



Statement by
H.E. Mrs. Griselda Blum
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Third Committee

Item 28: Advancement of women
General Segment

New York, October 12, 2019

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the resolutions delivered by Chile on behalf of the Rio Group and by Chile on behalf of the Rio Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Group for the report on the implementation of Resolution 63/155 concerning the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, which reflects the actions undertaken by States, including Colombia.

Mr. Chairman,

The Human Development Report states that it is possible to talk about true development only when all human beings, men and women, are able to enjoy their rights. It has been passed since then and, although undoubtedly we have made progress in this regard, there is still much to be done.

Colombia is committed to gender equality and empowerment of women and poverty eradication, essential for sustainable economic and social development in the world.

For this reason, I would like to highlight some significant contributions in the material collection of the evaluation on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action, and the adoption of the resolution on Economic Empowerment of Women presented by Colombia and other countries in the most recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Secondly, the recognition in the Human Rights Council of the resolution on Preventable Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and Human Rights sponsored by Colombia jointly with New Zealand, New Zealand and Burkina Faso, as well as the resolution on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that together with Mexico, it is important to emphasize that, as it is essential to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, the issue of maternal health is one of the biggest challenges in achieving these Goals.

Undoubtedly, these new instruments will contribute to deepen the commitment of States with women, and they reaffirm the impact that gender perspectives have in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

Gender equity and equal opportunities and rights between men and women are principles enshrined in our Constitution and they govern the national development model.

In the role of women in society and the impact of their participation in the country, the President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos continues to support the National Mechanism for Women called Office of the High Counsellor for Women's Equity, in its administrative and coordination mandates.

Colombia has developed a solid gender perspective and a series of affirmative actions for women, which comprise several key components. The actions in the area of Employment and Enterprise Development have sought to provide access to financial services for women in the Bank of Social Security, as well as the realization of national and regional fairs for women entrepreneurs. Being the most important the Businesswomen's Summit held on June 27, 2013 with participants from 16 countries and exhibitors from 26 out of the 32 departments of our country.

We have worked in the development of an Agenda for Labor Equity, in coordination with business organizations to strengthen women's role and to establish a more effective inclusion in the workforce.

For our country, women's economic empowerment is a key factor to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We believe that an economically empowered woman who has the opportunity to contribute to her own development, as well as to the development of her family and of the society as a whole, will be able to contribute in creating a less vulnerable environment.

In the area of prevention of violence against women we have strategies being developed in partnership with international cooperation entities to prevent and eradicate gender based violence. These include initiatives such as the national strategy for women to improve their knowledge about their rights and the establishment of an interagency committee for the eradication of violence against women, whose purpose is to unite efforts for the coordination and implementation among government entities in order to achieve comprehensive, uninterrupted and quality accessible care for women victims of violence.

Among others, Law 1146 of 2007 on the care of children victims of such violence, Law 1329 of 2009 amending provisions to our criminal law to counter the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, Law 1257 of 2008 "Law to protect and assist women", which has been declared based on international standards; and Decree 164 of 2010 which establishes the Interagency Committee abovementioned.

Mr. Chairman,

International cooperation is also important in promoting the advancement of women. In this regard, my country has been working with UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF, as well as the IOM, in favor of women and girls.

Likewise, Colombia welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women known as UN-Women. We convey our congratulations to Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, Chile's former president on her election to this position. We are confident that she is fulfilling the purposes explained yesterday before this Committee.

My delegation would like to express the support of Colombia to all future efforts to strengthen this new entity. We are confident that UN-Women will be able to incorporate the cross-cutting agenda of gender equality, empowerment of women and the SDG to promote a sustainable agenda for the advancement of women in all regions of the world.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.