



**“FULL, EQUAL AND MEANING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING
2020 REVIEW OF THE PEACEBUILDING ARCHITECTURE**

PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION CONSULTATION
(New York, May 1st 2020)

We would like to thank the chair for convening this consultation, specially during this challenging and extraordinary context. Also we thank the important remarks provided by the speakers to this session.

This year is particularly special for the Women, Peace and Security agenda since we celebrate simultaneously the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the 20th anniversary of resolution S/RES/1325 by which the Security Council unanimously introduced this subject into the Council agenda.

These anniversaries constitute transcendental milestones for the advancement on the rights of women in different areas, including those related to international peace and security. In these particular fields it is undeniable the importance of incorporating women and their perspectives on the processes of peacebuilding in order to ensure a sustainable peace. However, and nonetheless this universal understanding among member States, evidence show us that we must step up our efforts to have the necessary levels of effective, full, equal and meaningful participation of women. Indeed, some studies demonstrate women accounted, between 1992 and 2018, only for 13% of negotiators, 3% of mediators and 4% of signatories in major peace processes; also, in 2018, only 7.7% of agreements had gender-related provisions, down from the 39% in 2015

The Agenda 2030 has a concrete and strong goal referred to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, acknowledging that we cannot move forward if half of humanity is left behind since it is the only way can assure an inclusive and sustainable development. Similarly, if a peacebuilding process does not consider women in their double dimension (as active



agents for peace and beneficiaries of it), it will be limited in scope and results. If we want to speed up the realization of this objective, assuring women participation itself is not enough it has to be meaningful, equal considered and at all decision-making levels.

We ought to work in our societies to address the legal and cultural barriers to this aim. Our norms should promote and ensure a relevant participation of women at all levels and spheres. Also, stigma and negative social patterns has to be modified to see the true positive value of women in societies and the contribution they make for the construction of peace.

The current crisis due to spread of the COVID-19 has revealed us two facts affecting women, and that could worsen their role in peace and security processes. First, the pandemic deepens inequalities and makes the gaps even greater. Despite the fact that women seems to have a lower rate of developing more severe symptoms or dead than men, there is a consensus worldwide that the socio-economic impact of the pandemic and the measures adopted to seize it is greater on women. Moreover, a second dimension is the participation of women in the emergency response: 70% of healthcare workers are women, as well as an important portion of first-line responders and essential workers. Not to mention the unequal burden of house work, child and sick care, and the increasing rates of domestic and gender based violence during the lockdown and curfew periods.

In this context, in the attention response to the COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining essential services to face gender based violence (GBV) during lockdowns and curfew periods, and to provide sexual and reproductive health, should be assured, especially in contexts where conflict happens and women and girls are more vulnerable, needing a gender responsive humanitarian assistance as well. On the other side, in the recovery phase of the pandemic, the implementation of a gender responsive approach will be needed in order to build inclusive societies. Without this approach, we will not only fail in the implementation of the Agenda 2030, but mainly we will weak the core pillars of the Women, Peace and Security agenda: protection, prevention, participation and relief and recovery, and it will represent a serious rollback in the progress made on this topics during the last decades. This will have wider impacts on gender-based violence prevention and response efforts, women's participation in peacebuilding and security processes, and humanitarian assistance.



The wide participation of women in the emergency response to the health crisis has put in evidence the contribution they make. This is not a potential but a reality. If they are able to be at the front-line of a crisis that has lock-down the entire world it cannot be argued their capability to face other contexts such as those related to international peace and security.

Promoting and ensuring a full, equal a meaningful participation of women in our societies, including in peacebuilding processes, can only be achieved by a strong political commitment and support. In Peru, this is a work on progress and a gender-responsive approach is promoted in all our institutions. Some examples of this process are the recently enacted National Gender Equality Policy, which was approved last year. Also, at our top decision-making level, almost half of our ministries are currently leaded by women since equal representation is a key point to move forward an inclusive society for all.

In the light of the 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, Peru expresses its strong commitment to continue working with other interested States to address the outstanding problems regarding this matter, especially where conflict remains and women and girls are more vulnerable, with the purpose of achieving a peaceful environment where they can enjoy a life free from violence and discrimination.