

Feminist Foreign Policy as a Key Response to the Multiple Challenges Faced by Latin America and the Caribbean

Side event in the margins of the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Thursday, March 14, 3:00 pm-4:15 pm

United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ), Conference Room 1, New York

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean today face great challenges, among which the differential impact that climate change has on women, adolescents and girls, the feminization of poverty and the deepening of the employment and income gap between men and women, domestic and care work that falls almost exclusively on women, adolescents and girls, the persistence of different forms of violence against women and for gender reasons, including violence in digital environments, and the still low female representation in leadership and decision-making positions, notably in the field of foreign policy.

These phenomena are forceful manifestations of unjust power structures that impact the lives of women, adolescents and girls and put at risk the path taken to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women, adolescents, and girls, hindering the autonomy of women, their participation in the exercise of power and the decision-making process and the guarantee of their rights.

In recent years, the need to adopt a Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) has emerged and gained strength not only to respond to gender equality debts but also as a key international policy tool to respond to the challenges of the present and prepare ourselves for the challenges of the future. It is also about promoting internal transformations in order to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality in each of the countries and all areas, as well as to influence collectively and as feminists in multilateral and bilateral spaces to - as the UN SG Antonio Guterres says - avoid the social, financial and environmental collapse that we face and move towards a redefinition of power that allows us to imagine that a world that is just, prosperous, inclusive, sustainable, egalitarian and peaceful is possible.

Thus, the nascent Feminist Foreign Policies of Mexico, Chile and Colombia, as well as the experience of Brazil in this area and other States that have expressed their interest in having diplomacy that decisively incorporates a gender perspective, constitute a milestone in the region for promoting, protecting and guaranteeing the human rights of women, adolescents and girls, and for making the best efforts to build the world we deserve and the diplomacy we need. This requires strengthening these agendas, generating institutional and social mechanisms that prevent, in the context of regressive or negationist tendencies, feminist foreign policy from being seen as a "fleeting fad" and not conceived as a powerful tool for change and transformation.

The commitment to advance in the Latin American and Caribbean region with a feminist foreign policy is nurtured and aligned with the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda, specifically SDG5 and the Regional Gender Agenda.

This side event, to be held in the framework of the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, is organized by the Colombian Government with the support of the Feminist Foreign Policy Collaborative, and co-sponsorship from Mexico, Chile and Brazil. Recognizing the fundamental role played by feminist activists and movements in the promotion of FFP, the event will also include the participation of women's and feminist organizations. Through this initiative, all government representatives are invited to reflect on their process of collaboration with feminist movements in the promotion of FFP.

The objective of this activity is to generate a space for discussion between representatives of States, civil society, the UN system and international organizations, about progress, lessons learned and good practices in Latin American and European countries regarding Feminist Foreign Policy with the aim of not only sharing knowledge and tools that allow them to strengthen their capacities to respond to the multiple challenges of the region in terms of gender equality, but also to enhance the impact of Feminist Foreign Policy in different multilateral and bilateral spaces. that seek to guarantee and promote the rights of all women, adolescents and girls.

The audience of this side event are representatives of the Member States of the United Nations, representatives of feminist organizations and the women's movement along with other organizations of the civil society that are working or supporting the construction and implementation of Feminist Foreign Policies or Diplomacies with Gender Lenses in all areas and dimensions of international politics.

Agenda

Opening

3:00 pm- 3:15 pm

Ms. Elizabeth Taylor Jay, Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs, Colombia (TBC)

Ms. Lyric Thompson, Director of the Feminist Foreign Policy Collaborative

Ms. Maria-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director of UN Women

Panel of Senior Officials

3:20 pm - 3:40 pm

- **Ms. Nadine Flora Gasman Zylbermann**, President of the National Institute for Women Mexico
"The right to care as a substantive component of foreign policy".
- **Ms. Vanessa Dolce de Faria**, High Representative for Gender Issues of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Brazil
"The direct and indirect impact of climate change on women, a cross-cutting issue in international instruments and mechanisms".
- **Ms. Carla Serazzi, Ambassador**, Director of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.
"International financial architecture and international economic relations with a gender lens".
- **Ms. Diana María Parra Romero**, Advisor for Gender Affairs and Feminist Foreign Policy Colombia
"Towards 25 years of Resolution 1325: women's leadership in the construction and consolidation of a lasting peace."

Reflections and proposals from civil society

3:45 pm - 3:55 pm

- Ms. Adriana Benjumea, Co-director, Corporación Humanas, Colombia
- Ms. Mabel Beatriz Bianco, Founder Fundación para el Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM), Colombia.
"Pathways and strategies to strengthen and expand regional and global networks of feminist foreign policy."

Comments from participants

4:00 pm - 4:10 pm

Closing remarks

4:10 pm - 4:15 pm

- Ms. Marita Perceval, feminist promoter of Feminist Foreign Policy.
"Feminist Diplomacy for a Better Tomorrow".