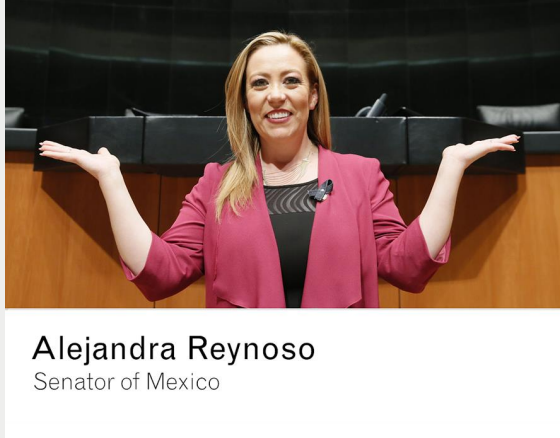


IN THIS ISSUE

Global Initiative Showcases the Visions of Worldwide Politicians for a Balanced World

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8 OF MARCH 2019



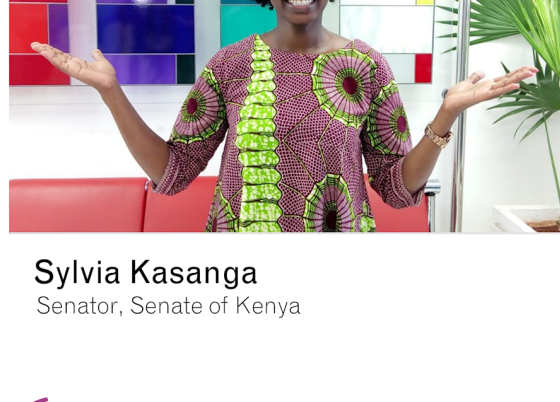
Alejandra Reynoso
Senator of Mexico

“Un mundo que tiene la sensibilidad, asertividad y objetividad en las decisiones que se toman. Cuenta con la riqueza que permite disminuir lo más posible la desigualdad y abre oportunidades para que crezcamos todos y todas.”

#BalanceforBetter

“A world where women have equal opportunities as men in political, social and economic spheres, which is crucial towards creating comprehensive sustainable development and improving the livelihood for all.”

#BalanceforBetter



Sylvia Kasanga
Senator, Senate of Kenya



Hilde Vautmans
Member of the European Parliament

“An equal world would turn our societies prosperous. A place where everyone contributes on an equal footing, would achieve peace and resilience. A world in balance, harmony and full of creativity and potential.”

#BalanceforBetter

“That world is removed the shell of gender role sharing, whose family has some allowances in their life and mind each other. That is wrapped in smiles, moreover, it is possible to solve the worried problems of declining birth rate in Japan.”

#BalanceforBetter



Michiyo Yakushiji
Member of the House of Councillors of Japan



Carol Brown
Senator from Australia

“A world that is richer socially and economically because everyone is valued for their unique talents and contributions. Where women are not held back because of their gender and equality of opportunity is the norm.”

#BalanceforBetter

On March 8, people celebrate the role of women and their achievements. To mark celebrations worldwide, WPL supported the initiative launched by the International Women's Day (IWD) 2019 #BalanceforBetter asking women politicians to answer the question "What does a world with balance between women and men look like to you?" while striking the official IWD 2019 pose. WPL received an avalanche of contributions. An extremely broad variety of thoughts, views and pictures was shared by women politicians from over 40 countries. They initiated a conversation on the right of women to lead in politics, on visions for a world characterised by a more balanced presence of women in politics.

Some of the politicians responding to our call imagine a world where a better balance brings long-lasting peace; for others a balanced world is a synonym for equal opportunities and access to resources for both men and women, as well as of freedom, and for a world which is smarter, richer and more prosperous. Some go all the way to say that a world without balance is a dead world. All state the need for balance and provide clear ways forward for such vision to become a reality.

[Read more about the initiative here](#)

What is H. E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca's Vision of a Balanced World?



A world that balances the contributions of women and men is more resilient, more peaceful, and more prosperous. This is because balancing the unique perspectives of women and men creates innovation and development. We are all aware of the indicators from international organisations, which show us that if we achieve the full economic participation of women our global economy will thrive. However, there is more than economic growth at stake, when we are talking about an equal world. Equality is at the heart of universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. These ideals are the foundation for an effective democracy, and a world that can truly achieve sustainable peace and equitable prosperity.

The balance between women and men also means pursuing a world in which everybody is respected equally, because of their unique contributions. When women are respected as full and empowered contributors, then all of our families, communities, and countries will reach a new level of prosperity. This is the inclusive world that I want us to achieve, together. The International Women's Day 2019 and the initiative launched by WPL are an occasion to emphasise that women's rights are human rights.

