



Welcome Remarks by the OPCW Deputy Director-General at Global Women's Breakfast 2020

As delivered on 12 February 2020, The Hague, Netherlands

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Global Women's Breakfast. The OPCW is honoured to participate in this worldwide event. I would like to thank our valued partner, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) for launching this important initiative. I would also like to thank the Staff Council for making this gathering possible.

Events like this are one already underway and will continue throughout the day around the world. These gatherings provide a platform for women in chemistry to expand their networks and realise their professional aspirations.

The OPCW is strongly committed to the career development of our staff. We realise that achieving our objectives to rid the world of chemical weapons and promote the peaceful uses of chemistry requires harnessing and developing the talents of the best and brightest. This can only be achieved with an equitable and inclusive workforce.

Each year, we are making further strides forward with our gender mainstreaming programme. This year, we have accomplished gender parity in our senior management structure. Our efforts to attract more women candidates in our recruitment process are showing results as last year more women applied for positions than ever before. However, we still have work we do. We have not yet reached our goal of achieving gender balance across the organisation, but we are moving in the right direction.

As Marie Curie once said 'I was taught that the way of progress was neither swift nor easy.' We live in an era where science and technology are advancing at a faster pace than ever before; it is time that women's empowerment in the scientific world travels at a similar speed.

I hope today's activities and discussions are valuable and inspiring to you and help to broaden your career perspectives and professional networks. I urge you to reach out through social media platforms under the hashtags Global Breakfast and IUPAC100 to share your ideas and experiences.

Our fellow participants at events around the world are from a range of backgrounds, including government, academia, industry, and scientific organisations. This diversity provides a wonderful opportunity for us share and learn from women in different fields and at different

stages in their careers. These different vantage points can provide enlightening perspectives on leadership and professional development.

I thank you all for taking the time today to come together and make this event a success. I am confident you will be glad you did.

Thank you.
