



CONCEPT NOTE

FEMALE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

29-30 June 2023

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Background

Although countries around the world have progressed in advancing gender equality and prohibiting discrimination, women's share in the decision-making process still remains low globally. Increasing women's political empowerment and their economic participation are the areas of concern that need to be further addressed.

It is already a proven fact that women's leadership brings a positive impact on all spheres of life. Accordingly, amplifying women's voice and promoting them in senior leading positions are important for inspiring young women and girls around the world to achieve greater social recognition, leadership and participation.

Mongolian women, as leaders, have held a prominent social status and legacy throughout our history. Furthermore, Mongolia is a country with a long tradition of pursuing feminist foreign policy, which features support for international initiatives for women and the participation of Mongolian women peacekeepers in the UN Peacekeeping.

To this end, the Foreign Minister of Mongolia Ms. Battsetseg Batmunkh put forward an initiative to hold a Female Foreign Ministers' Meeting for the first time in Mongolia to discuss issues facing international relations and seek possible solutions.

The consensus and solidarity of Female Foreign Ministers would serve as a great impetus for promoting multilateral cooperation to address global challenges. Mongolia also hopes that the meeting would benefit shaping pro-women foreign policy in our greater neighborhood in Asia and believes that our initiative will contribute to the efforts of other countries pursuing feminist foreign policy.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for participants to deliberate and exchange information, and share their best practices of feminist foreign policymaking.

Guiding themes for discussion

The year 2022 has witnessed unprecedented geopolitical tensions that brought not only added complexity to addressing the challenges facing the world community, but also exacerbated the existing challenges.

Threats such as climate change, natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic are on the rise, requiring greater cooperation among countries on the international stage as no country can address them individually. All countries, especially small and poor ones, suffer the most from the negative consequences, including rising unemployment and poverty and political instability around the globe. They also pose major risks that could undermine global peace and security and the hitherto achievements towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Many consequences of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic have weakened food systems vulnerabilities, further exacerbating the existing inequalities. This is especially evident in countries like Mongolia, which remain highly vulnerable to food prices and foreign exchange volatility.

Therefore, as the host country, Mongolia wishes to propose the following three topics for the discussion:

- Role of women in promoting peace and security,
- Climate change, and
- Food security.

Format

The meeting will be held in-person on June 29-30, 2023, under the auspices of the President of Mongolia, with an option to follow the meeting proceedings via live streaming. We propose to have panel discussions on the above-mentioned three guiding topics.

Proposals from those, who would like to facilitate a panel discussion, are welcomed.

Contact information

Please contact Ms. Khulan Ganbattulga, Attaché, Department of Multilateral Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at F2M2@mfa.gov.mn or +976 99271279 (WhatsApp) for any further inquiries regarding the meeting.