

## Mrs. Trudy Morgan, WHS Announcement Plenary speech

### **Daring to speak out**

Honourable Heads of State, Excellences, delegates, fellow Humanitarians and Diasporans, ladies and gentlemen.

I once read that Billy Joel said Musicians want to be the loud voice for so many quiet hearts. And to that I added, so many bleeding hearts, so many despairing hearts, so many saddened hearts.

And I believe that is why we are here today....to be that loud voice. I know that is why I am here, speaking to you today. To be the voice of the people who cannot speak for themselves, who do not have the right to speak, who do not have the opportunity to speak, who do not have the courage to speak for themselves!

Coming from a civil war, into a medical war, peppered with numerous economic battles along the way, it's easy to become silent. Where I am from, the dogs no longer bark, few birds still sing and there are few flowers that still bloom. The silence is deafening.....and the people suffer.

And it is not just where I am from.....all across the world, there is a huge crisis going on.

Today, I choose to add my voice to the messages that come from all over the world. I add my voice because I have the opportunity to step up and stop being afraid. I add my voice because I have been given the courage of my background and the privilege of my education. I add my voice because I believe my words will be heard. I add my voice because I know somebody will care, somebody will act and lives will be changed.

This summit is a pivotal moment in history. Today we recognize, salute and celebrate the work being done by humanitarians across the world – but we also recognize our weaknesses in the face of unprecedented levels of crisis. We need to do more, and to do differently. As diasporas working to provide humanitarian aid, our role has not always been understood. **Today we stand with the leaders of the world and reaffirm our willingness and ability to work with you to deliver a safer, more humane world.** Our joint experiences and expertise will make the task of reducing the suffering easier, for ourselves and those we are trying to help.

As Diasporan organisations, we are able to straddle both worlds. The world of the suffering and the world that seeks to alleviate it. For the most part, we have lived the pain and have been able to get out of it. Because of that, most Diasporan organisations want to “give back” which means we sometimes go the extra mile and then the extra 100 miles. We make a difference because in those we help, we see our mothers, our fathers, our brothers and our sisters. We understand the language, the culture, the nuances and are able to break down barriers good will alone sometimes can't.

With our networks, our knowledge and our access, we can support donor organisations and collaborate with other aid providers towards a complementary, joint response to the benefit of those who are at the heart of all our endeavors: affected communities, people without voices.

So what is our next step?