

**COLOMBIA**



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REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE ALTERNO  
MISION PERMANENTE DE COLOMBIA ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS  
PUNTO 1 – INSTALACION DE LA SESION - JUNTA EJECUTIVA – ONU-  
MUJERES**

Nueva York, 15 de septiembre de 2020

*Verificar contra el discurso pronunciado*

Excellencies, Members of the Bureau, Members of the Executive Board of UN-Women,

Thank you for convening this important session.

Today, I would like to start by recognizing the role of UN-Women in Colombia, and its valuable support in the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UN-Women has made a valuable contribution to my country in supporting the consolidation of strategies that promote the economic empowerment of women, with emphasis on productive projects, construction of labor opportunities, solidarity economies, and care economy.

The Government of Colombia and UN-Women have been working together within the inter-institutional cooperation framework. Our goal is to continue strengthening the inter-agency work, and to reduce the duplication of efforts and the atomization of cooperation.

Dear President,

Regarding the topics of this Session of the Executive Board, it is important to mention the preparation process of the new Strategic Plan. We support a process based on a consultation mechanism, that takes into account the particularities at the global, regional and local levels, as well as the lessons learned.

## COLOMBIA



Colombia supports a Strategic Plan that gives relevance to the concept of “Leaving No One Behind”, while addressing cross-cutting issues.

It is fundamental to consider a systematic approach with appropriate products and services, that will optimize UN-Women’s structure and presence.

We are concerned, however, for the reduction of core resources in the general budget of UN-Women. This circumstance diminishes its capacity to address ordinary operations, and to tackle unforeseen challenges around the world.

Therefore, we do believe on the need of seeking innovative forms of financing, as well as implementing actions to mitigate the risks represented by the dependence on traditional financial sources.

In this time, the continued efforts in monitoring, evaluating and tracking the volume of funding, becomes fundamental.

Evaluation is an important tool for the issuance of impartial diagnostic mechanisms on the efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the interventions. Independent evaluation is pivotal for a transparent and efficient improvement of the management team.

Colombia welcomes the Report on the Meta-synthesis of the UN-Women evaluations. UN-Women plays a great role within the UN System and is a positive factor of increasing coherence on gender mainstreaming, gender parity, and system-wide accountability issues.

I want to congratulate UN-Women for its clarity in the field of governance structures and roles, when working across agencies, especially in the context of joint programs.

The strategic focus of the Agency has promoted synergies and a better use of comparative advantages.

**COLOMBIA**



Mr. President,

To conclude, it is clear that there are still many challenges ahead of us. UN Women can count with the unwavering support of Colombia and our commitment to work for gender parity and the construction of more prosperous and peaceful society.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are at the center of our sustainable development agenda.

As Churchill stated: "Success is not final; failure is not fatal; It is the courage to continue that counts."

Thank you very much.