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Thank you all for coming in such numbers, including those who travelled long distances or climbed over snowdrifts to get here. I know you've overcome bigger obstacles in your time.

Let me thank, first of all, Ambassador Tanmaya Lal of India and Ambassador Kelley Currie of the United States. Your two countries could be described as the founding mothers of UNDEF;

To moderate our panel, we have one of the ultimate experts, a scholar who has devoted all her academic life to women, civil society, and grassroots participation : Dr. Wairimu Njira of Williams College, who has known UNDEF's work well for many years, and this year joined UNDEF as an Advisory Board member. Wairimu will share with us some of her insights, findings and wisdom before the panel discussion.

But first, I am honored to give the floor to Ambassador Tamara Lal, the Deputy Perma

Good luck and thank you.