

**COLOMBIA**



**WORDS OF H.E. AMBASSADOR  
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**CSW61 Multi- Stakeholders Forum  
Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of  
Work**

**Panel discussion – Panel 2**  
Strengthening women's leadership and participation in the changing  
world of work

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I am going to offer some comments in my National capacity.

Gender equality in the world of work should be considered as a motor for the development of the countries, therefore the actions of governments should be aimed at promoting and empowering the economic autonomy of women, both in terms of income, as well as access to and control of goods and services, making it possible for women to enter productive activities and the labor market.

It is also an obligation to move towards the elimination of any type of barrier that, directly or indirectly, prevents women from leading, participating and accessing the labor market, and decent, quality work.

Gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the protection and guarantee of the full exercise of their rights, are indispensable elements for achieving societies based on democratic principles, as well as for achieving true sustainable development.

For Colombia, promoting equal access for women to full employment and decent work is a priority. The inclusion of women as a labor force translates into inclusive economic growth, gender equality, the strengthening of national capacities and the reduction of poverty. But this will not be achieved if we don't make progress in ensuring access to education for all girls, adolescent girls, and women and in improving their effective access to the labor market.

In Colombia, we have understood that women and girls play a fundamental role in building peace. In our peace process, women were represented directly and actively participated in the peace negotiating table and as a result, for the first time in a peace process, the gender approach was explicitly included, ensuring that each chapter of the agreement included specific provisions in favor of women, their empowerment and participation.

Our challenge now is to ensure that in the post-conflict colombian women, from all sectors, rural and urban, can access the world of work on equal terms.

Colombia considers of utmost importance to promote gender parity in the world and within the UN. At the current, UN has a strong imbalance accounting for 79% men and 21% women in the high level of direction. This is why, together with 78 member states we are promoting the Group of Friends for Gender Parity, to promote representation and leadership of women in the three pillars of the organization.

Only through a firm and strong commitment gender equality will cease to be consider a possibility and will finally turn in to a reality.