

## Speech of Ana Cristina Pino from Colombia for the meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission meeting on Women and Peace and Security

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My name is Ana Cristina Pino, and I work with the Corporación Centro de Apoyo Popular (CENTRAP) in Colombia. CENTRAP works for the protection of the human rights of women in the territories, and for the organizational strengthening and empowerment of women at the local level. In the department of Chocó, we have implemented a project, which supports the participation of women and youth in the management of socio-environmental conflicts and armed conflict. The project was implemented with the support of UN Women and the multi-donor fund [Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund - WPHF].

CENTRAP works in different departments with the Afro-Colombian, indigenous and rural populations. For us, sustainable peace is only possible if we change the dominant models of the economy and challenge patriarchy. Structural changes are required to shift the dynamics of power. We need to challenge the patriarchal system, and eliminate forms of colonial discrimination that affect indigenous and Afro-Colombian women and of force them into a position of exclusion and subordination.

In addition, we believe that it is of paramount importance to guarantee the economic rights of women. It is necessary to protect women-led economic initiatives that have a sustainable approach, that are not valued, and that are advanced by Afro-Colombian, indigenous and rural women. Economic empowerment of women is a pre-requisite for advancing women's roles in governance and ensuring that they are actors of local development and in local economy.

Women's political empowerment and inclusion is equally important and has to do with advancing real equality for women. Peace is possible if we exercise true democracy both at home and in the community. But above all, peace will never be sustainable if we fail to eliminate all forms of violence against women and gender-based violence, which are enabled and perpetuated by the patriarchal system.

Through the many years of experience of working to protect women and the territory for several years, we have identified a number of challenges, which I think it is necessary to address.

Therefore, I would request the members of the Peacebuilding Commission to keep the following priorities in mind as you provide recommendations for the Peacebuilding Architecture Review:

- **First, prioritize women's economic empowerment as part of peacebuilding efforts.** We need to break with the idea that women's economic empowerment projects are of lower value. We need to support women-led economic initiatives that have a place in territorial development.
- **Second, eliminate the "digital divide".** At this challenging time for all of humanity, we need to provide women with access to connectivity and technology;
- **Thirdly, guarantee the basic rights of poor women.** We need to empower women and young women who are unprotected;
- **Moreover, support inclusive implementation of peace agreements.** In Colombia, we need to ensure that the strong gender approach of the peace agreement becomes an effective tool to guarantee women's access to land;**We need to protect and support human rights defenders**, not only by protecting their lives, but also providing them with resources;
- **Finally, understand that peace is a culture.** We need cultural change in education systems to eliminate gender inequality.