

**Sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of
Women (63CSW)**

Multi-stakeholder Forum

**Panel 4: "Ensuring synergies and addressing intersecting inequalities
for enhanced results"**

**Presentation by the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United
Nations Ambassador Martín García Moritán**

Friday 1 February 2019 – 4:15hs – 5.30 hs– Conference Room 1

Excellences, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start by expressing our deep appreciation to UN-Women for organizing this multi-stakeholder forum in preparation of the upcoming 63rd session of the CSW.

This space allows us to get more in-depth the priority themes of the 63 CSW session and also gives us the opportunity to identify valuable legislation and practices that will help us to build alliances and strengthen partnerships for action in support of gender equality.

Argentina welcomes the priority themes of CSW63 in the understanding that the discussions to address the challenges faced by women and girls in social protection, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure need to

be framed in the commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda and the protection and promotion of human rights for all.

First of all, I would like to point out that Argentina recognizes the fundamental role of women as catalysts of change to achieve sustainable development. In that sense, in accordance with the commitments assumed at the international level, Argentina is working on five priority areas:

1) Prevention, assistance, and eradication of all forms of violence against women; 2) Autonomy in the decision-making process; 3) Participation in decision-making spaces; 4) Economic empowerment and 5) Digital inclusion.

Argentina recognizes that social protection systems, public services, and sustainable infrastructure are essential to “achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”, in accordance with SDG 5.

Furthermore, my country understands that in order to effectively address gender inequality, social protection systems, access to public services, and sustainable infrastructure, these issues must not be considered in isolation, but rather under a holistic and coordinated approach. If we do so, the interconnection between these three themes has the potential to multiply the positive effects and improve women’s lives.

I would like to share with you some of the policies, legislation, and positive experiences that Argentina has developed in the area of social protection, access to public services, and sustainable infrastructure, for the empowerment of women and girls, in order to give you concrete examples of the aforementioned strategic lines:

- The National Plan for Equality of Opportunities and Rights 2018-2020 was created to make gender equality a strong State policy. This National Plan includes over 200 general initiatives to take place over three years by the agencies of the National Public Administration. These activities are organized in four thematic axes, each one with its own strategic objectives: Decision-Making Autonomy, Physical Autonomy, Economic Autonomy, and Cultural Transformation.
- In addition, I would like to introduce you the National Plan for Early Childhood, implemented by the Ministry of Social Development. The plan includes the creation of Early Childhood Centers that provide comprehensive care so that children from 45 days to 4 years can grow healthy in each of their neighborhoods while their mothers work or study. In the same line, the Program "New Professions for Women" intends to train women in non-traditional activities in order to improve their employability conditions and promote their insertion in the labor market.

- As regards social protection policies, the Universal Allowance Per Child (AUH) is a monthly allowance for up to 5 children under the age of 18 assigned to one of the parents, with priority given to the mother, which covers 3.5 million children. The Pregnancy Allowance is for women after 12 weeks of pregnancy and its targeted to informal and domestic workers, as well as unemployed women.
- In addition, the law on “Special Regime of Contract of Work for the Personnel of Private Homes” (26.844) extended the rights of domestic workers by equating their economic and social rights with those of any other worker when formalizing their employment situation and incorporating them into social security mechanisms.
- I also would like to mention that the Ministry of Transportation of the Nation in coordination with other government entities, created the first phone line of report and support for women victims of harassment in public transport. The aim is to advance and deepen the cultural change in gender issues to make visible the violence suffered by thousands of women using public transportation.

Last but not least, I would like to highlight that the “Buenos Aires Declaration” was adopted by the Ministers and High Authorities for the

Advancement of Women from Latin American and Caribbean countries, in the Regional Consultations towards the 63CSW. This document agreed by many countries of my region establishes common grounds on the main themes and important progressive language that we aim to include in the agreed conclusions

We consider that CSW63 will create a great opportunity to build on existing commitments in order to provide a better life for all women and girls. We look forward to have strong, ambitious and consensus-based agreed conclusions.

I thank you.