Hello, I’m Julie Sweet, CEO of Accenture. I am so proud to welcome you to our International Women’s Day celebration.

You can only have a culture of equality if you start with the belief that diversity matters, that it’s not only the right thing to do, but that it’s an important part of your business. You then have a commitment to actually have a diverse company.

When I think about what steps that we’re taking at Accenture to build a culture of equality, I go right back to the research that we published that laid out a roadmap because it is the roadmap that we followed and it has three components.

The first is leadership and that’s about having commitment from the top, setting clear goals, holding leaders accountable and being very clear that our commitment to diversity and to a culture of equality are a business priority, just like our other business priorities.

The second component of that roadmap is about programs and policies and making sure you have the right ones in place and that’s everything from having the right Employee Resource Groups, to things like parental leave.

And the third component, which is critical, is all about having the right environment, which means that people can come to work, they can bring their whole selves to work and that not only do we make sure that the great diversity of our workforce is reflected at our leadership tables, but that those who are at the leadership table, not only have a seat there, but they have a voice.