

COLOMBIA



COLOMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

H.E. Mrs. Claudia Blum
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

In Colombia, these actions are focused on care for children and older family members. Among other initiatives, we can highlight the programs: Welfare Community Homes, Children's Homes, Community Kindergardens, and Infants and Preschoolers. Their implementation combines State support and community solidarity, in caring for children living in the same neighborhood, in the areas of nutrition, protection and individual development.

In Colombia, there are other programs that have significant impact on family welfare such as the School Restaurants program, and the Families in Action program that provides a direct monetary support to mothers, which is provided under the condition of fulfilling commitments in education and health for children.

On the other hand, the Government has encouraged the adoption of action plans by the private sector in order to facilitate the equitable distribution of family responsibilities of employees. In this area, last 6 March, twelve national business associations signed, in a meeting with the President of Colombia, the "Agenda for Labor Equality". With this agenda, they have committed to adopt measures to eliminate discrimination between women and men, and to contribute to reconcile work and family life. These action plans include support services to prevent women's desertion from work, such as flexible schedules and the provision of child care facilities. The agenda will have a steering committee in charge of verifying its implementation.

In 2002, Congress approved the first law on paternity leave which grants to the spouse or permanent partner some leave days for the care of newborn infants.

In addition, national statistical systems have been strengthen in order to make men and women's roles in households, and their contribution to the society from these spaces, more visible. In Colombia, the National Department of Statistics and the Observatory for Gender Issues have made significant progress in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

Women's participation in high positions of the State continues to expand in Colombia. The latest report on the implementation of the national Quota Law, indicates that in 2008, in the executive branch, 23% of the ministries, 29% of vice-ministries and 50% of presidential programs are headed by women. Female participation in senior positions in ministries is 48%. In entities of the judicial branch such as the General Prosecutor's Office, and in other autonomous bodies, the figure exceeds 30%.

In the legislative branch, currently, in the election for the period 2006-2010, women were elected for 12% of Senate's seats and 10.3% of the House of Representatives'

