclough's approach is to understand language and power dynamics.

Allan (2012) suggests that when power of CDA is combined with sociolinguistics and other branches of knowledge it increases influence, power and impact of the subject matter to change society towards betterment and prosperity.

Rojo (2022) argues that in achieving a reversal of power it is imperative to know who exercise power, in what sphere and by what means.

Fairclough (1989) argues that role of language is influential in shaping ideologies because it is an eternal part of society and other societal processes i.e., socio and cultural.

Ellece and Baker (2011) say that all forms of discourse analysis focus on natural occurring texts and serves as an umbrella term for other functionalities.

Wodak & Meyer (2001) state that texts reflect state of struggle because of discursive differences and power is the concerning feature of CDA as well as a central factor in defining social practices.

3. Methodological Framework

The study is qualitative in nature and adopts Multimodal Discourse Analysis (MMDA) for analysis. The micro, meso and macro aspects of the text will be analysed in light of Fairclough's model of discourse.

The textual features of the speech will be analysed and discussed as under;

1. Micro Analysis (Analysis of linguistic features e.g., vocabulary, grammar and cohesion etc.)
2. Meso Analysis (Analysis of discursive practices e.g., genre, intertextuality and discourse etc.)
3. Macro Analysis (Analysis of ideology, power relations and social context etc.)
4. Interpretation and Explanation
5. Conclusion

3.1 Tools of the Study

Words Sift, Lancsbox will be used for analysis of the data to count different word frequencies i.e., KWIC, Ngram and Mark words

4. Data Analysis

4.1 Resource: Sima Bahous' speech 'Be the light that brings hope and that accelerates progress towards an equal, sustainable, and peaceful future'

4.2 Venue: Opening remarks delivered by UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous at the UN official commemoration of International Women's Day, 8 March 2024, UN Headquarters



UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous delivers opening remarks at the UN official commemoration of International Women's Day, 8 March 2024, UN headquarters. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown.

4.3 Micro Analysis

4.3.1 Vocabulary

Following are the key words/phrases used by the speaker which reflect her approach, thinking and ideology towards attaining a peaceful environment for women and for all:

4.3.1.1 Words and Phrases: need for peace, salute women, strive to bring peace, pushing forward, accelerate progress, investing in women and girls, sustainable development goals, families flourish, business benefits, peace process, fight for change, collective opportunity, gender equality, watershed moment, accelerated action, Gender Equality Acceleration Plan, lifted out of poverty, prioritized education, expended social benefits, justice for all, a better world, humanitarian ceasefire, justice for all, be the light, peaceful future

Following are the key words/phrases used by the speaker which reflect her ideology towards rival agencies approach:

4.3.1.2 Words and Phrases: killed in wars and conflicts, inherently violent, biggest price of conflicts, intolerable, sexual violence, hobbled by, confrontation, fragmentation, fear, inequality, persistent poverty, heavy burden, extreme poverty, regressive polices, pushback acutely, perpetual threats of violence, stubbornly invest in weapons

4.3.2 Grammar

4.3.3 Tense: Mostly, the writer has used simple present tense along with simple past and future

4.3.4 Modality: The speaker has used modal verbs e.g., can, need, should, must, have, could be

4.3.5 Sentence Structure: Mostly, the speaker has used complex and compound complex sentence structure but we can see few simple sentences as well.

4.3.6 Cohesion: The speaker used cohesive devices e.g., and, from, with, but, where, in spite of, as, more than, for

4.4 Analysis of Discursive Practice

4.4.1 Audience: The direct audience of the speech are members of United Nations, anti-state elements, officials of states but the entire population of the world contribute as audience because of its theme and agenda.

4.4.2 Purpose: The basic purpose of the speech is to realize the world the importance of women rights and empowerment. It also focuses to safeguard and ensure equal rights and social power for women of the world. There is high demand to stop violence against women and urge desire to make women equal part of society by giving them equal rights in business and finance. Moreover, it also focuses on the atrocities going on in Gaza.

4.4.3 Genre: It is a motivating, uplifting and inspirational speech which demands call for action. The speech reflects the leadership skills of the speaker who talks courageously about women empowerment.

4.4.4 Tone: The tone of the speaker is panic, sad, and sorrowful while talking about the violence and financial imbalance. She is sarcastic as well as authoritative and some points when pointing out the acts of violence against women. She also seems visionary, future oriented and motivating while urging the world community to come forward as contributors of safe environment for women.

4.4.5 Agencies: The United Nations, UN Headquarters, all women and girls, the Middle East, Haiti, Sudan, Myanmar, Sahel, Ukraine, Afghanistan, the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

4.4.6 Rival Agencies: extremists, anti-state actors, wrong policies

4.4.7 Discourse: The speech has been delivered on the eve of International Women's Day and the speaker raises her voice against injustice committed against women particularly in wars and conflicts. She says,

“I will begin on this International Women's Day with a moment of reflection for all the women and girls killed in wars and conflicts that are not of their making.”

