## Message for the World Assembly for Women in Tokyo 2014



## H.E. Roza Otunbayeva Ex-president of the Kyrgyz Republic Founder of the Roza Otunbay

## Founder of the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative Foundation

We live in Kyrgyzstan among mountains often at the altitude of 2000-2500 meters above the sea level. The mountain peaks pierce the sky. Like in many other countries one half of the sky in my country is held up by women on their shoulders. Women have kept our country afloat during the last two decades. Women also have been carrying the major weight of the transition

period from socialism towards market economy, which has already been around for too long. Today women in the Kyrgyz Republic are in high positions: the Chairwoman of the Supreme Court, the General Prosecutor, the Chairwoman of the Auditors Chamber, members of the cabinet and parliamentarian, ambassadors, heads of banks and businesses, the leaders of absolute majority of the more than 10 000 NGOs, newspapers and internet portals; almost all teachers, medical doctors, seamstresses, small shop owners, farmers. We are happy and applaud the promotion of women to the new government of Japan - this warm news went around the globe very rapidly.

I would like to welcome the delegates of the Women's Assembly that have gathered during these days in Tokyo. A lot on the Globe depends on strong, educated, and aspiring women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Japan for this opportunity of meeting women of the entire planet, for the noble and generous support that the people of Japan provide for many decades to the development of women in various corners of the world.



