Your Royal Highness Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite,

Your Excellency..............,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President of FICAC, World Federation of Consuls, today, I’m honoured to have the opportunity to contribute to the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Her Royal Highness Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite, who is founder of the World Women's Health and Development Forum and Executive Director of the Royal Academy of Science which is identify the main challenges facing countries for developing and enhancing women health, science and gender equality and both vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed goals.

As FICAC, World Federation of Consuls, our main objective is “Bridging the World” and for this, we all need cooperation, goodwill, friendship, health, serenity, love, happiness, patience, tolerance, success and especially peace.

Our worldwide federation was founded in 1982 in Copenhagen, Denmark, in order to incorporate honorary consuls through the world, to strengthen their rights, but also to raise their responsibilities status and their security to universal standards.

FICAC is based in Brussels, Belgium, Capital of Europe, as an International Non Profit Association, recognized by a Royal Decree.

FICAC is recognized as a NGO with ECOSOC status by United Nations, but also by European Union and by the Organization of the American States.

Of course, FICAC is fully supporting all of the high priority for United Nations, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

When I was elected President, in November 2015 in Istanbul, one of my first decision was to set up a Central Committee named “Women in diplomacy” and I was very happy that Her Royal Highness Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite accepted immediately to be the Honorary Chairperson of this important Committee, only composed by Women, who are also honorary consuls and actively involved in all the fields of activities, including science and business.

The first women in diplomacy document issued by the British Foreign Office according to which Spain appears to have pioneered the employment of women as diplomats in 1507, Ferdinand of Aragon sent his widowed daughter Catherine formal credentials as his ambassador in England. The British Foreign Office has been employing women since its creation in 1782, routine diplomatic assistance was carried out by the views of diplomats, all without a salary.

In 1933, 13 countries including Nicaragua and Turkey had admitted women to their diplomatic and consular services.

During the interwar period, the United States of America and the Soviet Union were the most enterprising in the appointment of women as diplomats, even if the numbers involved were small.

In modern times women are emerging as major peacemakers of the societies all around the world. Women are innately equipped with diplomatic skills such as negotiating, intelligence seeking and maintaining peace.

Nowadays, women taking leadership roles in diplomacy still remains an unpopular concept among diplomats in many parts of the world, but countries are increasingly inclined to adhere to the trends of modern diplomacy in which men and women are represented equally, based on merit and standing. The 21st century is the century for the social, political, economic and scientific empowerment of women around the world, and this will be manifested in diplomacy.

And as President Henri Ford said;

“Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success.”

Thank you.