



**High-level Political Forum, 12 July, 2016**  
**Session 2- Ensuring that no one behind - Creating peaceful and more inclusive societies and empowering women and girls**

Josefina Valencia intervention.

A conflict prevention and transformative approach to development is critical to addressing root causes of conflict and promoting long-term sustainable development and peace. Governments need to support and strengthen women's participation in conflict prevention, protection and relief and recovery efforts.

Women and girls from all over the world have been systematically targeted in an objectifying manner in conflict situations and are frequently excluded from decision-making opportunities in peace-process negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction. Women of the global south face aggravated challenges due to structural inequalities.

Peace processes and agreements represent an important opportunity and catalyst for change. The full engagement of women in all their diversities in these processes will increase awareness of, and responsiveness to, their rights and needs. Their presence translates into the inclusion of gender-responsive provisions in peace agreements, which are crucial to facilitating gender equality in post-conflict political, economic, legal, and security structures.

Having increased **access to property and assets, environmental as well as financial resources** is crucial for peace at the household and community level. Inclusion of women at all levels of planning process as office holders (formal and informal positions) is crucial for gender responsive policy for peace.

The WMG has provided inputs to visualize the status of girls and women face in conflict situations throughout the entire discussion of the 2030 Agenda, and from this space seems important to mention that gender and sexuality are dimensions that have been aggravating inequality, criminalization, including the discrimination of sexual orientation and gender identity as conditions that have led to widespread violence , trafficking , insecurity , sexual violence , among others.

My question to panelists is, How countries have included in their policy responses to conflict and peacebuilding the issue of gender, including sexual orientation and gender identity , bearing in mind that their conditions of disadvantage and discrimination enhance during situations of armed conflict?