



लोक सभा सचिवालय

प्रेस एवं जन सम्पर्क स्कंध

संसद भवन, नई दिल्ली

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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'PROMOTE GENDER BALANCE IN CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES.' : LOK SABHA SPEAKER

Nusa Dua (Bali, Indonesia), 7 September 2017: Addressing the delegates to the World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development on the theme "*Women Political Leaders: Climate Change, Women Land Rights and Sustainable Development*" in Nusa Dua (Bali, Indonesia) on 7 September 2017, Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan highlighted the need to promote gender balance in climate change policies.

Smt. Mahajan underlined that climate change, women land rights and sustainable developments are all inter-related and there is a need to address the issues and challenges associated with them. She noted that women face disproportionate risks and greater burdens from the impacts of poverty, climate change and other social, political and economic crises. As such, women's land rights are critical to secure them access to land and other natural resources for sustainable livelihoods and for assuring food security. She called upon the stakeholders to evolve a broader conceptualization of land rights and access to productive resources which is pro-poor, gender inclusive and responsive to human rights. In India inheritance law have been amended to entitle a daughter to inherit family property including land on par with son, she added.

Highlighting that 2030 Agenda and its actionable core of 17 SDGs resemble India's vision of development, Smt. Mahajan noted that the Government of India's initiatives such as Smart Cities, Make in India, *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (Save girl child, educate girl child), *Swachh Bharat* (Clean India), *Jan Dhan Yojana* (National Mission for Financial Inclusion), Digital India, Skill India, Startup India etc., closely relate to several targets under SDGs.

Smt. Mahajan said that Parliament of India has been making consistent efforts to mainstream the role of women legislators in policy formation and programme implementation, particularly in the development sphere. Both the Government and the Parliament have taken keen interest in the proper implementation of SDGs, and have committed to set aside one day during each seminar for a thorough discussion on the progress on SDGs, focusing on one particular goal at a time. This will serve as an opportunity for stocktaking and course correction while ensuring a broader participation of parliamentarians in achievement of SDGs. She added that the Speaker's Research Initiative (SRI) has been launched for providing, among other things, SDG-related insights to Members of Parliament.

Smt. Mahajan opined that parliamentarians are central to the development agenda and they are in a unique position to influence and shape the content of national development ensuring the implementation of SDGs. As such, they have special responsibilities as well as opportunities in providing leadership to women and grassroots organizations which are engaged in addressing issues like climate change that have disproportionate impact on women.