

Ms. Chi Hui-jung, Chair of the Global Network of Women's Shelters;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen: Good afternoon!

It is my great honor to attend the closing ceremony of the 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters. It is wonderful to see 1,400 participants from 100 countries gathering here to discuss the important issues of how to improve women's shelters and end violence against women.

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Taiwan, I want to convey my congratulation to the success of this important global conference and also wish to thank the Global Network of Women's Shelters and the Garden of Hope Foundation for having me here.

The theme of this year's conference "Impact: Solidarity" is to echo the joint efforts to ensure gender equality across borders, and to be free of political and social interference. I am very proud

to tell you that Taiwan has made remarkable progress on gender equality in recent years. I know you all know that we have a female President, and nearly 40 percent of Taiwan's Legislators and Mayors are women. And this year Taiwan was ranked by the World Bank for having the strongest legal protections for women's rights in Asia.

In spite of international recognitions on Taiwan's endeavors to ensure the protection of human rights and gender equality, my government will continue to work closely with other like-minded countries and partners to make further progress in this regard through the platforms such as the Taiwan-US Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF).

In fact, under this framework, we have held 4 workshops on gender equality, women's access to technology, female leadership, and women's economic empowerment over the past four years, demonstrating our government's firm commitment.

And with our European friends, Taiwan and the EU have a three-year framework program for the promotion of gender equality and human rights. This framework program already started with the Gender Mainstreaming Workshop in June and the LGBTI Seminar in October this year. Both workshops were well received both home and abroad.

In closing, I want to once again welcome you all to Taiwan. I hope that you will take this opportunity to experience our diversified culture and the warm hospitality of our people. Thank you.