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Answer given by Mr Síkela
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU's cooperation with Colombia, guided by the 2021-2027 multiannual indicative programme¹ (MIP), extensively supports Colombia's peace efforts, particularly the implementation of the 2016 peace accords. Many sectors where the EU is active include elements of the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda, addressing issues like sexual and gender-based violence, women's participation in peace processes, the reintegration of female ex-combatants, and the impact of peace agreements on women's socio-economic opportunities. The portfolio integrates actions with gender markers one (gender equality as a significant objective) and two (gender equality as a principal objective).

This support aims to strengthen state institutions responsible for the peace agreements, such as the National Agency for Reincorporation, the Directorate for Rural Women, and the Special Jurisdiction for Peace². Notably the 'Project Future: private sector and communities in action for peace' from Annual Action Plan 2024 has gender equality among its objectives, focusing on employability of women ex-combatants in urban areas. Colombia's MIP aligns with the Gender Action Plan (GAP III)³ objectives.

The WPS agenda is a priority in the country level implementation plan. The European Fund for Peace has developed indicators to measure outcomes like the number of women-led initiatives, support for women's organisations, women's civic participation, and improvements in gender-based violence prevention. Regular monitoring, such as reports, results oriented monitoring exercises, evaluations, and internal data collection efforts, ensures accountability and reports to the External Annual Management Review.

¹ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/download/247ac3ef-31b6-4b41-8278-4a112c456039_en.

² The EU supports access to justice for women and Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer populations victims of sexual and gender-based violence during the conflict, accompanying victims' organisations in dialogue spaces with ex-combatants; capacity building, to enhance their opportunities for political participation, support to women human rights defenders and for economic initiatives of women's rights organisations.

³ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/gender-action-plan-iii-its-key-areas-eu-engagement_en.