

## **DEİK Women's Platform**

### **8th March International Women's Day Special Event**

**5 March 2024, DEİK, 11.00**

**Director General for International Economic Affairs of Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Ambassador H.E Aylin Sekizkök,**

**Ambassador of Spain H.E Cristina Latorre Sancho,**

**Ambassador of Ireland H.E Clare Brosnan,**

**DEİK Women's Platform Founding Chair Ebru Özdemir,**

**Board Members, Chair Persons,**

**Distinguished Participants, Media Members,**

I greet you all on behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEİK and grateful to be together for "DEİK Women's Platform," we launched last year to raise awareness about women's increasing role in the business world and their representation in senior executive positions.

First of all, I celebrate upcoming March 8th International Women's Day, our esteemed women, architects of our future, and who continuously elevate our DEİK family with contributions and efforts.

It's nice to be together 3 women Ambassadors, as well as our board members and business council chairs.

DEİK is one of the NGOs with a reasonable level of female representation, both at the board and business council chairs and boards...

If we look at the numbers, we have 13 female Business Council Chairs out of 152 and 43% of DEİK secretariat are women, where we hope to see more.

Here the question is, are those numbers enough?

First and very important, we do not have any negative impact for not to have, more active, more chair women in our DEİK family.

Second and also very important, we do not have women quotas where it may be possible in some organizations but here where the Chair persons and the board members are elected, not attended, is not possible.

Here, it basically depends on the number of women entrepreneurs and beyond that, number of women entrepreneurs who is ready to take role, to spend her time and money for this voluntary based membership.

And finally, as DEİK President and DEİK Board, we are supporting and will continue to support with all means, while the main role and responsibility belongs to our women entrepreneurs to develop the platform.

We see the positions that women hold in management and executive boards as an opportunity for positive change in society and especially in business world.

I would like to continue with a brief introduction of DEİK.

DEİK, is an NGO that has been continuing its activities for 40 years in order to enhance bilateral economic relations between Türkiye and other countries. We work with an understanding of “Business Diplomacy”, on a voluntary membership basis without using public funds. We have 152 country based and sectoral business councils all over the world.

Achieving all of this would be difficult without our women members.

The world of economy and trade is no longer one-dimensional. Today, economies are increasingly associated with environmental and social ecosystems. From production to consumption, all processes must be in harmony with the environment. Investments must be evaluated alongside their social impacts. While in the past, discussions around investments focused on technical and financial feasibility, today, environmental and social dimensions become integral. Financial institutions are now prioritizing these aspects in the projects they finance.

As these transformations shaping future economy, women will undoubtedly be our greatest actors. Whether as entrepreneurs or industrialists, policymakers in public sector, academics, private sector professionals, or leaders in civil society, women will be key actors in this new order.

For instance, as global value chain is being restructured, we recognize that supporting women’s entrepreneurship become increasingly important. As DEİK, one of the key items on our agenda will be, exploring how we can collaborate with our Embassies to support this cause.

We aspire to create platforms where our women can share their experiences in the business world on a global scale and support women

entrepreneurs in developing international collaborations. In this effort, our greatest strengths are, once again, our Ambassadors, Counterpart Organizations, and, of course, our women members.

I would like to finish my speech with a quote from well known poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou, where she says, **“Women rise, because they draw their strength from an inner source.”**

We are proud of the women who rise.

I’d like to extend my gratitude to our esteemed ambassadors, also all participants as well as to all those who made this event possible.

Thank you for your attention.

**Nail OLPAK**

**President of DEİK**