On October 11, girls from Plan India’s communities India took over positions of 114 leaders and change makers across the country, demonstrating their power and potential on the International Day of the Girl.

The girls stepped into the shoes of Ambassadors and High Commissioners of ten Diplomatic Missions, policy makers, senior government officials, Block Development Officers, business leaders, radio personalities, news editors, head teachers, Child Welfare Committee chairpersons, village council leaders and even Plan India’s own Executive Director, Bhagyashri Dengle!

Acting as insightful leaders and decision makers, the girls epitomised their ability and determination to pave the way for a brighter future. They led critical conversations around gender, policy and the multi-level changes required for all girls to be able to live a life of their choosing.

Celebrations took place across state programmes, bringing together youth and future leaders, communities, institutions, civil society, government and intergovernmental organisations for the cause of girls.

In Delhi, 250 people came together to commemorate the International Day of the Girl with girls who took over twelve Diplomatic Missions and their counterparts as well. The event featured an interactive chat with the Ambassadors for a Day and Ambassadors moderated by Plan India Governing Board Member, Madhukar Kamath, and an interactive 42-foot long art installation curated by artists Ela and Prashanta Mukherjee with youth from Plan India’s communities. Click here for a detailed report of the takeovers with the Missions, and here (http://bit.ly/2gN7DsS) for a glimpse of the leaders who participated in the same.

The event also saw the release of Plan International’s ‘Unlock the Power of Girls Now’ research report on why gender equality is the social and political issue of our time, by Plan India Patron Surina Narula, and Plan India Governing Board Treasurer and Mr Kamath.

Through its efforts, Plan India strives to make girls more visible and drive new opportunities for action and investment in them. Working with stakeholders across sectors, the girls’ takeovers are a step towards sustainable change.

When girls with equal opportunities, they transform their lives and their communities. The success of the girls’ rights movement relies on girls and their supporters coming together.

Globally, this International Day of the Girl, the Plan family came together for 600 takeovers across 60 countries. We stand committed to our movement – to ensure girls everywhere learn, lead, decide and thrive.