

**Statement of the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations in Vienna, H.E. MIGUEL CAMILO RUIZ BLANCO, in the joint CND and CCPCJ virtual event commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and discussing how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting women and girls**

Vienna, June 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Chairs, Executive Director, panelists and colleagues,

I would like to thank all of you for organizing this virtual event and for all your efforts to commemorate the adoption of one of the most important and catalyzing international documents of our time, regardless of the challenging times that we are facing.

It is an honor for me to renew in this event the Colombian commitment with the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, particularly for its transformational impact in our societies.

We can say with certainty that, after 25 years, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, are ageing admirably, and few of the United Nations International Conferences outcomes are as relevant and timely, in its entirety, today.

The current situation is far from perfect and we are far away from the full achievement of the goals adopted in Beijing, but nevertheless, the concrete changes it has produced, and the inspiration and the appropriation at all levels of society, are solid ground to continue to move forward towards the achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of all their rights.

Colleagues,

In Vienna we have the responsibility to take decisive actions, within our mandates, to support the realization of the Beijing commitments.

The elimination of all forms of violence against women, their protection in vulnerable situations, and understanding the particular needs, risks and challenges women faced against drugs and crime are part of our job, and we need to further develop our strategies and resources to it.

We also need to lead by example, and that is why Colombia has warmly welcomed the appointment of Ms. Waly as UNODC Executive Director. A woman at the top of the Office it's a clear statement of the commitment of this organization with the empowerment of women.

Finally, we need to strengthen our dialogue with the CSW. The three Commissions can join efforts and develop coordinated events, campaigns and possibly, we can have joint meetings in the future to address concerns and actions of mutual interest.

So many more things to say, but the time is limited. I will stop here, because I know that this conversation will continue, and we will find ways and means for making the Beijing commitments a reality to all women of the world.

Thank you.