

## **Ensuring gender equality in Russian Federation to 2017 - 2025**

Dear ladies! Dear Sirs!

These days, when we are discussing issues of equal opportunities for men and women, Russia is hosting the second Eurasian women's forum "Women for global security and sustainable development", which brought together representatives from 112 countries to consolidate political and social forces to achieve true equality, creating the conditions necessary for the full, non-discriminatory implementation of women's interests, abilities and talents.

A lot has been done in this direction in Russia. I will focus on the most important thing: the Constitution of the country, on the initiative of the women's Union of Russia — the organization I represent, introduced paragraph 19 on equal rights, freedoms of men and women and equal opportunities for their implementation, adopted the national strategy for action in the interests of women for 2017-2022, which defines the main directions of state policy towards women in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, international treaties of the Russian Federation. The strategy is based on the fact that women's rights are an integral part of General human rights.

A number of strategic documents are being implemented in the Russian Federation for the benefit of women: the Concept of the state demographic policy for the period up to 2025, the Concept of the state family policy for the period up to 2025, the Strategy of actions for the benefit of senior citizens in the Russian Federation up to 2025.

In 2017, the national strategy for action for children was completed. Her successor was announced by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin program-Decades of childhood (2018-2027), aimed at solving demographic problems, support for motherhood and childhood. All of these measures contribute to progress towards the achievement of the sustainable development Goals by 2030 and highlight the increased efforts to achieve gender equality. Speaking about gender equality, we always rely on facts and statistics to get an objective picture. In the Russian Federation, of the 146. 5 million living, women make up 78.6 million, which is more than half of the country's population!

Our women have a high level of education (25% of doctors of science are women, 41% of candidates of science are women). Women are economically active, 77 per cent of the working age, and 49 per cent of the total population are employed. Russian women are actively involved in the governance of the state. Today, the Chairman of the Federation Council is Valentina Matvienko, the first woman in the history of Russia, who became the speaker of the upper house of Parliament, her Deputy - Galina Karelova.

Women hold high positions in the state Duma of the Russian Federation, among them Vice-speakers: Olga Epifanova, Olga Timofeeva and Irina Yarovaya. Among women parliamentarians are world-famous women, the pride of our state - women cosmonauts Valentina Tereshkova and Svetlana Savitskaya, Irina Rodnina and Svetlana Zhurova and many others. In

General, in the Seventh convocation of the state Duma, women became four times more than in the previous one.

At the highest state posts in the post of Deputy Chairman of RF Government Dmitry Medvedev's work Olga Golodets and Tatyana Golikova. Among the Ministers-Veronika Skvortsova (Minister of health) and Olga Vasilyeva (Minister of Education).

Among Russian leaders of high rank: Deputy Minister of defense, General of the army-Tatiana Shevtsova, Chairman of the Central Election Committee Ella Pamfilova, Commissioner for human rights Tatyana Moskalkova, Commissioner for children's rights Anna Kuznetsova, Chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation Elvira Nabibullina. Four women are headed by subjects of the Russian Federation – Natalia Zhdanova (Zabaikalsky Krai), Svetlana Orlova (Vladimir oblast), Marina Kovtun (Murmansk oblast), Natalia Komarova (Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug — Yugra). Russia has long been confidently ranked first in the world in terms of the number of women in public authorities. According to Rosstat, the state power consists of 72% of women: in the legislative power the number of women exceeds 55%, in the Executive - 70%, and in the judiciary - 77%.

Russia is the world leader in the number of women in business. According to the international organization Grant Thornton International, in 2017, women make up 45% of the management of companies in Russia. In addition to the world leadership in the number of women's leadership positions in business.

Russian women have equal voting rights. They participate in elections, elect and are elected to all levels of government, participate in the work of election commissions.

State policy in the field of gender law and protection of women is constantly being improved, so the state is also developing anti-discrimination measures: the prohibition of vacancy announcements containing requirements for gender, age, marital status, race, national language, religious beliefs .

Women realize themselves not only professionally, they perform their natural function, the function of motherhood. This support in the field of motherhood is facilitated by the state payments of monthly benefits in connection with the birth of a child (16,350 rubles), maternity capital payments (since 2006 ) at the birth of the second, third and subsequent child (45,3026 rubles). These funds are used to improve housing conditions, education of the child, social adaptation of disabled children, the funded part of the mother's pension.

In addition, the state is taking measures to create favorable conditions for combining family responsibilities for the upbringing of children, including children with disabilities, ensuring access to education from 3 to 7 years (in Russia this category of children is fully provided with kindergartens). At the legislative level, a person raising a disabled child is granted annual paid leave at a convenient time.

As you know, future generations depend on women's health, so Russia has continued the program to build new perinatal centers in the regions of the Russian Federation, in which at least 30% of rural women receive assistance. All future mothers are provided with birth certificates.

