



Message to The Global Forum of Women

We are living in times of great global changes. In many countries in the world, people are asking fundamental questions about ideologies, systems of power and their own way of life. Many people realize that our present value systems and lifestyles are not compatible with viable communities in a healthy global environment.

There are many of us who believe that the problems facing the world require new solutions and a radical re-evaluation of priorities and a restructuring of our societies. Many feel the need for a new vision of leadership within the decision-making process, without in a changed and changing world. They consider that the necessary restructuring of societies cannot succeed, without the active contribution of women. Women throughout the world have proposed new, constructive ideas of global concern which have until now enjoyed too little recognition.

It is my privilege to welcome you to The Global Forum of Women where I sincerely hope we will provide and explore new and relevant perspectives and solutions in many different fields. It is my sincere wish that these may teach us wiser treatment of the earth's resources and a better and more just behaviour towards each other. I also hope it will lead to many improvements of the daily lives of women and their families throughout the world.

Half of the global citizens are women. We are ready and have a right to provide much needed new visions of leadership for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vigdís Finnbogadóttir".

President of Iceland