



IVth Eurasian Women's Forum

The **Fourth Eurasian Women's Forum (EAWF)**, held on September 18-20, 2024, in St. Petersburg, Russia, was a premier international platform that brought together over 1,500 participants from 126 nations. With a focus on the theme *Women for Strengthening Trust and Global Cooperation*, the event explored the critical role of women in fostering international collaboration, ensuring sustainable development, and addressing global challenges.

The EAWF 2024 was organized by the Federation Council of the Russian Federation and the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS, further cementing the forum's status as a leading international gathering for women leaders, professionals, and advocates. Participants included government officials, entrepreneurs, representatives of international organizations, and leaders in the fields of education, health, and technology.

One of the key speakers was **Purnima Anand**, President of BRICS International Forum, a notable advocate for international cooperation and women's empowerment. Her address focused on fostering **global trust** through **collaborative leadership** and the pivotal role of women in tackling global challenges, especially in promoting **peace** and **sustainability**.

Key Objectives of the Forum:

1. Highlight the role of women in promoting **global trust and cooperation**.
2. Strengthen **international partnerships** to address global challenges.
3. Promote **sustainable development** and **security** through female leadership.
4. Explore ways to advance **economic empowerment**, particularly in **entrepreneurship** and **innovation**.

Highlights from the Forum:



Plenary Session: Vladimir Putin's Address

President Vladimir Putin's address was a focal point of the event. In his speech, Putin commended women's contribution to the country's industrial and social development, noting that women have consistently played a crucial role in various sectors, from defense to entrepreneurship. He remarked that over six million Russian women are now running their own businesses, underscoring the rising importance of female entrepreneurship.

Key points from Putin's speech:

- Women are pivotal in fostering international **cooperation, security, and sustainability**.
- Russia highly values its **National Strategy of Action in the Interests of Women**, which provides the framework for supporting female participation in **education, entrepreneurship, and leadership**.
- Putin also called for greater investment in **youth education**, particularly in **STEM** fields, as essential to Russia's future growth and innovation.

Purnima Anand's Speech

Purnima Anand, in her address, focused on the significance of **international collaboration** and the role women play in establishing **global trust**. She discussed how women's leadership is essential in building bridges between nations and cultures, particularly in times of conflict. Anand also highlighted the need for **women-led initiatives** in peace-building, environmental sustainability, and economic development, emphasizing that women are often at the forefront of grassroots efforts for social change.

Her message emphasized:

- The **unique perspectives** women bring to **global diplomacy** and **conflict resolution**.
- How women, particularly in emerging economies, can serve as catalysts for **economic growth** and **innovation**.
- The importance of **cross-cultural dialogue** to enhance mutual understanding and trust.

Key Discussions and Themes



1. Global Trust and Cooperation:

The discussions focused on women's unique ability to foster collaboration between nations. Panelists stressed the importance of engaging more women in diplomacy, conflict resolution, and humanitarian initiatives. Examples of successful female leadership in peace-building efforts were shared, with emphasis on how women's involvement leads to longer-lasting and more effective solutions.

2. Economic Empowerment:

Many sessions were dedicated to understanding how to further promote **female entrepreneurship** and **economic participation**. Experts discussed strategies for improving women's access to **capital, mentorship, and business networks**. There was broad agreement that empowering women economically leads to increased GDP growth and more stable societies.

Participants highlighted that Russia has made significant strides in supporting women entrepreneurs, with the number of women-owned businesses rising by **30%** over the past year. Panelists encouraged similar efforts globally, with governments and institutions committing to **inclusive policies** that facilitate women's entry into business and technology sectors.

3. Sustainable Development and Security:

Women's leadership in addressing **climate change**, **environmental sustainability**, and **public health** was another key theme. Female leaders from around the world shared innovative solutions to environmental and social challenges, demonstrating how women's engagement in sustainability efforts is essential for future global stability.

The forum concluded that ensuring women's participation in **global security** dialogues was critical to developing comprehensive and equitable security frameworks that are more responsive to societal needs.

4. Youth and Innovation:

A significant focus of the forum was the development of young female leaders in **STEM** fields. Speakers emphasized the need to create opportunities for young women to excel in **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics**, which are vital sectors in shaping the future of global economies.

The forum recommended expanding education programs and mentorship opportunities, particularly for young women from underrepresented backgrounds, to ensure a more inclusive and diverse future workforce.

International Collaborations and Partnerships



The EAWF served as a platform to strengthen international cooperation, with several strategic partnerships emerging during the discussions. Notably, partnerships with **BRICS**, **APEC**, and **W20** were reinforced, with a collective focus on increasing women's participation in **global governance** and **economic initiatives**. Representatives from international organizations committed to aligning their programs with the forum's objectives of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment globally.

Additionally, bilateral collaborations between Russia and nations in **Africa**, **Latin America**, and **Asia** were explored, focusing on expanding educational opportunities and fostering **female leadership** in business, technology, and governance.

Cultural Exchange and Representation

The diversity of participants from 126 countries enriched the forum's discussions. Russian women played a key role in representing the country's rich cultural heritage and the significant contributions they make across various industries. The forum also provided an opportunity for international attendees to share their own cultural and professional experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of shared challenges and potential solutions.

Outcomes and Recommendations

The Fourth Eurasian Women's Forum concluded with several significant outcomes and recommendations aimed at improving gender parity and promoting women's leadership globally:

1. **Strengthened Female Leadership:** Governments and international organizations were urged to increase women's representation in leadership roles across diplomacy, business, and security sectors.
2. **Gender-Sensitive Policies:** Participants called for the adoption of **gender-sensitive** policies to ensure equitable access to resources, opportunities, and representation, particularly in education, healthcare, and economic sectors.
3. **Support for Female Entrepreneurs:** The forum encouraged further support for **female entrepreneurs** by improving access to capital, training, and networks, especially in developing countries.
4. **Sustainability Initiatives:** Women must be central to sustainability and security efforts, particularly in addressing **climate change, energy transitions, and poverty reduction.**
5. **Investment in STEM for Women:** Investment in **STEM education** for young women was prioritized, ensuring that they are prepared to take on leadership roles in **innovation and technology.**

Conclusion

The **Fourth Eurasian Women's Forum 2024** was a monumental success, providing a critical platform for discussions on how women can shape a more inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous future. The forum's focus on **global trust, cooperation, and innovation** echoed through all its discussions, leaving a profound impact on both participants and the international community.

As women continue to rise in global leadership, the Eurasian Women's Forum stands as a testament to the power of collective female action in solving the world's most pressing challenges. The partnerships and recommendations that emerged from this forum are poised to influence international policies, contributing to a more equitable and cooperative global landscape.
