



## **HIC PRESIDENTS MESSAGE – INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY.**

Women are special. They nurture humanity, care and support the family unit and make the world a better place for all. The struggle for women’s equality started over a century ago. The first International Women’s Day was celebrated in March 1911. A world-renowned feminist, journalist and activist, Gloria Steinem says **“The story of women’s struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.”**

The International Women’s Day 2024 theme is **“inspire Inclusion”**. This theme invokes the critical need for upholding and valuing women’s inclusion. This will lead to a better world. It is time for women to begin feeling inspired and included. This will foster a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment.

As Habitat International Coalition (HIC) celebrates the 2024 International Women’s Day, it remembers all the women in its global movement who have been affected by war, famine and pandemics. HIC urges the World Leaders, systems and governance structures to eliminate discrimination, stereotypes and bias decision-making processes that exclude women. HIC looks forward to a world that will deliberately forge women’s economic empowerment, develop diverse talent, build infrastructure that meets the needs of women, support the rural women and girls in sustainable agriculture for improved food security and build their capacity in decision making.

*Together we make a better world for women and forge equality towards access to land, housing economic empowerment and digital inclusion. #Fosterinclusion.*