

Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia

H.E. Pedro León Cortes Ruiz

First Session of the Executive Board 2024

Agenda Item 4

Thank you to the Secretariat for your assistance in providing the reports and supporting documents pertaining to Agenda Item 4. Financial, budgetary, and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy outlined in the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, and actions by UN-Habitat to address geographical and gender imbalances in its staffing composition.

In acknowledging your dedication to fostering gender balance within the organization, we are reminded of Colombia's commitment to gender equality and the comprehensive empowerment of women. Colombia recognizes the vital role that gender balance plays in promoting inclusivity and effectiveness within any institution. As such, we commend your efforts and reaffirm our support for initiatives aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for all.

Colombia's own endeavors in promoting gender equality align closely with the principles upheld by UN-Habitat. Our nation is actively working towards implementing a Gender-Focused Foreign Policy, guided by the pillars of pacifism, intersectionality, and participation. Through this policy, we aim to address the underlying causes of gender disparities and create a more equitable society for all individuals, regardless of gender.

Furthermore, Colombia remains committed to ensuring the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of society, including in the advancement of the Total Peace policy. We firmly believe that sustainable peace can only be achieved when the voices and perspectives of women are fully integrated into the peacebuilding process.

We also emphasize the importance of ensuring that all regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean, are adequately represented in UN-Habitat. A balanced regional representation not only fosters diversity but also ensures that the unique perspectives and challenges of different regions are considered in decision-making processes.