

Greetings to all participants, I am from Ecuador and I am working with UN Women coordinating a programme to eradicate discrimination and uphold the collective human rights of indigenous women in Latin America. On a global level and in the case of Latin America women, minority women belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities are exposed to multiple discrimination because they are treated as minorities within minorities. It is also important to assess the overlap between racial discrimination against minorities and discrimination on a gender basis. Discrimination that women and girls experience from ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious minorities in her daily life and in her inter-social and inter-ethnic relationships continue to be governed by hierarchical and patriarchal relationships which are traces of neo-colonialism. They experience discrimination in accessing services and infrastructure which can be seen as a lack of culturally sensitive budgets and public policies and a lack of policies which take into account their specific requirements in their view of the world and culture, in various areas such as in healthcare, education, justice system, economic development and social care. At an international level there is a legal framework there that commits states to guarantee fundamental rights, the declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, the CEDAW and CERD. On a regional over the recent decades, progress has been made in the national normative frameworks and the recognition has been given to the diverse composition of society on an ethnic, cultural, racial, linguistic, gender and sexual level. In some cases as in Bolivia and Ecuador, progress is being made and they have been recognised as multi-ethnic states. However there are still enormous gaps between the development and implementation and evaluation of public policies, with a varied and culturally relevant focus for minorities, the gap is worse still when it comes to the relationship with women from minorities. This is therefore why it is important to adopt a gender perspective and also take into account the multiple and inter-related types of discrimination that women and girls belonging to minorities face. In the work of the UN in development, peace and security and human rights, better coordination is needed at an inter-agency level and greater impact from the state, member states, in the system in order to implement political plans and projects, with affirmative action for minorities. The protection of minorities and combatting racial discrimination are key factors, sorry.....