H. E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta and WPL Global Advisory Board Member.

Rebuilding Trust in Leadership: WPL at the UN Commission on the Status of Women



"We are all role models" said Juliane Bogner-Strauß, Federal Minister for Women, Families and Youth of Austria stressing the important role that women politicians play in empowering other women to achieve a higher female participation in all sectors. "An important step is to get young women on board", continued Minister Bogner-Strauß, highlighting the importance of new generations of female leaders to rebuild trust in leadership. This was the incipit of the event co-hosted by WPL and EY on the occasion of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, on March 11 in New York City.

The panel discussion addressed the importance of rebuilding trust in a world where distrust in traditional forms of leadership is spreading. Panelists agree that there is a will to change the way leadership has been perceived so far and shared suggestions to achieve this goal. One of the core drivers is for young people to be encouraged to play a crucial role in restoring confidence in leadership. In fact, numbers show that young women are less likely to join political parties or run for office, pointing to a clear lack of confidence in institutions by young people.

Kris Pederson, Americas Advisory Corporate Governance Leader at EY and co-host of the event, rounded the reflections sharing experiences from the corporate world where employees demand to work for purposeful businesses and customers opt for goods and services produced by purposeful businesses. This new way of perceiving leadership as being lead by a purpose for the benefit of society as a whole, is an element which shall contribute to the re-design of the concept of leadership.

The Q&A session which followed was moderated by Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir, Chair of the Executive Board of WPL, and offered an opportunity for the many participants to contribute to the discussions.

[Follow our Twitter account for a live coverage of the event](#)

FEATURED

The Reykjavik Index and the Role of Evidence in Today's Society



The [Reykjavik Index for Leadership](#) was created by WPL and Kantar to support the journey to equality for women and for men. The first of its kind, the Index measures how people feel about women in leadership, assessing the perceived legitimacy of female and male leadership across 20 economic sectors and giving insight into how the views of women and men differ.

Named #BestofDavos by the World Economic Forum, the Index was recently highlighted on the OECD official blog, as part of the of the Forum Network series on [New Societal Contract](#).

[Read the full article here](#)

Leadership and Participation in International Affairs: Discussion at the Munich Security Conference 2019



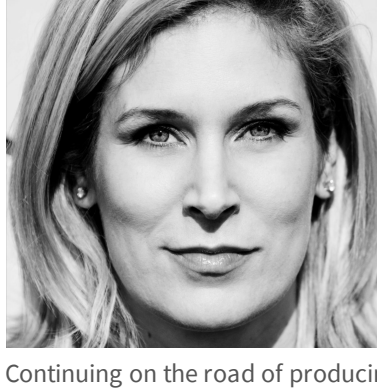
Complex geo-political defence issues require a high degree of cognitive diversity in order to be properly tackled, and greater gender parity in defence and policing cannot be simply driven by fairness or altruism. Within this framework, WPL and McKinsey & Company, addressed the questions of how leadership should be defined, what type of leadership is needed and what role women play in today's international environment, on the occasion of this year's Munich Security Conference. The roundtable "A Man's World? Leadership and Participation in International Affairs" relied on speakers of the caliber of João Gomes Cravinho, Minister of National Defence of Portugal, Catherine de Bolle, Executive Director at Europol, Jacqueline Fuller, Vice President at Google, and Richard Sezibera, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Rwanda.

Speakers tackled the question from four perspectives: low participation of women in defence and security is not a luxury that our society can afford; proofs of the benefits of female participation have been deliberated and it is now time for action; stereotypes should be fought and certain leadership styles should not be attributed 'male' or 'female' qualities; and the challenges facing defence and security are broad when it comes to gender parity and call for systemic changes.

[Find some pictures of the event here](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

FINAL WORDS



Trust is the foundation of every meaningful interaction between humans. Right now, trust is at a breaking point, as UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres pointed out at the UN General Assembly in September 2018. When it comes to leadership, how do we choose whom to trust to be a leader? Is trust based exclusively on actions or are there other key factors determining it? Are our choices independent on the person being a woman or man? The Reykjavik Index, created by WPL and Kantar, is a powerful piece of evidence on which to base the journey to equality for women and for men, and provides us with some answers to this question. Trust is also built through actions, and actions are built on solid visions, like the ones showcased by over 100 women politicians through the #BalanceforBetter initiative, an opportunity to celebrate International Women's Day 2019.

Continuing on the road of producing evidence, and creating initiatives in which we explore possible ways to progress towards the ultimate goal of seeing attitudes about women and men in leadership reach equality, will largely contribute to restoring trust. We should not forget to bring young generations along to speed up the creation of a world where balance between women and men is the norm.

I hope you enjoyed reading this month's newsletter!
Silvana Koch-Mehrin, President and Founder of WPL

SAVE THE DATE

13 - 14 May 2019, Bogotá, Colombia

WPL LatAm Regional Meeting [Concordia](#)

3 - 6 June 2019, Vancouver, Canada

WPL at Women Deliver Conference

25-27 June, Tokyo, Japan

[WPL SUMMIT 2019](#)

For more information regarding our events please contact: mail@wpleaders.org



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