

COLOMBIA



Ambassador GUILLERMO FERNÁNDEZ DE SOTO REMARKS

Learning from Grassroots Women Peacebuilders:
Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda Beyond 2020

New York, October 26th, 2020

Dear Madam Chair,

- I would like to thank Ireland for the invitation to participate and co-sponsor this important event.
- I express Colombia's appreciation for Ambassador Geraldine's work and congratulate her country for the upcoming chair as an E10 of the Security Council.
- The 20th anniversary of the SCR 1325 provides an opportunity to reiterate political commitment, consider concrete actions, and scale-up investment in gender equality.

- Colombia has been an example in the implementation of this Resolution.
- We do believe that political and economic empowerment and the promotion of women's leadership are indispensable for the achievement of a peaceful and inclusive society, based on principles of legality, entrepreneurship and equity.
- My Government is convinced that the participation of women in peace building is a priority issue.
- It contributes not only to achieving the transformations that the Peace with Legality policy proposes, but also to offering females, particularly in rural areas, conditions to help them achieve their economic autonomy and have a better life.
- It facilitates the generation of workspaces in decent conditions that break with the cycles of violence that violate their rights.

Madam Chair,

- After the signing of the 2016 Peace Accord, which was recognized by the Secretary General as one of the most gender inclusive agreements, the plan for implementation, which comprised more than 500 indicators, including 51 regarding gender approach policies.
- The aforementioned gender indicators are aligned with the 4 pillars of the Resolution 1325.
- In this regard, the Colombian Government has been working on a coordinated manner within the framework of the functions of the Inter-institutional Commission for the incorporation of the gender approach. This Commission is known as the “Government’s High Gender Body”.
- Likewise, the formulation of Territorial Approach Development Programs, which are the initiatives that cover the 170 municipalities most affected by violence and poverty,

had the participation of more than 200.000 people, of whom nearly 33% were female. The result was 32,808 initiatives, of which 13% have the brand of “rural women and gender”.

- These initiatives are aligned with the Resolution 1325 and are aimed at benefiting women, in key areas such rural property, infrastructure and land projects, quality of health, and access and quality of education.
- The Agency for Reincorporation (ARN) currently manages and articulates the inter-institutional implementation of the Policy for the Economic and Social Reincorporation of former FARC members, which included specific actions for the development of reincorporation with a gender and rights-based approach.
- These actions are framed in the following thematic axes:

- (i) Articulation and planning processes;
 - (ii) Community reincorporation in the territory;
 - (iii) Conditions for access to mechanisms and resources necessary for economic stabilization and development;
and
 - (iv) Conditions for access and attention to the fundamental and integral rights of former FARC members and their families.
- The main challenge that remains for the participation of women in peacebuilding scenarios is in terms of security.
 - Actions by illegal armed groups and actors related to drug trafficking and illegal economies hinder their participation in the construction and consolidation of peace. Particularly it affects their process of reincorporation, as well as those who are part of the National Comprehensive Program of Illicit Crops substitution.

- The Government of Colombia has the unwavering commitment to promoting women's leadership and their participation in different political scenarios.
- In fact, for the first time we have a female Vice-president; this Government has the first joint cabinet in the history of Colombia; and for the first time our National Development Plan includes a special chapter dedicated to women's equity.
- This Development Plan has among its objectives the creation of the National Women's System, which will bring together the policies, strategies, and instruments adopted to guarantee that their rights are part of the agenda of all branches of public.

Madam Chair,

- The WPS agenda is a priority for my Government. We are pleased to be here today, sharing experiences and learning from each other.

- Once again our gratitude to Ireland and the other cosponsors for this valuable space of discussion.
- I want close these remarks with a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt, who used to state: “The world of the future is in our making. Tomorrow is now.”

Thank you.