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Navneet Kaur Advances India's Gender Equality Efforts at UN

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Dr. Navneet Kaur, Vice Chairperson of the All India Sustainable Development Council (AISDC), represented India at a United Nations summit in New York, where she presented a series of grassroots development initiatives aimed at improving governance, education, and economic opportunity for women and rural communities.

The event, held to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, brought together global leaders to assess progress in community-driven development. Dr. Kaur delivered her address alongside Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, calling for more country-led models that reflect local priorities and on-the-ground experience.

In her speech, Dr. Kaur outlined several AISDC programs implemented across India. These include Gender Equity Clubs, active in more than 200 schools to help address safety and awareness, and Economic Inclusion Hubs in 12 Indian states that support job training and entrepreneurship. The council also promotes Rural Book Clubs for public education on legal rights and oversees workplace Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act.

UN Women acknowledged the AISDC's work as an example of practical, community-based action. Dr. Kaur emphasized that such programs are essential for bridging the gap between legislation and real-world outcomes. "We aim to create spaces where local voices shape local solutions," she stated during her remarks.

She also noted the importance of stronger legal safeguards in areas such as child protection and anti-trafficking efforts. Referencing existing frameworks like the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, Dr. Kaur called for increased coordination between legal mechanisms and civil society.

Representing the region of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Kaur concluded by encouraging international institutions to align policy discussions with measurable field-level progress. "When development is shaped by those closest to the challenge, results follow, from village councils to international platforms," she said.

The All India Sustainable Development Council is registered with the United Nations and operates as an independent policy organization focused on inclusive development and institutional reform across India.