The speech revolves around the basic idea of fundamental equal rights of women without any societal, regional and racial discrimination. She condemns wars and conflicts which have eroded the achievements of centuries.

“Conflict is inherently violent, but for women and girls ever more so, including in sexual and gender-based ways”.

She further says, “This is intolerable. No woman or girl anywhere, ever, should experience sexual violence or any form of violence”.

She is against the social discrimination committed against women and comments,

“This year’s International Women’s Day sees a world hobbled by confrontation, fragmentation, fear, and, most of all, inequality”.

She praises and lauds women by taking the advantage of the opportunity by appreciating their active roles in different layers of the society. She says, “We salute women everywhere who strive to bring peace every day, who are human rights activists, who are human rights defenders, who lead and fight for change”.

She shows dissatisfaction with financial conditions of women as compared with men and says, “One in every ten women in the world lives in extreme poverty. Poverty has a female face”. She adds further, “When more women are economically empowered, economies grow”.

Moreover, the speaker urges the world community to assist the process of forming a peaceful and progressive environment for women and girls of the world and demands for them a free life.

“Where women are free to live their lives without the perpetual threat of violence, families flourish, and businesses benefit”.

She favours the role of women as peace maintainers and harmony creators. She says, “Where women have a bigger say in peace processes, peace is found sooner and is more durable”.

She abhors the violence treatment of females in the society and demands a strict action against the culprits. In addition, she demands for ceasefire in Gaza strip where innocent humans and children are being killed mercilessly by Israeli forces.

4.5 Analysis through “Word sift” and “Lancsbox”

Table 1: Marked words on “Word Sift” showing the statistics of entire speech

▼ Mark Words		📄
Speech: 'Be the light that brings hope and that accelerates progress towards an equal, sustainable, and peaceful future'		
Opening remarks delivered by UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous at the UN official commemoration of International Women's Day, 8 March 2024, UN headquarters		
I will begin on this International Women's Day with a moment of reflection for all the women and girls killed in wars and conflicts that are not of their making.		
Wars and conflicts are eroding the achievements of decades of investments in gender equality and women's empowerment. From the Middle East, to Haiti, to Sudan, Myanmar, the Sahel, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the world, women pay the biggest price of conflicts.		
Conflict is inherently violent, but for women and girls ever more so, including in sexual and gender-based ways. This is intolerable. No woman or girl anywhere, ever, should experience sexual violence or any form of violence. UN Women, alongside everyone here, condemns it unequivocally.		
The need for peace has never been more urgent. We salute women everywhere who strive to bring peace every day, who are human rights activists, who are human rights defenders, who lead and fight for change.		
This year's International Women's Day sees a world hobbled by confrontation, fragmentation, fear, and, most of all, inequality.		
Persistent poverty gaps continue to exist worldwide, and women bear an increasingly heavy burden. One in every ten women in the world lives in extreme poverty. Poverty has a female face.		
Men own 105 trillion dollars [USD] more wealth than women. They dominate the corridors		

Statistics	
Word Count	893
Character Count	4,474
Lexical Density	49.5%
Unique Words	402
Number of Paragraphs	2
Syllable Count	1,460
Sentence Count	52
Characters Per Word	5.0
Syllables per Word	1.6
Average Sentence Length	17.2

Readability	
Automated Readability Index	10.8
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	10.4
Coleman-Liau Index	13.7
SMOG Grade	13.0
Average Grade Level	12.0
Flesch Reading Ease	51.1

Table 2: 'KWIC' Analysis shows the number of key words used in the speech



Table 3: Top Ten types in Corpus (Lancsbox)

ID	Type	Absolute frequency (Relative frequency)	Dispersion (CV)
1	And	49 (554.299)	0
2	The	43 (486.425)	0
3	Of	29 (328.054)	0
4	To	25 (282.805)	0
5	For	23 (260.181)	0
6	Women	22 (248.869)	0
7	In	21 (237.557)	0
8	We	18 (203.620)	0
9	A	13 (147.059)	0
10	All	13 (147.059)	0

Table 4: Top Ten “Ngrams” used in the Speech

ID	Type	Absolute frequency (Relative frequency)	Dispersion (CV)
1	gender equality	8 (90.600)	0
2	of the	8 (90.600)	0
3	and girls	7 (79.275)	0
4	for all	7 (79.275)	0
5	women and	7 (79.275)	0
6	international women’s	6 (67.950)	0
7	women’s day	6 (67.950)	0
8	in women	4 (45.300)	0
9	and for	3 (33.975)	0
10	continue to	3 (33.975)	0

4.6 Discussion on Discourse

Table 5: Analysis of the discourse in determining the Mode of Communication in the Speech

