

HOLHUASHI DIALOGUE SUMMARY

“Women in Diplomacy”

SUMMARY

On 11 February 2022, the President of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, convened the sixth *Holhuashi Dialogue* on the theme, “Women in Diplomacy”.

Summary of the main points highlighted at the meeting are as follows:

- Despite the increasing recognition of the indispensable role of women in decision-making processes, political life, and in multilateral processes, women are severely underrepresented in senior diplomatic positions.
- Greater efforts are needed by governments to address the critical issues that undermine gender equality, including the obstacles that stand in the way of equal female participation in the diplomatic field.
- Advocacy, awareness-building, and gender mainstreaming is critical to change mind-sets and address unconscious gender bias.
- Providing platforms for exchange of experiences, good practices and lessons learned is important. Towards that end, networks and mentorship programs among women diplomats can create more opportunities for women’s voices to be heard, to seek support and provide solidarity.
- It is important to understand and analyze the disproportionate impact of global crises situations on women and girls.
- A combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies is needed to provide for a more nuanced analysis of the number and experiences of women working in the diplomatic field at different levels.
- Quantifiable data will enable us to understand whether existing policies are having a positive impact on women and girls’ lives. Currently there is no formal institution keeping track of data relevant to gender equality worldwide.
- There is need to recognize the indispensable role played by women in diplomacy through the observance of an **International Day of Women in Diplomacy**.