UN WOMEN CONTRIBUTIONS
TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY
AND WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT IN COLOMBIA

UN Women Executive Board
September 2014
Colombia is a **middle-income country**, currently presenting an annual economic growth rate of 4.1%. It is one of the fastest growing economies in the Latin American region.

### Gender gaps

- **Women leadership and participation in decision making spaces**
  - 21% representation in Congress

- **Women’s access to formal employment opportunities**
  - The 2013 gap in labour participation was 20.94% (down from 26.63% in 2001); the 2013 unemployment gap was 5.30% (down from 7.38 in 2001); and 2012 gender pay gap was 23.28% (up from 17.61% in 2002)

- **Violence against women**
  - Data suggests that more than 400,000 women have been victims of homicide within the armed conflict.

- **Las Mujeres, la PAZ y La Seguridad**
  - More than 57,000 women victims of forced displacement.

At the normative level, **Colombia has a robust Constitution** from 1991, **has developed progressive legal frameworks** and social policies, accompanied by a State institutional architecture.
Peace process is a unique opportunity to advance women’s full participation as well as to further efforts for gender equality.

- Over 6.5 million victims
- Between 1995 and 2011, internal displacement of over 2,700,000 women
- 3,445 cases of homicide within indigenous and Afro-colombian, 65.5% were women

Gaps between policy and implementation, specially in local level
- Law 1448
- Law 1257
- PPGE
- And others

Gender gaps, particularly in the political and economic spheres
- 2013 gap in labour participation was 20.94%.
- 2013 unemployment gap was 5.30%
- 2012 gender pay gap was 23.28%
Women in Colombia: Celebrating 10 Years of Advocacy and Action

Colombia since 2013 as one of the ten Country Offices in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Under the global UN Women Strategic Plan 2014-2017, UN Women Colombia has defined a Country Strategy in full alignment with Colombian Public Policies on Gender Equality, and the UNDAF.

Upon request of the Colombian Government, UN Women and Colombia have signed a bilateral Host Country Agreement (HCA). The HCA is currently under parliamentary procedure to be endorsed under Colombian constitutional rules.
Strategic Vision: GE central to Development and Peace

UNDAF and National Development Plan

- Termination of conflict
- Guarantees to the rights of women victims
- Promotion of inclusive development

Women as key players in peacebuilding, democracy and development

General Goal: Colombian women enjoy their economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

- Women lead and participate in decision-making
- The poorest and most excluded women are empowered and benefit from development
- UN Women serves as a knowledge broker on gender equality
- UN Women acts as a neutral and credible partner
- UN Women leads UN coordination on gender equality
- UNCT leading UN coordination on gender equality
- Leaders women and actors in security and peace
**Key Results - TOC**

1. Cease of conflict
2. Guarantee rights of women’s victims
3. Promote inclusive development

Result: Women as key players in peace, democracy and development

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**Strategy work areas**

**Women’s Economic and Political rights: Development and Empowerment**
- Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation
- Innovation and communication for cultural transformation
- UN coordination
- Support to intergovernmental normative processes

**Women’s rights to a life free of violence: access to justice (GVB/WPS)**

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[UN Women Logo]
Women's leadership and participation in development and peace

Women's leadership and participation in Politics

Contribution for Consultations and technical support provided for the first gender equality public policy

National Policy for Gender Equality for Women. CONPES 161 2013

Strengthened women caucus, through UN Women technical support to monitor

Law 1719/14; Law 1448 (2011); Law 1475/2011; and Law 1257/08

Women candidates to Local, Presidential and Congress elections knowledge and leadership capacities strengthened

Increased congresswomen from 14% in 2010 to 21% in 2014
Women’s leadership and Participation in development and peace

Women’s leadership and participation in Economic initiatives

Public-private partnership established between national Government of Colombia, UN System and UN Global Compact private companies

30 Women’s organizations’ and local women economic initiatives reinforced in the departments of Meta and Nariño
Women’s leadership and Participation in development and peace

Women, Peace and Security

UN Women has supported the design and implementation of the existing Law (1448) on Victims and Land Restitution from 2011.
Women’s leadership and Participation in development and peace

Women’s Leadership in Peace building

- UN System support to nation wide consultations on the termination of the conflict
- Support to women equal participation in consultation processes
- National fora and historic Summit on Women and Peace
- Women proposals to advance a culture of peace and reconciliation
- Regional fora to contribute to the end of the conflict and Victims’s fora
- Women proposals and requests to the negotiators for peace, participation and reparation
President Santos names two women as plenipotentiary negotiators.

Early impact of the Women’s Summit:

Women’s issues and gender equality language in partial agreements.

Establishment of a sub-committee on gender.
UN Coordination on Women Participation in Peacebuilding

Gender equality in peacebuilding and transitional justice

Gender equality in humanitarian action

Gender perspective in the design of post-conflict scenarios
National Development Plan 2014-2017

New UNDAF

Institutional reforms under the National Development Plan

Strategy of UN Women Country Office

Implementation of existing legislation into a framework of peace post agreement
Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres

COLOMBIA

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