S NO	Discourse	Mode of Communication
1	I will begin on this International Women's Day with a moment of reflection for all the women and girls killed in wars and conflicts that are not of their making.	Sorrow & Worried Opening
2	Wars and conflicts are eroding the achievements of decades of investments in gender equality and women's empowerment.	Analytical Panic
3	Conflict is inherently violent, but for women and girls ever more so, including in sexual and gender-based ways. This is intolerable. No woman or girl anywhere, ever, should experience sexual violence or any form of violence. UN Women, alongside everyone here, condemns it unequivocally.	Panic Directive Repetition Agenda Statement
4	The need for peace has never been more urgent. We salute women everywhere who strive to bring peace every day, who are human rights activists, who are human rights defenders, who lead and fight for change.	Suggestive Encouraging Hope
5	This year's International Women's Day sees a world hobbled by <u>confrontation, fragmentation, fear, and, most of all, inequality.</u>	Panic Alliteration
6	Persistent poverty gaps continue to exist worldwide, and women bear an increasingly heavy burden. One in every ten women in the world lives in extreme poverty. Poverty has a female face.	Sorrow Symbolic Repetition
7	Men own 105 trillion dollars [USD] more wealth than women. They dominate the corridors of power.	Analytical Assertive

8	And the pushback against gender equality is well resourced and powerful, fuelled by anti-gender movements, de-democratization, restricted civic space, a breakdown of trust between people and state, and regressive policies and legislation.	Analytical Suggestive Critical
9	We all feel this pushback acutely. Our values and principles have never been as challenged as they are today.	Disappointment & Grief
10	I thank all of you for lending your energies to this struggle, to the cause of women's rights and gender equality, and I thank you all for joining us in pushing forward against the pushback.	Gratitude Hope
11	This year's International Women's Day calls us all to invest in women and girls and to accelerate progress.	Suggestive
12	It is only by investing in women and girls that we will meet the challenges we face, be they economic-, conflict- or climate-related.	Analytical Directive
13	Investing in women and girls is indisputably the best pathway to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, to peace and security.	Hope Suggestive
14	When more women are economically empowered, economies grow. Where women are equally represented in government, governance thrives.	Repetition Hope Analytical
15	Where women are free to live their lives without the <u>perpetual threat of violence, families flourish, and businesses benefit.</u> Where women have a bigger say in peace processes, peace is found sooner and is more durable.	Hope Repetition Analytical Idiomatic language

16	But in spite of these clear facts, we continue to stubbornly invest in weapons more than we invest in women and girls.	Contrastive Sorrow
17	We continue to say gender equality can be postponed for “later”, as we watch the world fall further off track, and even “later” is postponed.	Analytical Disappointed
18	In the coming months and year, we have a collective opportunity to recommit ourselves to gender equality. The Summit of the Future presents an opportunity to centrally place gender equality across discussions on development, financing, technology, and peace and security.	Urging Demanding Suggestive
19	The thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action next year has the potential to be a watershed moment for increased and accelerated action to make truth of the promises made 29 years ago.	Hope
20	I welcome the Secretary-General’s announcement of the Gender Equality Acceleration Plan. Please count on UN Women as your partners in this.	Gratitude Promise
21	The International Women’s Day this year has a call. And this call is clear and compelling. For every woman and girl, we ask that we finally make the best investment we can: financing gender equality and unlocking its dividends for all.	Reputation Agenda, Mission and Goal Suggestive
22	More than 100 million women and girls could be lifted out of poverty if governments prioritized education, healthcare, fair and equal wages, and expanded social benefits.	Hope
23	We know that when women raise their voices it is for equality, for their rights and for the rights of others, for peace and justice for all. They fight to leave a better world behind them for all the people and for our shared planet.	Repetition Assertive Hope

24	On International Women’s Day we elevate their voice. We elevate their cause, and our cause. We commit to affording it the resources it deserves and demands.	Commissive Agenda
25	Allow me before I end to echo the call of the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women: We need a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza now.	Request Suggestion Demand
26	More than 9000 women have been killed in Gaza, and this must stop. We cannot return to a path to peace without justice for all survivors of this conflict—and I say all survivors of this conflict—and without an end to the indiscriminate violence in Gaza.	Panic Commissive Demand
27	I began my remarks today with a moment of reflection. I end my remarks with a call for all of us to be the light that brings hope and that accelerates progress towards an equal, sustainable, and peaceful future.	Figurative Idiomatic Suggestion
28	For all people. For every woman and for every girl, everywhere. I know that together, it is within our reach. I thank you.	Suggestive Closing

4.7 Findings

The study reveals the different aspects of Fairclough’s modal of discourse which helps in analysing the given text in terms of discursive practices, power relations, societal and cultural maintenance and the use of inclusive language to prevail the targeted agendas and goals. The study shows that the use of inclusive language is very useful not only in achieving goals, but also in promoting peace process and accelerating the progress. Sima Bahous uses many techniques through her powerful discourse to achieve her purpose of peace, economic stability and safety of women rights. She uses complex sentence structures, idiomatic and figurative language for a powerful impact on the audience. The study shows that discourse is, undoubtedly, a powerful tool to settle issues and gain socio-economic stability in the world.

