

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, we stand at a pivotal point in our pursuit of gender equality. Let me be clear: gender equality is not just a women's issue, but a societal imperative. When we speak of gender equality, we talk about human rights, economic growth, and sustainable development. It is essential for the prosperity of our communities and nations alike.

Firstly, gender equality promotes economic growth. Studies show that if we close the gender gap in the workforce, we could boost global GDP by \$12 trillion by 2025. This is not a trivial number. By providing equal opportunities in education and employment, businesses gain access to a larger pool of talent and creativity, driving innovation and competitiveness.

Secondly, consider the social benefits of gender equality. Families thrive when both women and men share responsibilities at home and work. Children grow up witnessing partnerships built on respect and fairness, nurturing the next generation with values essential for harmonious coexistence.

Critics argue against gender equality based on tradition or biological differences. However, adhering to outdated stereotypes limits potential and impedes progress. Tradition should not dictate the capabilities of an individual. Instead, leveraging diverse strengths irrespective of gender fosters enhanced decision-making and problem-solving in any field.

In conclusion, gender equality is not merely a moral obligation but a catalyst for economic and social advancement. It is time to dismantle barriers and create a world where everyone, regardless of gender, has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Thank you.