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THE WOMEN POLITICAL LEADERS GLOBAL FORUM (WPL) SUMMIT 2018 OUTCOME DECLARATION

We, women political leaders, participated in the WPL Summit 2018 “It’s About Time: 100 Reasons to Act,” held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 6-8 June, organised by the Women Political Leaders Global Forum (WPL) and co-hosted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, in partnership with the Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL). We gathered to exchange best practices around the globe: of leadership, legislation, and political agenda-setting that creates results;

- Celebrate 100 years of women’s voting rights in Lithuania and reaffirm the need for equal rights, and thereby true freedom, for women around the globe, from voting to economic participation and equitable wages, to access to quality healthcare, to political representation;
- Reaffirm commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 1325, stressing the critical role women must play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping, peace negotiations, humanitarian response in times of crisis, and post-conflict reconstruction, emphasising the unique voice and perspective that women bring to these efforts and the value of their full and equitable participation in these conversations for the promotion of international peace and security;
- Recognise rapidly-changing technology, from artificial intelligence, to blockchain, to precision medicine, and assert the necessity for women to access the education and training needed to pursue careers and lead in these fields and ensure that this technology creates a more equitable and connected world rather than further dividing developed and developing nations;
- Assert the need for gender-balanced parliaments; recognising the need not only for more women to be elected for political roles, but also promoting tools and best practices for achieving equitable representation and equitable power in government, assessing the need for establishing quotas for women in political bodies as well as for committee membership, gender budgeting, and women’s coalitions and caucuses;
- Defend access to maternal healthcare and profess the undeniable linkage between healthy women and thriving economies;
- We, women political leaders, proclaim that we cannot allow another 100 years to pass waiting for changes towards equality and “it’s about time” to achieve global parity between women and men, creating inclusive and participatory societies for all.



Vilnius, Lithuania, 7 June 2018 Women Political Leaders Global Forum