



International Women's Day provides a platform for advocacy and mobilising global action towards attaining gender parity. This year's theme of Accelerate Action is a signal of the urgency with which we should actualise our previous commitments to dismantling systemic barriers to promote a more equitable society.

As a student of National Security and Strategy at the National Defence College, I recognise that Africa stands at a pivotal point in redefining its role in an increasingly dynamic global landscape where disruption is the new norm. With women constituting at least half of our continent's population, failing to include their voices or acknowledge the intrinsic value their contributions add to society only works to delay Africa's development.



It is therefore imperative to revisit the commitments made by the public and private sector towards achieving the sustainable development goal on gender equality and those reaffirmed annually during the IWDs celebrations. By translating these commitments into tangible initiatives that resonate at the grassroots level, we can accelerate the attainment of gender parity not in the relatively distant projected future of 2158, as indicated in the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report of 2024, but within our lifetime.

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