5. Conclusion

This speech highlights the importance of gender equality through inclusive language by Sima Bahous and demands for action against women violence by taking necessary steps by the entire

world to provide a safe environment to the women. Sima Bahous presents an analytical, commissive and suggestive tone and highlights the urge need for a safer world for all the women, girls and children without any discrimination. She also demands to stop genocide in Gaza. It can be concluded that discourse is a powerful weapon in the present genre which can bring peace, progress and prosperity in the world if used sensibly and wisely.

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Appendix- 1

Text of Speech

Speech: 'Be the light that brings hope and that accelerates progress towards an equal, sustainable, and peaceful future'

Opening remarks delivered by UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous at the UN official commemoration of International Women's Day, 8 March 2024, UN headquarters

I will begin on this International Women's Day with a moment of reflection for all the women and girls killed in wars and conflicts that are not of their making.

Wars and conflicts are eroding the achievements of decades of investments in gender equality and women's empowerment. From the Middle East, to Haiti, to Sudan, Myanmar, the Sahel, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the world, women pay the biggest price of conflicts.

Conflict is inherently violent, but for women and girls ever more so, including in sexual and gender-based ways. This is intolerable. No woman or girl anywhere, ever, should experience sexual violence or any form of violence. UN Women, alongside everyone here, condemns it unequivocally.

The need for peace has never been more urgent. We salute women everywhere who strive to bring peace every day, who are human rights activists, who are human rights defenders, who lead and fight for change.

This year's International Women's Day sees a world hobbled by confrontation, fragmentation, fear, and, most of all, inequality.

Persistent poverty gaps continue to exist worldwide, and women bear an increasingly heavy burden. One in every ten women in the world lives in extreme poverty. Poverty has a female face.

Men own 105 trillion dollars [USD] more wealth than women. They dominate the corridors of power.

And the pushback against gender equality is well resourced and powerful, fueled by anti-gender movements, de-democratization, restricted civic space, a breakdown of trust between people and state, and regressive policies and legislation.

We all feel this pushback acutely. Our values and principles have never been as challenged as they are today.

I thank all of you for lending your energies to this struggle, to the cause of women's rights and gender equality, and I thank you all for joining us in pushing forward against the pushback.

This year's International Women's Day calls us all to invest in women and girls and to accelerate progress.

It is only by investing in women and girls that we will meet the challenges we face, be they economic-, conflict- or climate-related.

Investing in women and girls is indisputably the best pathway to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, to peace and security.

When more women are economically empowered, economies grow.

Where women are equally represented in government, governance thrives.

Where women are free to live their lives without the perpetual threat of violence, families flourish, and businesses benefit.

Where women have a bigger say in peace processes, peace is found sooner and is more durable.

But in spite of these clear facts, we continue to stubbornly invest in weapons more than we invest in women and girls.

We continue to say gender equality can be postponed for “later”, as we watch the world fall further off track, and even “later” is postponed.

In the coming months and year, we have a collective opportunity to recommit ourselves to gender equality. The Summit of the Future presents an opportunity to centrally place gender equality across discussions on development, financing, technology, and peace and security. The thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action next year has the potential to be a watershed moment for increased and accelerated action to make truth of the promises made 29 years ago. I welcome the Secretary-General’s announcement of the Gender Equality Acceleration Plan. Please count on UN Women as your partners in this.

The International Women’s Day this year has a call. And this call is clear and compelling. For every woman and girl, we ask that we finally make the best investment we can: financing gender equality and unlocking its dividends for all. More than 100 million women and girls could be lifted out of poverty if governments prioritized education, healthcare, fair and equal wages, and expanded social benefits. We know that when women raise their voices it is for equality, for their rights and for the rights of others, for peace and justice for all. They fight to leave a better world behind them for all the people and for our shared planet.

On International Women’s Day we elevate their voice. We elevate their cause, and our cause. We commit to affording it the resources it deserves and demands.

Allow me before I end to echo the call of the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women: We need a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza now. More than 9000 women have been killed in Gaza, and this must stop. We cannot return to a path to peace without justice for all survivors of this conflict—and I say all survivors of this conflict—and without an end to the indiscriminate violence in Gaza.

I began my remarks today with a moment of reflection. I end my remarks with a call for all of us to be the light that brings hope and that accelerates progress towards an equal, sustainable, and peaceful future. For all people. For every woman and for every girl, everywhere. I know that together, it is within our reach.

I thank you.