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Course No. 27 of 2024/2025

As the world celebrates this year's International Women's Day, there is need for renewed action and commitment towards accelerating the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, particularly the need to ensure women's full and equal participation in leadership and decision-making. It is trite that women have remained in the peripherals of leadership and decision-making. Such exclusion impacts on the attainment of SDGs as women are a key element in every society's developmental agenda.

On the above premise, there is need to adopt laws and policies that will systematically support gender inclusion in leadership and high-performance. Such policy interventions should at the minimum, address and eliminate barriers like discrimination, violence, and unequal opportunities that disproportionately affect women participation in leadership and decision-making.

As students of policy and strategy at the National Defence College -Kenya, we value the role women play in development at national, regional and global level. We, thus, believe that inclusion of women in leadership roles will not only create a just and fair society, but will catalyse the attainment of SDGs and bring meaningful development at all levels of society.

