

COLOMBIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF COLOMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Consultation of the Peacebuilding Commission
2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture
“Full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding”

New York, April 30th, 2020

Dear President,

I would like to express Colombia’s appreciation for your work as chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and for your efforts to adapt the work plan of the Commission to these times of uncertainty due to the pandemic. In order to contribute to the consultations regarding full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding, as part of the PBA review, please take the following as Colombia’s contributions.

As the 20th anniversary of SCR 1325 coincides with the review of the peacebuilding architecture, it provides an opportunity to reiterate political commitment, consider concrete actions, and scale-up investment in gender equality, as an essential part of the peacebuilding agenda.

Colombia has been an example in the implementation of Resolution 1325, recognizing that for the achievement of a peaceful and inclusive society based on principles of legality, entrepreneurship and equity, political and economic empowerment and the promotion of women's leadership are indispensable.

My Government is convinced that the participation of women in peace building is a priority issue that contributes to achieving the transformations that the Peace with Legality policy proposes to offer women, particularly rural women,

better conditions for life translated into their economic autonomy, as well as in the generation of work spaces in decent conditions that break with the cycles of violence that violate women's rights.

Some of our recent actions can be taken into account not only as ways of empowering women in peacebuilding contexts, but also priorities and challenges face by women peacebuilders that must be addressed.

After the signing of the peace accord of 2016, which was recognized by the Secretary General as one of the most gender inclusive agreements, the plan for implementation, which comprised more the 500 indicators, included 51 regarding gender approach policies.

The aforementioned indicators are aligned with the 4 pillars of Resolution 1325. Additionally, the Government has been working on inter-institutional coordination through articulation within the framework of the functions of the Inter-institutional Commission for the incorporation of the Gender Approach. This Commission is known as the High Gender Instance (Group) of Government.

Likewise, the formulation of Territorial Approach Development Programs - PDET for its acronym in Spanish – 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 65,000 were women. The result was 32,808 initiatives, of which 4,408 have the brand of rural women and gender.

These 4,408 initiatives are aligned with the 4 pillars of Resolution 1325, since 359 of them seek women to benefit from the rural property social order, 155 seek women to benefit from infrastructure and land projects, 499 aim to improve access and quality of rural health for women, and 716 seek to improve access and quality of education for rural women.

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 4 thematic axes: (i) the strengthening of the articulation and planning processes; (ii) promoting community reincorporation in the territory; (iii) the conditions for access to mechanisms and resources necessary for economic stabilization and projection and; (iv) the conditions for access and attention to the fundamental and integral rights of former FARC members and their families.

Additionally, the ARN established the Social and Economic Reincorporation Route that includes seven (7) components: education, economic sustainability, habitability and housing, health, comprehensive psychosocial, family and community well-being. These components integrate the gender focus, the differential, ethnic focus, life course and disability, and will contribute to the access and effective enjoyment of economic and social rights, as well as to the strengthening of capacities of people and groups in reincorporation.

This Gender Instance of the National Government established spaces for permanent dialogue with the Special Instance of Women, whose purpose is to contribute to monitoring the approach and guarantee of women's rights in the implementation of the Final Agreement, made up of representatives of women's organizations from civil society.

The ARN made progress in promoting scenarios for the participation of women from the community and former FARC members, both in the development of reconciliation strategies, peaceful coexistence, peace building and in non-repetition exercises.

But it is absolutely undeniable that 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 persist that hinder the participation of women in the construction and consolidation of peace.

The PBC must therefore continue to use its convening and advisory role to provide a platform for women peacebuilders from different contexts to share experiences and for exchange of expertise.

President Duque is committed to advancing the participation of women in the leadership of the different political scenarios. For the first time we have a Woman as our Vice-president, this Government has the first joint cabinet in the history of Colombia, and the National Development Plan includes a chapter dedicated to promoting women's equity, called the "Equity Pact for Women". The latter 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 women's rights are part of the agenda of all branches of public.

Many thanks