

Wrap up by H.E. Ambassador Katalin Annamária Bogyay
Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN
About the Panel on
"Women in Science and Diplomacy for Sustaining Peace and Development"
of the Third International Day of Women and Girls in Science
Plenary, 9 February 2018

Your Royal Highness,

Your Excellences,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me express my gratitude for the great co-organizing partnership of RASIT, Malta, the missions of Costa Rica, Vietnam and UNCTAD for this extraordinary two-day event.

As chair, I'm very pleased about this morning's successful panel discussion! We had excellent speakers with inspiring ideas representing a geographical balance and last but not least more women than men!

We heard from them how to make the role of women in science and diplomacy work in reality for sustaining peace and achieving long term development.

After the inspiring thoughts of Her Royal Highness Princess Dr. Nisreen El-Hashemite, Executive Director of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT) and H.E. Dr. Helena Dalli, Minister for European Affairs and Equality we had six distinguished panellists:

1. H.E. Mr. Tran Van Tung, Vice Minister of Vietnam for Science and Technology

As gender equality had always been among the highest priorities in Vietnam, Vice Minister Tran shared his views on why we need more women and women leaders in science. By working on laws on gender equality, Vietnam is making huge efforts to reduce the gap in retirement age, and to create more opportunities as well as financial incentives for women to take up leadership positions, also in the field of politics.

2. H.E. Ambassador Kelley Currie, USA Representative to ECOSOC

Ambassador Currie spoke about how Science, Technology and Innovation can be incorporated into mediation and peacebuilding at all levels. She shared the policies and programs the USA is implementing to help science contribute to tackling the root causes of poverty and lack of opportunities, as the most common underlying triggers of conflict and crisis. She highlighted

the new US National Security Strategy, which builds fundamentally on women's social and economic empowerment. With the Women, Peace and Security Act the US became the first country to enact the Security Council's related resolutions into national law to expand women's role in decision making.

3. H.E. Ms. Özlem Zengin, Chief Advisor to the President of Turkey

Ms Zengin explained how in her experience from media, law and politics a scientific approach to everyday life can contribute to peace and development and how policies can enrich the opportunities of women who are looking for solutions to gender inequality. She shared how powerful women can influence politics at the regional and national level: "women can change politics and politics can change women"!

4. H.E. Ambassador Joanne Adamson, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the UN

Ambassador Adamson presented what the EU is doing to support women in science and diplomacy. As a female diplomat she shared the examples from her own career of why it matters to have women in diplomacy. She spoke about women's huge potential in conflict prevention and resolution, and she also stressed the importance of awareness raising.

5. Ms. Marie Paule Roudil, Director of UNESCO Liaison Office New York and UNESCO Representative to the United Nations

Madame Roudil illustrated the key areas and main lessons learned from UNESCO's work in promoting the role of women in science, most importantly through education and fellowship programs.

6. Ms Karina Movsesjan, winner of the EU Contest for Young Scientists, Czech Republic

Ms Movsesjan shed light on the importance of self-esteem and confidence for women and girls to speak out, ask the questions they want to have answers for, and why it is important to fight gender based as well as cultural stereotypes.

In fact, all our speakers – just as Princess Nisreen and Minister Dalli– are role models, who lead the way by example.

Let me share with you the joint **findings** that came out from our panelists' interventions:

- Science is a tool in understanding global challenges facing us and identifying responses.

- Women in general and especially women scientists have a very important role to play in humanity's quest for a sustainable and peaceful future. However, women in leadership positions are still rather an exception than a rule.
- Studies still show that one of the most significant gender gaps persists today in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- The untapped potential of women and girls is a loss of opportunity, both for women themselves and for the society and the economy as a whole. Gender equality should therefore be considered as a mean to promote scientific and technological excellence.
- Individuals, institutions and governments have a joint responsibility to tackle discrimination, negative attitudes, as well as to fight stereotypes that limit women's opportunities in science careers.
- The most important takeaway for me is to strengthen the science-policy link by bringing together all actors from the political, researcher and implementation level.
- Everybody in our societies takes benefit of science, therefore we need gender parity and equal participation!