



CALL TO ACTION

**ADDRESSED TO THE WORLD LEADERS GATHERING
AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

STATEMENT ISSUED BY "IMPACT LEADERSHIP 21"

NEW YORK, 25 SEPTEMBER 2013

As the world leaders are converging in New York for their annual High Level Meeting as an essential part of the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly, IMPACT LEADERSHIP 21 is issuing this call to action urging the nations of the world and their top leaders to take steps in establishing on a firm footing the rights of women and the equality of their participation at all decision-making levels.

Full equality between women and men in the real sense will make the world a better place for all of us and our future generations. It is our strong belief that unless women are engaged in advancing the culture of peace at equal levels with men, sustainable peace would continue to elude us. We also believe that without peace, development is impossible, and without development, peace is not achievable; but without women, neither peace nor development is possible.

The United Nations has been in the forefront of this continuing endeavor for equality since its inception. The United Nations' last women's summit held in Beijing in 1995 made the boldest and most forward-looking call for equality. The UN Security Council resolution 1325 in 2000 on women and peace and security has made the realization of women's equal participation at all decision making levels obligatory on all members of the United Nations.

It is in this context and encouraged by the creation of the new entity of the world body, UN Women, that we, IMPACT Leadership 21, as part of the global civil society, call upon the world leaders to commit themselves and the countries they represent to work to achieve the following objectives:

1. Appointment of a Woman as the Next United Nations Secretary-General.

When choice of the 9th Secretary-General of the United Nations will be made, its member-states will have the opportunity to elect the first woman head of the organization in its 70-year history. It is high time to do that!



2. Nomination of Women as Future Presidents of the General Assembly by the Regional Groups. In electing the 68 Presidents of the General Assembly since its establishment, so far the UN member-states have elected only three women to this highest position to head the apex intergovernmental body.

3. Election of More Women as Heads of Various UN Governing Bodies

The UN governing bodies have been mostly headed by men. Regional groups need to present candidatures of more women as an affirmative action.

4. Appointment by Member-States of More Women as Ambassadors to the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

These decisions can be made by the leaders themselves within their own jurisdictions and within their authority in their respective governments.

ALL THESE FORWARD-LOOKING STEPS ARE WITHIN THE DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITIES OF THE WORLD LEADERS GATHERED HERE IN NEW YORK IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

WE URGE THEM TO LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CIVIL SOCIETY!

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury

Member, Global Advisory Council
IMPACT Leadership 21

Janet C. Salazar

CEO and Founder
IMPACT Leadership 21

Contact: jcsalazar@impactleadership21.com
www.impactleadership21.com