

Interactive dialogue 2

Tackling inequalities, empowering women and girls and leaving no one behind

Date: Friday September 25th

Time: 1 a 3 p.m.

Duration: 4 minutes

Good afternoon,

President of Croacia; Kolinda Grabar

President of Kenya; Uhuru Kenyatta

I am very happy to be here. Colombia celebrates this space led by Kenya's and Croatia's government, which serves us reaffirming our commitment with comprehensive protection through the full accomplishment of women and gender equality.

For this purpose, within the minister for Social Prosperity we build a public policy framework for social and productive inclusion in which we formulate participatory manner opportunities for income generation, reduction of poverty gaps and removing barriers so girls and women have access to social protection system.

Framed to equality and non-discrimination principles, Colombia has a "National Policy for Gender Equity for Women" and "Public Policy for Risk Prevention, Protection and Guarantee of Women Rights Victims of Armed Conflict" that guides us and allows us to appreciate the differences compared to their needs, interests, behaviors and aspirations of women and men regarding their rights guarantee.

In the same way we count on the High Council for Gender Equality, which has a major importance for the country reaching to hierarchical level within the institutions in the Presidency.

We are convinced that reconciliation and peace building will be on solid foundations of equity, fairness is visible in the population, the territorial and community an equity that is the cornerstone of the National Development Plan President Santos and to achieve it and we know that it is necessary to work for women equality.

To that effect, we lean towards girls and women that negotiates their own development and be a force multiplier in each environment, community, family and generation. And this is already happening in Colombia. I want to talk about a single mother, Mariela Celis, who lives in the El Galan in the Department of Norte de Santander, and represents one of the many cases that we find in our country.

Mariela Celis

Mariela Celis, is part of the More Families in Action Program, she is a single mother of two who is receiving education incentive. She lived in extreme poverty.

Mariela has been a beneficiary from More Families in Action since its beginnings. Thanks to this program she has been able to study entrepreneurship and leadership themes.

She currently leads a group of 70 mothers leaders within her community by a training processes provided by us through the program. This has meant recognition and satisfaction, by working to improve the lives of her family and community.

From Ministry for Social Prosperity we work with vulnerable people in Colombia, extremely poor and victims of armed conflict, especially in urban and rural areas to achieve equal gender opportunity based on three fundamental axes contexts: economic autonomy women, empowerment and strengthening of public participation

Likewise, the participation and strength capacity building of citizens, are the bases for the implementation of public policies for gender equity, these processes ensure the management of knowledge and resources, favors citizen control, systematization of experiences and the sustainability.

As a country we have made progress in meeting the objective No. 3 of the MDG related to gender equality and empower women, indicators such as female participation in the labor market, however today women in our country face different situations of violations and discrimination that limit their opportunities for development.

To advance the challenges presented to us by ODS, we have a historic opportunity Development Agenda 2030, the comprehensive achievement will be crucial to progress in gender equality and the full protection of the rights of all women, since this It is a cross-cutting issue that permeates his whole conception and implementation of ODS.

As a government we have some challenges ahead that we are dealing with public policy. From the Ministry for Social Prosperity we have been working towards an equitable Colombia. An example of this is that we have more programs like Families in Action, in which more than 80% of its beneficiaries are women, understanding the role of women.

Finally, as you know President Juan Manuel Santos has made a great effort to achieve peace in Colombia. And from that front we are also working on behalf of women, that is why the gender perspective approach across the entire agenda of the peace process is transversal with the FARC in Havana.

For this, a gender subcommittee established to make recommendations to the negotiators on the vision of women in the implementation of the agreements. This approach is particularly relevant in relation to recognition and reparation for victims, a town of great importance for the Ministry of Social Sector Prosperity and Social Inclusion and Reconciliation.