

## Virtual Gender Lecture

### “WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AS A KEY TOOL FOR ACHIEVING EQUAL RIGHTS”

19 May 2021, 12:30-13:30

#### Abstract

Women participation in politics may be useful to introduce regulations intended to achieve more inclusive societies, including gender parity.

However, women still have a low participation in parliamentary bodies. This presentation will discuss how women may be more represented in political decision systems, introducing legal modifications, such as quotas, to the electoral rules that govern parliamentary elections.

The Colombian case will be taken as an example, examining the results and limitations of the quota system introduced in 2011, and the reform to the electoral code that took place in December 2020.

#### Biography of the speaker



**Sofia Gaviria Correa.** Born in Medellín, Colombia, she is a political scientist from the Universidad de los Andes, in Bogotá, and has a master's degree in Public Policy, from the Pompeu Fabra University, in Barcelona. For many years, she focused her career on international humanitarian service, in nations such as Rwanda, Burundi, the former Yugoslavia or Ireland. She has been a senator of the Republic of Colombia, President of the Human Rights Commission of the Senate of Colombia, Co-director of the Colombian Liberal Party, director of the

Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Colombia and, currently, Colombia's ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein. She has been the co-founder and director of several NGOs in Colombia, among which is the Colombian Federation of Victims, the largest association of victims in the world, of which she is the honorary president. She has also been a columnist for fourteen major newspapers and media in Colombia. Her humanitarian work and her defense of Human Rights have earned her numerous awards, decorations and honorary doctorates in various countries.

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