It should be noted that the Russian Federation has made progress in reducing maternal mortality. For the period from 1990-2017 G. maternal mortality decreased by 78,8 per cent. In eight regions, the maternal mortality rate was less than 5 per 100,000 live births, which corresponds to the level of developed countries.

In the Russian Federation, there is a steady decline in the number of abortions. Over the past five years, their number has fallen by 26, 4 per cent.

How the topic of domestic violence remains relevant all over the world. Measures were being taken everywhere to combat women's violence. In Russia, the service of Crisis centers, services and helplines is developed. In crisis Centres for women operating in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, about 60,000 women and more than 10,000 girls who have been subjected to violence receive assistance every year. NGOs are actively engaged in this problem. The Presidential grants Fund provides grants for NGOs in twelve areas, including violence prevention. More than eight billion rubles were allocated to support the projects of NGOs in 2018 .

Today there are 43 million pensioners in Russia, including a significant number of elderly women living alone. In the age group "60 years and older" there are 224 women per 100 men. Today the state has set goals of a fundamentally new level. By the end of the next decade, Russia should confidently enter the club of 80 plus countries, where life expectancy exceeds 80 years. Therefore, measures are already being taken for feasible employment, access to meaningful leisure time, active longevity of women. These tasks formed the basis of the "Strategy of actions in the interests of the citizens of the older generation in the Russian Federation until 2025".

Of course, all the identified areas, strategies, programs can not be implemented without the participation of NGOs. Currently, there are more than 227 thousand of them in Russia.

More than three thousand of the total number of NGOs are women's public organizations. Their activities are aimed at protecting the interests of women, family institutions, motherhood. One of them is the largest organization - "Union of women of Russia", which I represent today.

"Union of women of Russia" is a system organization, which includes more than 22 thousand councils of women of different levels living in eighty-two regions of the Russian Federation.

"Union of women of Russia" is the legal successor of the Committee of Soviet women, the organization has a 77-year history. One of the activities of the Union is to strengthen ties with the world civil society. The organization participates in events and actions, and interacts with various non-governmental organizations. In contacts with the foreign women's community, the Russian women's Union actively uses the platform for intercultural dialogue, dissemination of national and cultural values, clarification of Russia's domestic and foreign policy, and achievements in the field of men's and women's rights and opportunities.

It should be emphasized that in the development and adoption of the National strategy of action for women 2017-2022, the women of our organization worked together with the Ministry of labor and social development, gave an expert assessment of the comments and suggestions that came from different regions of the Russian Federation.

As part of its activities, the women's Union of Russia implements the program "Equality. Development. Peace in the 21ST century", which includes seven of their seven sub-programs: "a Strong family-a stable state", " for sustainable development and social security", " for guaranteed equality of rights and opportunities for men and women", " Spirituality. Culture. Healthy lifestyle", " Best practice. New idea. Positive actions", "For peace, international cooperation and friendship", "Women for the revival of the village".

It should be emphasized that the Union is not only concerned with women's issues, but is also actively developing the institution of fatherhood. The regional branches of the Chuvash Republic, Altai territory, Irkutsk, Belgorod, Ulyanovsk, Vladimir, Voronezh, Kirov regions, Sevastopol, Moscow have particularly succeeded in this area, where the Councils of women and the councils of fathers carry out joint projects aimed at preventing social ill-being, the formation of a healthy lifestyle, environmental education, the organization of active healthy leisure.

The Union of women of Russia builds all its work in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, decrees Of the President of the Russian Federation and Resolutions of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Federal law "on public associations", legislative acts of the Russian Federation adopted in Russia in the interests of women, family and children.

Among other important documents that underlie the activities of the organization are: the national strategy for women for the period 2017-2022; the concept of demographic policy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025; the Concept of state family policy in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025; the action Plan for 2015-2018 for the implementation of the first stage of the concept of state family policy In the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025; the Basis of state cultural policy; the Strategy of state cultural policy for the period up to 2030; The state program "Patriotic education of citizens of the Russian Federation for the period 2016-2020"; Strategies for the development of education in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025; Strategies for action in the interests of citizens of the older generation in the Russian Federation until 2025; Decree declaring 2018-2027 the Decade of childhood; the Final document of the first Eurasian women's forum (St. Petersburg, September, 2015).

Of particular importance to the activities of the women's Union of Russia, public organizations have also the following international instruments adopted by the United Nations: Main documents of the IV world Conference on women – Beijing Declaration and Platform for action, Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, Agenda for sustainable development for the period until 2030, adopted by the UN in 2015 and titled "change our world".

The implementation of human dimension commitments and gender issues are considered by the world community to be global, universal problems, the solution of which involves joint efforts, exchange of ideas, experience and information.

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