



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
ON WOMEN RIGHTS

**Remarks by Hon Harriette Chiggai at the International
Women's Day Celebration and Lady Justice Aluoch Moot
Launch on Friday, 1st March 2024 at Ole Sereni Hotel**
“Inspire Inclusion”

Good Evening

1. Lady Justice Aluoch
 2. Justice Ochieng
 3. Lady Justice Kamau
 4. All Judges present
 5. Hon. Waco next get of marsabit
 6. Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen
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1. It is a great pleasure to address this important gathering. I am honoured to be in your company and grateful to Lady Justice Aluoch, and the Executive Committee of WADR led by Eunice Lumallas for inviting me.
 2. Today marks the beginning of the celebration of Women in the Month of March.
 3. We are meeting at a time when justice and human rights are under sustained pressure, both globally and across the continent. The most recent progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals highlighted that at the current rate of progress, it may take

another 286 years to remove discriminatory laws and close gaps in legal protection for women and girls.

4. **International Women's Day** is therefore an important occasion to celebrate the progress made towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment but also to critically reflect on those accomplishments and strive for a greater momentum towards gender equality worldwide.
5. As we reflect on the systemic barriers that women have faced and continue to face, including exclusion from decision-making processes and limited access to opportunities for advancement.
6. This year's Theme "**Inspire Inclusion**" is in recognition of the fact that the struggle is not yet over and WE STILL NEED TO CREATE inclusive spaces where all individuals, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or background, feel valued, respected, and empowered.
7. It is only when diverse voices are heard and included in decision-making processes, that the outcomes are more equitable, sustainable, and representative of the needs and aspirations of all members of society.
8. At the core of inclusion ARE the mechanisms for dispute resolution, which play a vital role in fostering peace, stability, and social cohesion. In a world plagued by conflicts, both large and small, the ability to resolve disputes peacefully and constructively is essential for preventing violence, reducing suffering, and building trust between individuals and communities. Whether through mediation, arbitration, or dialogue facilitation, effective dispute resolution mechanisms provide avenues for addressing

grievances, finding common ground, and forging sustainable solutions to complex problems.

9. In this regard, the role of women in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) cannot be overstated. Women have long been at the forefront of promoting dialogue, understanding, and reconciliation in their communities. Their ability to empathize, communicate, and find common ground makes them natural peacemakers and arbitrators.
10. The Government of Kenya, in the operationalization of BETA, recognizes that **women** are key enablers of the BETA Plan and need to be adequately facilitated to achieve the objectives of the agenda.
11. Today, I am honored to be with you, as we celebrate **women in ADR and Launch the Lady Justice Aluoch Moot Competition**, we do so by Appreciating that Women have historically been catalysts for peace and reconciliation in their communities, drawing on their unique strengths and experiences to bridge divides and build consensus. From grassroots activists mediating local conflicts to high-level diplomats negotiating peace agreements, women have demonstrated time and again their ability to navigate complex power dynamics, build relationships across lines of difference, and promote dialogue and understanding.
12. As the President's Advisor on Women's Rights, my office is committed to harnessing the power of partnerships to advance gender-inclusive dispute resolution and peacebuilding initiatives. By collaborating with stakeholders across sectors and leveraging resources and expertise, we can strengthen the capacity of women to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes,

promote gender-sensitive approaches to conflict resolution, and support the creation of inclusive, peaceful societies where everyone can thrive.

13. In conclusion, International Women's Day is not only a celebration of women's achievements but also a call to action to address the root causes of gender inequality and exclusion. By inspiring inclusion, promoting dispute resolution, and empowering women as agents of change, we can create a world where justice, equality, and peace are not just ideals but lived realities for all.

Thank you.

Hon. Harriette Chiggai
President's Advisor on Women Rights