

**Reception and presentation of the exhibition on the occasion of Women's History Month and conclusion of the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Remarks by H.E. Mher Margaryan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the UN**

27 March 2024

President of the General Assembly,
Under-Secretaries-General,
Excellences,
Colleagues, dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you and warmly thank you all for joining us in today's reception and the exhibition, which is a tribute to women — to the extraordinary female figures, who have been at the forefront of social change and equality, often as trailblazers paving the way for others to rise.

I would like to begin by congratulating everyone on the successful conclusion of the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women and, of course, to join in thanking the Facilitator of this year's Agreed Conclusions, Ambassador Yoka Brandt, and the Chair of the CSW, Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo and their teams. Our acknowledgements and appreciations also go to the UN Women and the Secretariat colleagues for the successful conclusion of the Commission's work and adoption of the outcome document. I am well aware how challenging the negotiations of the Agreed Conclusions can be, having served as the chair of the Commission myself. I am also convinced that this process can be also most rewarding, indeed, once the document is finally agreed and adopted.

Today's event is held on the occasion of the Women's Month (traditionally observed during the month of March, in many parts of the world). It is an opportunity to reflect on the remarkable contributions of women, who have been shaping history, often against great odds and adversity, and to celebrate their voices and their enduring legacies. The theme of the exhibition "Equal, Meaningful, Empowering," captures the essence of what we would like to highlight today. It aims to shine a spotlight on women across various professions, who have continuously demonstrated their leadership, intellect and courage, excelling in fields traditionally dominated by men. From the halls of parliament to negotiating tables of diplomacy, women have been consistently transforming paths of leadership and representation, as exemplified by the extraordinary story of Diana Abgar, who served as

our country's diplomat in Japan more a century ago, or, indeed, the most notable lives and legacies of female legislators, who got elected to Armenia's Parliament back in 1918. 2

As we explore the stories and accomplishments of remarkable women, we also recognize the challenges that still lie ahead in the pursuit of gender equality and the imperative of mobilizing efforts to dismantle the existing barriers for a more inclusive and equitable world.

Within the United Nations, Armenia has been consistent in prioritizing the protection and promotion of women's rights, achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. As a candidate to the ECOSOC for the term 2025-2027, Armenia will remain steadfast in our commitment to mainstream gender equality as a fundamental human right. We will work collaboratively in addressing challenges of development financing and climate action including those faced by countries in special situations, with specific focus on the empowerment of women and girls, as a cornerstone of sustainable development and progress for all.

Let today's exhibition serve as a source of inspiration in fulfilling the potential of positive change. I thank you, once again, for joining at this event and invite you to explore the exhibits before us (which will later be displayed at the Secretariat), and to enjoy the Armenian food and drinks.