



Permanent Mission of Ecuador
to the United Nations

Remarks by Ambassador Luis Gallegos,
Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations,

**Ambassadorial-level Consultation of the Peacebuilding Commission on the
“Full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding”**

1 May 2020

2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture

1.- I welcome the briefing by Ambassador Blanchard of Canada, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and thank him for organizing this consultation to ensure a substantive and effective Peacebuilding Architecture Review during this 2020, during this extraordinary and difficult circumstances due to COVID-19.

2.- I also wish to express my appreciation to Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women for her leadership, and to the other briefers: Ms. Euphemia Akos Dzathor, from Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET); Ms. Tintswalo Makhubele, Secretary-General of South Africa’s Congress of Non-Profit Organizations (SACONO) and Ms. Ana Cristina Pino Cabrera, Director at Peoples Support Corporation Center (CENTRAP) form Colombia.

3.- While inequality was already a major challenge for peace and development, COVID-19 crisis exacerbates inequalities by impacting women incomes; increasing domestic violence, conflict related sexual violence, trafficking, early marriage, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse.

4.- On this regard, on 8 April 2020, Ecuador joined the Secretary General Antonio Guterres call on Gender violence during the pandemic COVID-19. At

the same time Ecuador acknowledges the key role played by women in the fight against the pandemic.

5.- In February 2018, in Ecuador, came into force the "Comprehensive Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence Against Women". This represents an important advance at the national level and ensures the involvement of women in the work for its implementation. On the same framework Ecuador undertook a great national campaign to eradicate discrimination and violence against women.

6.- My delegation strongly believes that we should give special consideration to the differentiated impact on women, by violence and conflict.

7.- Ecuador supports and promotes a greater participation of women in peace processes as well as in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. For that reason, access has improved for women in the Ecuadorian Armed Forces and in diplomacy, although much more remains to be done.

8.- Ecuador believes that it is also central for the Peacebuilding Fund to focus on investments on cross-border programming, and in support of women and youth-led peacebuilding initiatives. We also support an effective implementation of Resolutions 1325 as the best way to commemorate its adoption 20 years ago.

9.- The 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture should aim to ensure a greater promotion of gender dimensions of peacebuilding, as well as a stronger support to gender-sensitive and targeted programming.

10.- To conclude, Ecuador believes that implementing the Secretary General call for a global ceasefire would allow a greater protection for women and girls. But while conflict persist it is vital that we support the participation of

women in peacebuilding processes, as well as in the planning and development of preventive diplomacy.

Thank you very much.