



ARETA

new perspectives for leaders

Opening Speech — Welcome & Framing

Welcome to the G100 Conference “*The Role of Women for a Sustainable and Peaceful Future*,” organized by Brunhilde Schram, Global Chair SDGs, and Ursula Oberholzer, Global Chair CSR.

My name is Eleonora Bonacossa, and it is a true honor to guide you through this high-level event.

A very warm welcome to all participants — those here with us in Vienna and those joining online. We are delighted to have you with us today.

Let me begin by offering a short framing. This will allow us to start from a shared common ground as we enter the rich conversations ahead.

The world is facing multiple crises and increasingly demanding challenges. The Sustainable Development Goals remain an essential framework for addressing the most pressing issues of our time. Yet, implementation is progressing too slowly, and recent global developments — from pandemics to conflicts — have further slowed the momentum.

Sustainability, as outlined by the OECD Guidelines, ISO 26000, and evolving CSR regulations, particularly within the European Union and beyond, defines a path toward a future that respects the limits of our planet.

The G100 network is dedicated to accelerating the implementation of SDG 5 — Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls — by the end of this decade. We recognize that its success is interconnected with the broader SDG agenda.

At this conference, we aim to explore the decisive role that women can play in building a more sustainable and peaceful future.

To guide our reflections, we will address five key questions:

- *What is the link between women, sustainability, and peace — and what does this mean for our collective future?*
- *How can women be empowered to accelerate the transformation toward sustainability?*
- *What role do women play in the transition to circular economy, and how can they drive the shift from linear to circular business models?*
- *How can women in the financial sector advance sustainability and help transform the industry globally?*
- *And finally — which joint actions and collective efforts are needed to build lasting global peace?*

This conference would not have been possible without the support of UNIDO. We begin with welcome remarks by Mr. Gunther Beger, Managing Director, Directorate for SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation, UNIDO.

Thank you.

We now invite Thuy Thu Le, Gender Coordinator, Division of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UNIDO — a division strongly contributing to the realization of SDG 5.

Thank you once again to UNIDO for this enriching partnership — we will hear from further representatives throughout the day.

And now, please join me in welcoming to the stage Bodil Valero, G100 President 2025 and Global Chair Security & Defence, together with Ursula Oberholzer, Global Chair CSR within the G100 Network and Secretary General of CSR Dialogforum, for the official opening.

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