

**SRSG Caroline Ziadeh**

**Opening Remarks**

**Global Open Day on Women, Peace, and Security in Kosovo**

*Pristina, 08 June 2022, Klan Arena*

*Madam President Osmani,*

*Madam Deputy Prime Minister Redžepi/Rexhepi,*

*Madam Development Coordinator Richardson,*

*Distinguished members of the international community,*

*Distinguished guests, friends and colleagues,*

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this year's Global Open Day on Women, Peace, and Security in Kosovo.

Let me take you with me on a journey. Out of the 850 delegates at the inception of the United Nations in San Francisco 77 years ago were only four women.

Yet, nevertheless these four women reaffirmed in the UN Charter the faith that “*We, the people .... (have)....in the fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women ...*”

And the journey did not end there: the UN with its agencies, funds and programmes emphasizes the political role and contribution of women and girls around the world, as leading the change to build a more sustainable future for all. From Beijing to CEDAW, from

Sustainable development goals agenda, to our common agenda and action for human rights: These are just a few milestones to mention in the consolidation of gender equality and women empowerment.

Twenty-two years ago, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. The resolution recognises that meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes contributes to more democratic societies, more inclusive development, and increasing sustainable peace.

Real change can happen when we ensure that the young generation - including young men - empower women's political representation.

This Open Global Day is an opportunity to invest in women under the theme *Breaking Barriers and Building Peace: Advancing Women's Participation in Political Processes*.

But what do, “breaking barriers” and “building peace” really mean?

*Breaking barriers* is about creating conditions for inclusive societies where peace and stability may thrive in diversity. It is not only about overcoming obstacles to women's participation - it is also about ensuring paradigm change anchored in partnerships and shared values.

As for *Building Peace* is about buttressing alliances and common denominators between parties in a conflict. Power sharing

between men and women and among communities. Power sharing with -and for- those in the most vulnerable conditions.

It is ultimately working together towards a social contract based on equality, respect and higher moral compass.

Integrating a gender perspective requires the understanding that each and every element of a peace building process must incorporate the views and priorities of men and women in all of their manifestations.

In other words, for peace and security to be sustainable, they need to be defined by both women and men.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Here we are 77 years later, the four women are four times fifty and more. Looking around the room, I only see powerful women in leadership posts –living successful stories: politicians, president, deputy prime minister, lawyers, journalists, architects, mothers, daughters, wives, sisters, activists, just role models! Women who broke barriers and work to build peace in different walks of life. We remain steadfast in our firm support to all your endeavors to ensure women's participation, inclusion, ownership of different processes at central, local and communities' level.

It is time for all your success stories to resonate in all Kosovo.

It is high time that your journey becomes the journey of each and every woman in Kosovo and the region.

A great lady from the region who became an international humanitarian icon, Mother Theresa said: “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”

Let us turn our discussions today into great achievements for tomorrow and thank you for your attention.