

Speech of H.E. Ms. Zinaida GRECEANÎ,
Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova,
at the 13th Summit of Women Speakers of the Inter-Parliamentary
Union Member States

17 - 18 August 2020

Dear Madam President,

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the organiser of this event – the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as well as the Austrian Parliament and the United Nations, for the high-level organisation of this Summit.

I consider that this format, which has brought together women in leadership positions in legislative bodies, is a good platform for identifying joint methods of strengthening women's equality in our countries.

Women make up approximately half of the economically active population of Moldova. But this quantitative indicator does not yet mean the high quality of the economic activity of women, whose earnings, in our country, account, on average, for 13% less than men's, according to the National Bureau of Statistics last year. Although in recent years there has been a noticeable trend towards an improvement of this indicator, we still have to make a lot of efforts to strengthen the economic rights of women, especially in rural areas.

Understanding that the gender equality can significantly increase the social-economic growth, including the overcoming of any crises of our time, we set ourselves the task, by virtue of our authority, to eradicate the discrimination against women at the legislative level.

The Republic of Moldova adopted three strategies in this field: the 2017–2021 Strategy for ensuring equal opportunities for women and men; the 2018–2023 National Strategy for prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence; and the 2018–2023 National Strategy for prevention and combating human beings trafficking. Measures are being taken to monitor policies, and a gender-sensitive statistical data system has been developed, as well.

Close cooperation has been established with international partners, first of all, with the World Bank, the European Union, the UN Women, in order to implement projects targeting rural women, women with special needs, and Roma representatives. The projects are aimed at the financial, political and civic empowerment of women. On behalf of all the beneficiaries of these programs I would like to express my deep gratitude for the assistance provided.

I also consider that the government program “PARE 1+1” is a successful one, stipulating that, in addition to each Moldovan leu, earned by a labour migrant abroad, the state shall provide one more leu for the participation in an investment project. For women, this program has a separate and important component.

I consider it is necessary to intensify the work on the total adjustment of the legal framework to the provisions of the Directive of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment for men and women in matters of employment and occupation.

The Parliaments play an important role in identifying and overcoming the barriers to strengthening the economic opportunities for women, to eradicating the discrimination towards women and girls. I think it is crucial to continue the joint efforts for growing the political involvement of women. I am confident that we shall be able to increase women participation, in compliance with the law adopted in 2016, which stipulates that women must make up at least 40% of government members and candidates on party lists.

Dear Colleagues,

tackling inequalities between men and women has become particularly stringent in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. The authorities of the country have developed and submitted for examination to educational institutions and parents a total number of seven scenarios for the educational process in the new academic year.

In 2016, the paternity leave was introduced in the Republic of Moldova with the respective amendments being made to the Labour Code. Accordingly, the father of a new-born child is entitled to a 14-calendar day leave, during which the employee receives paternal allowance. I believe that men can use this legislative opportunity more actively.

I would like to hope very much that the childcare responsibilities, in the current extremely difficult conditions, will be shared by parents equally. I consider that in the near future it will be possible to launch the *After-School* project – a special centre within the Parliament, where pupils can spend time after school under the supervision of a teacher and in the proximate vicinity of their working parents. I believe this experience to be a good example for other institutions and organisations, which can partially solve the issue of involving children in activities without hindering their parents from performing their work duties during this crisis.

In conclusion, I would like to thank once again the organisers and the participants for the fruitful discussion and I express the hope that the outcomes

of our meeting will generate useful and beneficial recommendations on how to overcome inequality and how to make social lifts around the world equally accessible to both men and women.

Thank you for your attention!