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Good afternoon. It is a real honor to be the rapporteur for this historic conference that we had for the last day and a half. This concludes the 1st International Conference on “Action with Women and Peace: Global Partnership to Combat Sexual Violence in Conflict.” We had many international organizations including UN agencies, governments including South Korea, Indonesia, and many others, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, and most importantly, the youth. And also, the great courageous survivors. They provided us with real stories and real solutions and I cannot thank them enough for the breadth and the depth of their experiences that they shared with us.

I could not do justice to try to summarize all the discussions that we had in the last day and a half, so let me provide three key messages that I gathered in lieu of a thorough rapporteur’s report.

The first one is the stark reality of the perpetuation of sexual violence in conflict. There has been a lack of a judicial system to properly bring justice for the survivors. Bringing perpetrators to justice and bringing governments to be accountable for the protection of its citizens from sexual violence in conflict has still not been realized. We learned that in 1474, over 500 years ago, there was a first rape conviction and prosecution of the perpetrators. But, we also learned that cases of rape and sexual violence in conflict are still rampant around the world and that they are not brought to justice in many incidences in 2019, some 500 years later after the first rape conviction. 1991 was the first year that the Korean comfort women, after more than 40 years since the colonial period and the World War II ended, when they first were able to come forward with their voice and their stories. 2019, as we heard from yesterday, we hear the evidence from across the world, in all corners of the world, in different countries and from different cultures. We still witness sexual violence in conflict that is rampantly used as a weapon of war, as a weapon of conflict. From the courageous survivors, from SEMA, who shared their horrific stories of the heinous crimes they suffered, but they stood before us as proud survivors who are making a difference in the fight against sexual violence in conflict. They emphasized the need to include and to empower the survivors from the beginning when we think of the reparation process. Their message that we should try to understand the plight of the perpetrators also, was not just about generosity, but more importantly to remind us that sometimes the perpetrators were there not by their own choice, but were forced as well. But, most importantly, we cannot forget the stories and messages of the survivors. They called us to action and to make reparations for them so that they are at the center of the reparation process. That we should recognize that each and every case is different, and that we must understand that the judicial systems are different in different countries. That we must come together to address sexual violence in conflict in all the different countries and their complexities.

The second key message is about the principles of reparation that we must think of. First, it should be from the perspective of survivors. I think of the disaster risk reduction cycle in

humanitarian assistance when after we encounter a disaster, we provide immediate humanitarian assistance, and then work to re-build resilience in the disaster site. I think of the cycle of sexual violence in conflict, when sexual violence occurs, the first step is the reporting that must take place, but unlike natural disasters, reporting itself presents a great hurdle and challenge. And then must come immediate physical care and psychological care, since sexual violence in conflict is a truly traumatic experience. And then comes the long-term resilience and capability building that includes economic empowerment, education and community reintegration. The reparation must include the judicial system and financial assistance for the care and recovery of the survivors. We need to understand this as a cycle, with the feedback that needs to go back for future prevention. Many presenters spoke about the importance of prevention. This is not to take the priority away from supporting the survivors of such heinous crimes. But, that we must also have concerted efforts for future prevention.

Second, from the perspective of the governments and their legal system. The judicial process must be properly recognized and realized. The government should be held accountable for the law and the prosecution of the perpetrators, and the implementation of the decisions that were taken. Third, from the perspective of the society at large. Change in the culture of blind tolerance, change in the culture of silence, and change in the culture of lack of action for impunity must take place. Culture that condones sexual violence as an act of cultural practice, as a religious excuse, or as exploitation of poverty should not be tolerated. The solution that we need is that we must recognize the urgency that the survivors need support and reparation now. They cannot wait 30, 50 years or even never for the reparation to come. The international community at large, the international organizations, governments, CSOs, academia, all of us must push ahead for action together.

Finally, we heard some great concrete solutions coming from different cultures and countries in different contexts. The concrete solutions were solely based on the survivor-centered approach. We understood that individual circumstances were different, and learned that in many cases it is not easy to identify the perpetrators. It happened in the darkness, it was perpetrated by people in militarily uniform, and it happened as a traumatic experience. So, we need to refine the judicial system to deal with cases when the perpetrators cannot be properly identified. We also need to work with the survivors from the beginning of the reparation process. We heard from Dr. Mukwege of the one-stop center for survivors, a very holistic approach being used at the Panzi Hospital with the four pillar approach that included physical care, psychological support, community reintegration services that included economic empowerment and education, and finally, legal assistance. Dr. Mukwege also mentioned that we often neglect the children, who are the babies born out of sexual violence. He spoke about how we must take care of these babies as well, so their dignity is restored, and that they are properly cared for.

In terms of the judicial system, we heard cases from national courts and also from the international criminal court (ICC) which is working hard to make reparation and to make justice to be realized. It is a crime against humanity when we talk about sexual violence in conflict. And the ICC and the law give power by acknowledging the harm done, seeking

reparation including in the judicial justice, and being used not only to prosecute the perpetrators, but also to deter others from committing the same crime, and to give the voice to the voiceless.

Finally, the international initiatives and fund that Dr. Mukwege and many others are envisioning, will hopefully fill the gap that the governments are not able to handle, or unwilling or incapable. The fund must fill the gap because the time is short. Providing proper reparation is what is needed, and the time is now, rather than make the survivors wait until the criminal justice in the domestic and international systems can bring a proper formal judgement. When they can finally report and speak of the crimes against humanity, it may take too long for the reparation that is needed now. So, in closing, going beyond the rapporteur's report, I would like to take advantage of my privileged position as rapporteur and conclude with three recommendations.

In the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals' motto, "Leave No One Behind," I call for three actions.

First, Reparation Now. We have moved from victim-centered to survivor-centered approach. In the day and a half conference, I felt that we need to call the survivors, victors. They should be respected as they should be listened to actively, to involve them in the reparation process from the beginning, as their empowerment starts with engaging them from the beginning of the process of reparation.

Second, Judicial Justice Now. National governments, the international criminal court and the international community need to come together to bring justice to the survivors, prosecute the perpetrators, hold the governments accountable, and deter future actions of crimes against humanity, so that the mistakes of the past will not be repeated in the future.

Finally, Global Partnership Now. It has been over 500 years since the first rape case was convicted and prosecuted, but to this day, justice for the survivors of sexual violence in conflict has not been fully realized in the judicial system, and the survivors' reparation has not been fully realized. Reparation taking over 30, 50 years is too long. It has happened across countries, across cultures over time. How much longer must we keep silent? How much longer must we turn a deaf ear to impunity? How much longer must we hesitate to act with a million excuses? So, I call the international organizations, governments, civil society organizations, and individuals, that we must come together to act now!

I would like to plea to Minister Kang to make sure that this conference is not the first one, that there will be a second and third and more, so that we can discuss and present concrete solutions and plans for the future.

I would like to ask all of us here to come together to Act Now!

Thank you very much.