“On October 31, 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, peace and security. For the first time, the Security Council, following the impact of the global women’s movement, recognized us as active subjects in peace processes and also recognized that our contributions to peace building, peacekeeping and the prevention of Internal conflicts were undervalued and that our voice should be heard.

The Resolution is based on four pillars:

1) the role of women in conflict prevention,
2) their participation in peacebuilding,
3) the protection of their rights during and after conflicts,
4) and their special needs at the time of repatriation and resettlement, as well as for rehabilitation, reintegration and reconstruction after conflicts.

1325, is one of eight resolutions related to the agenda on women, peace and security, each recognizing the need for women to participate actively and effectively in the establishment and consolidation of peace.

Today, after 19 years of its adoption, Colombia as one of the signatory countries, does not have a specific National Plan of Action for the implementation of this Resolution that allows the State and Government actions to be articulated effectively and comprehensively by fulfilling the international mandate that it acquired when signing the Resolution.

Despite not having a Resolution Action Plan that operationalizes this desire to include women in peacebuilding processes, through Women’s Organizations we have worked across different places and positions to make the multiple processes we carry out in the territories visible and to continue doing what, for years, women have started. Among the processes organized by women’s organizations, they have developed different processes such as the visibility of the effects caused by the armed conflict on women and girls; the accompaniment to women’s empowerment processes; impact on public spaces and policies; the contribution to the transformation of imaginary and beliefs that naturalize gender-based violence, the peaceful management of conflicts, among others, that have allowed to strengthen the capacities of women who have suffered multiple violence so that they can generate significant changes in their territories, build and promote peace from the spaces in which those that affect.

Three years ago, ICCO Cooperation, Health Net TPO and MENSEN MET EEN MISSIE, three Dutch organizations, had the vision to accompany a proposal for the territorialization of Resolution 1325 within the framework of the National Plan of Action of the Netherlands. Since then, a consortium composed of 10 organizations, under the project “Women as central agents for the construction of peace in Colombia”, have undertaken a joint action to,
from our diverse practices, promote advocacy and support in peacebuilding processes from and with women and thus remain in the enormous challenge of enforceability for the implementation of the Peace Agreement and ultimately in the iron defense of peace.

Today the women who are part of the processes (I ask you to get up) of Catholics for the Right to Decide, Young Friendly Corporation, SerVoz Corporation, Espacios de Mujer Corporation, Corporation for Support of Popular Communities - CODACOP, Mencoldes Foundation, are here International Women's League for Peace and Freedom - LIMPAL-Colombia, Tamar Network, Rempaz, Pacific Route of Women and that in recognition of the hundreds of women defenders and leaders who have been killed, threatened and attacked for defending rights, we welcome them with applause.

The women present here, from 13 departments of the country, contribute from multiple reflections, senses and spaces of resignification to the understanding of the construction of peace, as a constant, systematic, coherent and living process, in which women have not only put all our energy and capabilities, but even life itself.

The experiences of this collective work through the consortium have allowed us to address issues that add to this process and give greater integrality to the role of women in peacebuilding; Thus, the prevention of trafficking in persons, sexual and reproductive health and rights, psycho social support, the accompaniment of ethnic-territorial defense processes, the consolidation of spaces for construction and growth from spirituality, monitoring and political advocacy for the implementation of the Peace Agreement, the prevention of violence against women, the configuration of non-hegemonic masculinities, the requirement of protection and guarantees for women; They are fields of action that, from these diverse and multidisciplinary practices, the 10 organizations we have addressed within the framework of the three components of the Resolution (prevention, protection and participation) and in the strengthening of capacities for the agency of women.

In this way, indigenous, peasant, Afro, black, women in reintegration processes, young, urban, rural, many of them victims of the armed conflict and all peacebuilders, have made sense of this socio-political commitment of organizations to work for peace and against war, in the middle of a hostile context. The murders of defenders, leaders, candidates, ex-combatants, indigenous ... leave deep marks in community processes; However, in the face of the logic of war and the debauchery of death, women continue to bet on new ways of working collectively, for new ways of constructing interpretation frameworks that empower us as political actors and agents of democracy.

Developing this work in a consortium has brought hope and new opportunities to the lives of more than 2000 women, who, through networks and collective work, have replicated their learning in their communities, strengthening themselves as politically active subjects at local and national levels. Women, we have been preparing to occupy all the spaces of the public sphere, thanks to the action and accompaniment of processes like this, in the last territorial elections, 34 women participating in the training processes were nominated as candidates in local elections.

We recognize in the strengthening of institutionally and in the cultural transformations created with families, communities and men, an imperative need for the guarantee of protection from the State and the generation of equality for women. This is how the work developed by the 10 organizations has included the mobilization of actions, around the work
with public officials, impacting 800 people in that role, 600 men and 2,125 families in the territories.

The 2020, for women peacebuilders involves a scenario of claim, enforceability, incidence and resistance. 20 years of Resolution 1325 and 25 years of the Beijing Platform for Action that established mechanisms to eliminate the systematic barriers that impede the equal participation of women. These are important milestones that invite us to look towards the multiple efforts that women have made throughout history to position our agendas and influence the guarantee of our rights as citizens.

In a society like Colombia, which signed a peace agreement with the oldest guerrilla in Latin America, which has managed to link 10,415 people to reinstatement processes, according to data from the Agency for the Reincorporation and Standardization ARN for August 2019, and that has a movement of women, active, qualified and committed, to fulfill international obligations in the matter of prevention, protection, participation and guarantees of non-repetition, must be a priority of the Colombian State.

Peace must be territorialized and, along these lines, it must listen and respond to the needs of peoples, especially women and girls. Enough of attacks, murders and threats to leaders and communities, enough of the militarism that war imposes on us and deepens the humanitarian and human rights crisis. We do not need more war, nor more weapons.

The women gathered here today, we demand from the current Government adequate and sufficient responses to attend and protect the lives of women, girls and all those who defend human rights.

Our life, our bodies and our territories, cannot continue to be permeated by war. We defend peace! Peace with and for women and peoples! Peace without women is an incomplete peace!”