Message from

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WHO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION
on the occasion of
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2022 – “GENDER EQUALITY TODAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW”

Cairo, Egypt, 8 March 2022

Today we celebrate International Women’s Day under the theme “gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”. Empowering women and girls and advancing gender equality are critical to achieve a healthier, equal and sustainable future.

This year’s theme highlights the role of women in achieving sustainable development despite the global challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences of climate change.

The meaningful participation of women has been and remains key in tackling COVID-19 and other emergencies. They have been on the front line of the pandemic response, in addition to their role as caregivers and leaders within their communities, despite the disproportionate burden they carry. Their continued engagement is indispensable to ensure a more equitable recovery from the pandemic.

Women are also experiencing the impact of the climate crisis, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and increases the risks they face. Women constitute the greatest proportion of the population that is reliant on natural resources threatened by the risks of climate change, but they are also effective agents of change, mitigation and adaptation. Their equal and strong involvement in decision-making is essential for better climate-related planning, policy-making and implementation of effective measures.

WHO’s vision of Health for All by All in the Eastern Mediterranean Region calls for inclusive and collaborative action to achieve progress towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. The role of women cannot be overstated. On International Women’s Day, let us commit to working together towards peace and prosperity for everyone.