

Palabras de bienvenida

Encuentro con mujeres y Secretaria del Tesoro de Estados Unidos

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Presidenta
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Good afternoon, everyone. I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your presence at this event.

I am honoured to be here today in company of, Mrs. Janet Yellen, United States Secretary of the Treasury, Mrs. Bernadette Meehan, the US Ambassador to Chile and 17 great women leaders, economists, and businesswomen, who have grown professionally either in public or private sector.

Secretary Yellen and I have just had a very insightful conversation on macroeconomy and global economic challenges, together with the Delegation of the US Treasury, and the Central Bank of Chile board members. We have exchanged views on the U.S. and domestic economy, with special focus on the business cycle of both economies, activity, inflation, employment, and financial markets, and on the evolution of international trade and the energy transition, among others.

Now, we have gathered here, because of our common interest and commitment to gender equality and women representativeness, to dialogue and reflect on advances, experiences, challenges, and initiatives that we, the leaders of different institutions, have implemented to contribute to closing the remaining gaps.

Secretary Yellen is not only a brilliant and renowned economist, but also an inspiring reference for women at an international level, for her outstanding professional career, and for being the first person to occupy very relevant public positions chairing the White House Council of Economic Advisors, the presidency of the Federal Reserve System and her current position, breaking a lot of glass ceilings in institutions and domains mostly dominated by men.

As a member and leader of these men-dominated groups, she always stood out by the results and impact of her work, making her voice be heard and considered in decision making. And she managed to do so, reconciling her professional and private-family life, which is something we, the women, always struggle with.

At the Central Bank, we firmly believe that we must work towards greater gender equality as a society, promoting and enabling the professional access and development of women and their greater participation and permanence in the labor market.

Therefore, within our competencies, we have been working on a Gender Equity Agenda since 2018, seeking to increase the participation of women at a transversal level within the institution. For us, it is an objective, together with a cultural diversity that strategically contributes to facing technical and adaptive challenges in a fast-changing world.

This has been such a relevant issue that we have incorporated it in our Strategic Plan 2023-2027. Some of the measures and initiatives include the attraction of women in STEM areas, the maintenance of the Internship Program with 50% female representation, and parity of income between men and women by position level, associated with performance. Thus, by promoting the entry of new generations of women economists who want to contribute to the country, we ensure that our teams enrich research and analysis and reflect the society they serve.

We believe that we must create conditions for each woman to develop fully and completely, confident in her abilities. For this reason, just to mention some examples, we continue with our mentoring programs for women, to accompany them in their professional development and to take advantage of women who already occupy high positions in the organization. We have also continued to hold workshops for all Bank employees on diversity, inclusion, and gender, to raise awareness and make visible actions and change attitudes that are deeply rooted in our culture and that limit us when it comes to being inclusive and accepting diversity. Its continuity and reiteration allow us to take steps in the cultural change that will make inclusive behavior part of everyday life and will lead to eliminate unconscious biases from the root. There is still a lot to be done and we are absolutely committed to continue with the task. We believe that inclusive institutions are more and better connected with their stakeholders and are more efficient in achieving their objectives.

I leave Mrs. Yellen with you now.

