

140 EAST 57<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10022**Statement by****H.E. Mrs. Cirs. Gladys Ramírez****Ambassador, Permanent Representative****Third Committee****Item 28: Advancement of women****General Segment****New York, October 12, 2009****Check against delivery****Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Japan on behalf of the Group China and China, and by Chile on behalf of the Rio Group. We thank the Chair 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: "it is possible to talk about true development only when all human beings, men and women, are able to enjoy the same rights and opportunities." While this has indeed since then and, although undoubtedly we have made progress in this regard, there is still much to be done.

Colombia is convinced that gender equality, the empowerment of women and the reduction of poverty, by women and poverty eradication, are essential for sustainable economic and social development in the region.

For this reason, I would like to highlight some significant contributions in the intersectoral context. First, the results of the evaluation on the implementation of the Policy 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 recent adoption in the Human Rights Council of the resolution on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and Human Rights sponsored by Chile in conjunction with New Zealand, New Zealand and Burkina Faso, as well as the resolution on the Elimination of Discrimination against women and the ones with Mexico, Chile and Mexico. It is important to emphasize that as it is evident in the Millennium Development Goals, the issue of maternal health is one of the biggest challenges in achieving those Goals.

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

Mr. Chairman,

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

At the role of women in society and the impact of gender on their participation in the different sectors of the country, the President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos continues to support the National Mechanism for Women called Office of the High Commissioner for Women's Equity, in its advocacy and oversight and coordination mandates.

Colombia has developed a clear policy with 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 increase the participation of women in the labor market, through programs such as credit and training. Also, it has been accessed a loan to finance the first women in the Bank of Opportunity, as well as the realization of national and regional fairs for women entrepreneurs. The most important is the Businesswomen's Summit held on June 21, 2010 with participants from 26 countries and exhibitors from 26 out of the 32 departments of our country.

Administrative bodies have worked in the development of an Agenda for Labor Equality, in coordination with business associations, to promote the recognition of women's role and to establish mechanisms to ensure their effective inclusion in the workforce.

For our country, women's economic empowerment is a key factor to achieving the Millennium 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 promotion of literacy 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 protection and promotion of women's rights and to coordinate action among different organizations in order to achieve comprehensive, differentiated and highly accessible care for women victims of violence.

On the side of justice, there are several laws among others. Law 1146 of 2007 on the protection of children and adolescents from violence; Law 1329 of 2009 amending provisions in our criminal law to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; Law 1257 of 2008 that creates the trial of violence against women "woman", which has been defined 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 collaborates with and has an embassy of the United Nations system, including UNFEM, UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF, as well as the IOM, in favor of women and girls.

Likewise, Colombia participates in the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women known as UN-Women. We believe our country is fortunate that Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, Chile's former president, was chosen to lead this entity in 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 and empowerment for women in the UN system to promote a sustainable agenda for the advancement of women in all regions of the world.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.