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Annual Discussion On Women's Rights
Panel 2: Social protection: women's participation and leadership

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Israel thanks the panelists for their contributions, and welcomes the opportunity to engage in this discussion.

The advancement and promotion of gender equality and women's rights have been on the agenda of every Israeli Government since the very foundation of the State of Israel. Equality is a fundamental principle, enshrined in Israel's Declaration of Independence.

Inclusion of gender thinking should not begin upon entry into the world of work, but long before - during the early education phase, in kindergarten. It is important that not only young girls see certain women as role models, but also that girls and boys see women in senior positions, in key roles and at the decision-making table. This will help not to develop stereotypes that women are not capable, nor that the demand for equality is not natural.

Indeed, in Israel, the proportion of women among senior staff in the public sector has been on the rise in recent years. Unfortunately, despite the various measures taken, in the current government only one woman holds the position of director general of a ministry, alongside 28 men DGs.

In order to promote a better equal representation, the state is taking various steps.

Among them, the implementation of affirmative actions, anchored in law, to address the problem of women's under-representation in public offices. In the inclusion of this principle and tool, the Parliament expressed an explicit intention to compel the government to take proactive, calculated and directed action. The clear purpose of which is to correct existing distortions in the line of equality for women, breaking the status quo and create a new and egalitarian reality in society.

Mr. President,

We would like to ask the panelists, how can teachers in early education systems play an active role in breaking the patterns of inequality that children are exposed to?