

**COLOMBIA**



**PALABRAS DEL EMBAJADOR  
ANDRÉS RUGELES PINEDA  
REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE ALTERNO DE COLOMBIA  
INSTALACIÓN SESIÓN PRINCIPAL JUNTA ONU-MUJERES**

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*Verificar contra el discurso pronunciado*

Mr. President, Mrs. Director, Members of the Board and Observers:

Thank you for convening this important session of the Executive Board of UN-Women in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to start by highlighting Colombia's unwavering commitment to gender equality.

My Government appreciates the valuable support of UN-Women in the implementation of important strategic actions such as the creation of the High Level Group of the Ombudsman's Office on COVID-19 and Violence against Women. We must continue fighting against this "hidden pandemic".

Based on the recognition of the differentiated effects of the pandemic and the recognition of the specific needs of women and girls, Colombia has developed concrete actions in areas such as accompaniment and economic support for women; strengthening our economy with a gender focus;

encouraging entrepreneurship through the use of digital platforms; education support with emphasis on people in situation of vulnerability; and redistribution of unpaid care work, especially with the “It’s for men and women” campaign.

This is the time to show our satisfaction with the achievements in the implementation of the UN-Women Strategic Plan. In that regard, I would like to draw attention to the added value of UN Women in supporting countries to consolidate strategies that promote the economic empowerment of women, with an emphasis on productive projects, labor relations, solidarity economy and care economy.

Colombia encourages UN-Women to continue working with other entities of the UN Country Team, as it is doing within the Core Group for the Response to COVID-19.

UN-Women should advance in the repositioning of the United Nations Development System to ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women are at the center of the sustainable development agenda.

I would like to conclude evoking Eleanor Roosevelt, who stated "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

We do believe in a fair world for women and girls. Thank you.